

# FINDING COMMON GROUND

TIPS TO BE A GREAT ROOMMATE

## SHARE EXPECTATIONS

Misunderstood academic, living and social expectations are often a source of roommate conflict. Being open and honest while establishing the Roommate Agreement will provide a foundation for a healthy roommate relationship.

Start thinking about things like:

**What time do I like to go to sleep/wake up?**

**Do I prefer a clean area or am I okay with clutter?**

**What room responsibilities would I be comfortable dividing?**



## CONSIDER LIFESTYLES

Communicating your preferred lifestyle and being understanding and respectful of your roommate's lifestyle will prevent a lot of headaches. The majority of first-year students have part-time jobs and/or are part of a campus organization. This can create varying quiet and active time in the room, but discussing and respecting another's schedule creates healthy and open communication. Reflect on your personal life to prep for the Roommate Agreement:

**What do I do in my free time?**

**What am I most looking forward to this year?**



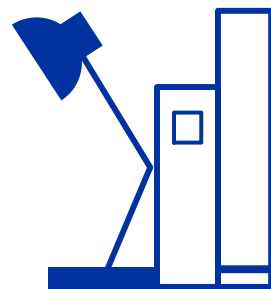
## GIVE QUIET TIME

It is important to consider your academic success, as well as your roommate's. Not communicating appropriate expectations of quiet times can cause frustrations and lead to an unpleasant living environment. When discussing your Roommate Agreement, consider topics like:

**When is too late to be loud in the room?**

**When should I use headphones?**

**What are appropriate visitor days and hours?**



## BE A GREAT TEAMMATE

Because sharing a space with others can be a growth experience, thinking about each other as a teammate can help to establish common ground. A great teammate puts in effort to make a respectful living community and holds themselves accountable. To start the year well, consider the answers to these questions:

**What do I believe are important qualities of a roommate?**

**How will I be a good roommate and teammate?**



## REFLECT ON EXPECTATIONS

Lifestyles and personal expectations can impact how close you and your roommate become. Remember, great roommates are not always best friends and best friends are not always great roommates. A roommate can help create an environment that enhances your University experience. But, that can take collaboration and compromise. Your RAs will be available to answer any questions that you have and to guide you through a successful year in the Residence Halls!



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