

Instructions for Completing a Roommate Agreement

Use the following information to help you and your roommate build and maintain a good relationship. This information contains communication tips, general expectations for roommate relationships, discussion questions and a roommate contract. After discussing each topic, thoroughly complete the contract, sign it and return it to your RA who will then make sure that both you and your roommate receive a copy of the agreement.

COMMUNICATION TIPS

The key to every relationship, including the one with your roommate is communication. You need to be open, ask, listen and discuss. Don't wait until things build up inside you and get out of hand. Before it gets to that point – TALK IT OUT. Explain in a mature fashion what is bothering you and help your roommate understand why.

THE Dos

- Share the belongings you feel comfortable sharing and clearly state what you do not want to share.
- Seek assistance from your RA only when situations cannot be resolved between roommates.
- Be understanding of each other's moods. Everyone has a bad day.
- Listen carefully, realizing that good listening is hard work and takes practice.
- Be genuine and say what is going right as well as what is going wrong.

The Don'ts

- Do not be antagonistic, arbitrary or patronizing.
- Avoid using inhibiting remarks like, "What don't you listen to reason?" or "We've already tried that."
- Do not interrupt. Listen carefully to the other person and do not jump to conclusions.
- Avoid discussing roommate problems/conflicts with your friends and neighbors. Instead, discuss the situation with your roommate.

General Expectations

Your enjoyment of life in campus housing will depend, to a large extent, on the thoughtful consideration you demonstrate for your roommate and your neighbors. In addition to abiding by the rules and regulations, Mount St. Mary's expects you to establish and maintain a healthy relationship with your roommate(s).

Ask your RA for help if any issues arise between you and your roommate and she or she can help both of you work through it together.



ROOMMATE AGREEMENT

Building _____ Room # _____ Date _____

We understand that this is an official agreement, enforceable by the residents of this room and Residence Life staff and that breaking this agreement may result in administrative action. It can be modified, with the agreement of all residents. Changes should be placed on file with the Assistant Director of your community.

By signing below, we understand that we are also responsible for adhering to the Code of Student Conduct and published Residence Life Community Standards.

Academic Considerations

Maintaining an environment that supports our academic success is important to us. To create an environment that is conducive to studying, we would prefer to set the following hours and conditions for study:

- During what hours will we focus on study during the week? _____
- During what hours will we focus on study during the weekend? _____
- During study hours, how will TV, music, and/or videogames be handled? _____
- Will guests be allowed to visit during study hours? _____
- Other items we discussed: _____

Lifestyle Considerations

We have agreed to the following considerations while our roommate(s) is/are sleeping:

- When roommate(s) is/are in the bedroom asleep, it is not acceptable to: _____
- Other items we discussed: _____

Visitors and overnight guests are only allowed with the permission of all roommates. We have discussed when it is appropriate for guests to visit, when they can stay overnight, where they will sleep, and how we will ask our roommates for their permission to have an overnight guest (same gender).

- When are overnight guests (same gender) allowed?
 1 day a week 3 days a week 5 days a week everyday of the week never
- Where will an overnight guest sleep (same gender)?
 host bed floor couch
- How will roommates discuss having overnight guests? (i.e, Will meet ahead of time? How much ahead of time?)

- Other items we discussed:

Cleanliness Considerations

It is our responsibility to keep our room clean.

- We will vacuum/sweep the floor every _____
- We will take out the trash every _____
- We will clean the refrigerator/microwave every _____
- Other items discussed:

Behavioral Considerations

- How will you give one another messages if one of you is not here? _____

- Are there unacceptable times to watch TV, video games, use the phone, or computer? If so, when?

- Other items we discussed: _____

Problem Resolution

We acknowledge that there will be times when conflicts arise in our roommate relationship. Some conflicts may relate to issues identified in this roommate agreement.

- What is the best way communicate an issue or concern? _____
- When discussing an issue, the following behavior is appropriate and helpful:

- When we need help resolving an issue, we will: _____
- We will hold one another accountable in the event that someone does not adhere to this agreement by: _____

Property Considerations

Roommates should discuss what personal property, if any, will be shared. This includes food, clothing, computers, stereos, and so on.

- What items do you feel comfortable sharing? (i.e. food, clothes, computer, stereo, appliances)?

- What items would you rather not share? _____
- What items are visitors permitted to use? _____

Safety Considerations

The safety and security of our room and building is of utmost importance. *In order to continue to keep our community safe, it is VERY IMPORTANT that residents lock the doors to their rooms as it not only ensures the safety of the residents, but also your personal belongings.* In the event that an emergency occurs, residents should contact Public Safety immediately at 8111.

Community Involvement

We understand that we will get out of our residential experience what we put into it. As a result, we will make every effort to have at least one representative from our room at important floor meetings, community meetings, and will act in a manner that is befitting of a positive, safe, and comfortable living environment.

Agreement

We realize that it is our responsibility to acknowledge and address any concerns about this agreement, first between ourselves and then with our Resident Assistant. *We agree to abide by these expectations realizing that failure to comply with them may result in administrative action by the Residence Life Office.* Any changes to the agreement, whether temporary or permanent, must be agreed to in advance by all parties.

Resident's Name (print) _____ Signature _____

Resident's Name (print) _____ Signature _____

Resident's Name (print) _____ Signature _____

Resident's Name (print) _____ Signature _____

Resident's Name (print) _____ Signature _____

RA/RL Staff Name (print) _____ Signature _____