

Roommate Agreement Workbook

RESIDENCE LIFE AND HOUSING



HOUSEKEEPING

- Am I very neat, messy, or in-between?
- If a roommate is neater or less neat, how can we compromise?
- Have we set up a cleaning schedule?
- Do I prefer certain tasks? Are there some things I can not stand to do?
- Do I like the furniture arrangement?

PERSONAL HABITS

- Am I comfortable with my roommate coming back to the room after drinking? Are there any special circumstances in which they could/could not return?
- Am I comfortable with my roommate coming back to the room after smoking? Are there any special circumstances in which they could/could not return?
- What other things about me should others know? (Sleepwalking, allergies, etc.)
- Do I like to be greeted/greet my roommate every time we see each other?

ROOMMATE BILL OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As a Wake Forest University residence hall community member, the following are the rights you can expect and have a responsibility to maintain:

- The right to read and study free from undue interference in one's room (unreasonable noise and other distractions inhibit the exercise of this right).
- The right to sleep without undue disturbance from noise, guests of a roommate, etc.
- The right to expect that a roommate will respect one's personal belongings.
- The right to a clean environment in which to live.
- The right to free access to one's room and facilities without pressure from a roommate.
- The right to personal privacy.
- The right to host guests with the exception that guests are to respect the rights of the host's roommate(s), other hall residents, and the visitation policy.
- The right to address grievances. Residence hall staff are available for assistance in settling conflicts.
- The right to be free from fear of intimidation, physical, and/or emotional harm, and racial, sexual, or other prejudicial harassment.

You may have never shared a living space with someone else. Being a good roommate and enjoying living with a roommate will depend upon your ability to listen, to communicate, and to compromise. As with any relationship, conflicts will arise. It is how you handle those conflicts that will determine your success. This workbook will guide you through the steps of the initial conversations you should have with your roommate, so that you will have a great experience in your residence hall room at Wake Forest University.



GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

- Read your *Guide to Community Living*. You can not agree to anything that conflicts with these policies.
- Part of the university experience is your introduction to people from different cultural backgrounds. Because you are living in a diverse community, you may encounter situations that challenge you. Open yourself to new experiences and let yourself be surprised!
- Please feel free to invite guests to visit. Remember, however, that visitation is a privilege, not a right. Both you and your guests must respect the rights and wishes of your roommate and other residents.
- Earn the respect of your roommate by extending to them the same courtesy you would expect from others.
- Communicate in person, honestly and respectfully. Do not rely on Instant Messages, e-mail or other electronic message boards or notes to tell others what you want or need.

HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

- Read through the information.
- Complete this workbook individually. Identify your own values, habits, and needs.
- Be honest with yourself and your roommates! A Roommate Agreement will not work if you agree to conditions you can not live with or maintain.
- Together with your roommate, Schedule a meeting with your Resident Adviser to complete the Roommate Agreement.
- Return the completed agreement to your Resident Adviser as soon as possible.

COMMUNICATION DO'S AND DON'TS

The Do's

- Do share your concerns BEFORE things get out of hand. Explain respectfully what is bothering you and help your roommate understand why.
- Do be genuine and straight-forward, but polite.
- Do listen carefully. Try to see things from the other person's viewpoint.
- Do be sensitive to different backgrounds and perspectives.
- Do know what is important to you and what you are willing to give up or compromise.
- Do seek assistance from your Resident Adviser when things cannot be worked out between you.

The Don'ts

- Do not be antagonistic, arbitrary or rude.
- Do not use profanity or make fun of your roommate.
- Do not interrupt when others are talking.
- Do not spread rumors about your roommate. If there is a problem, discuss it with your roommate.
- Do not IM, use online diaries to complain to, gripe about, or talk about your roommate.
- Do not rely on others (family or friends) to solve your problems for you.