

The Roommate Agreement

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Perhaps the greatest advantage of residence hall living is the opportunity to live and work closely with all types of people. The key to getting to know your roommate and getting along with them is communication; it's difficult to get to know one another without talking to each other.

The university has some basic expectations, which govern the special nature of interpersonal relationships in the residence halls. These are reasonable expectations that students should have for one another while sharing space in the residence halls. The Residence Hall Bill of Rights outlines these expectations.

Each student choosing to live on-campus at UNL has . . .

- The right to sleep during the night undisturbed.
- The right to study in one's room free of noise and distractions during quiet hours.
- The right of access to one's room and facilities at all times.
- The right to feel secure against physical or emotional harm.
- The right to a clean room.
- The right to have one's belongings respected.
- The right to have guests in the room when they will not disturb one's roommates' right to sleep or study.
- The right to privacy.
- The right to redress grievances.

We believe that a structured opportunity to get acquainted and set some ground rules for your room will enhance the development of your roommate relationship and thus provide you with a more positive experience while living on campus. Use this worksheet as a guide to help you get acquainted with your roommate. A discussion of your intended living situation should include division of housekeeping tasks, sleep and study patterns, methods of conflict resolution, participation in the guest program, visitation, and use of your room and the resources located in it. Policies described in the University Housing Contract Policies and Instructions Booklet should be considered during your discussion when appropriate.

Following your completion of the worksheet and discussion with your roommate, you will complete a roommate agreement which should be turned in to your Resident Assistant (RA). This agreement will be reviewed periodically throughout the fall and at the beginning of the spring semester.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

This chart is provided to assist roommates in defining which belongings they are comfortable sharing. For each item listed, choose Yes, No, or Ask First. Share your answers with each other and discuss your reasoning. Add your own items at list's end.

Name _____ Name _____

Item	Yes	No	Ask First	Yes	No	Ask First
Stereo/Radio						
Television						
VCR/DVD Player						
Hair Dryer						
Clothing						
Food/Beverages						
Cooking Utensils						
Detergents						
Computer						
Movies						
Books						
School Supplies						
Money						
Bed						
Mail						
Athletic Equipment						
Cosmetics/Toiletries						
N-Card/Room Key						
Fridge/Microwave						

Things to consider about the guest policy:

- The rights of a roommate supersede those of a guest in the room. If the roommate(s) is inconvenienced by the presence of a guest, even if it is a time when guests are permitted in the building, the roommate should ask the host to have the guest leave.
- If cooperation is not obtained, a staff member should be contacted for assistance. The importance of this statement is to communicate to all residents that guests do not have rights that are equal to or greater than the residents of the hall, including the roommate who may not wish to have a guest in the room. This should assist in establishing rights and responsibilities with regard to the visitation policy.
- The hall resident assumes the role of host or hostess and is responsible for the conduct of the guests. Unescorted guests may be asked to leave the hall.

The Roommate Agreement Worksheet

ASK YOURSELF . . .

I WANT/NEED

WE AGREE

Sleep –

- What time do you go to sleep?
- What time do you get up?
- Are you a heavy or light sleeper?
- Do you snore?

Study –

- How much do you study?
- When and where do you study?
- What time of day do you study?
- How quiet does it need to be while you study?
- Do you listen to music while studying?

***Quiet Hours –**

- What does quiet mean to you?
- When will you listen to the stereo?
- When will you watch TV?
- When will you play video games?

Cleanliness –

- How neat do you want the room to be?
- How do you determine who cleans what and when?
- How do you want to decorate the room?
- Who will take out the garbage?

Use of Personal Property –

- Which of your items are you willing to share?
- Do you have any items that are “off-limits”?
- Will you share food, which you have purchased?
- Would you like to share clothes with your roommate?

***Participation in the Guest Program –**

- How many people will visit at one time?
- When will same sex guests be allowed in the room?
- When will opposite sex guests be allowed in the room?
- How would you like to handle overnight guests?
- How early will your guests arrive?
- How late will your guests stay?

Other Things –

- How would you like to handle telephone messages?
- How would you like to handle locking the room door?
- How much time do you want/need to spend with your roommate(s)?
- What role will alcohol play in your living situation?

Conflict Resolution –

- How would you like to approach your roommate when conflict arises?
- How would you like to be approached when conflict arises between you and your roommate?
- How will you use your roommate agreement to mediate conflict?
- What role will your RA play in conflict mediation?

*Be sure to review the University Housing Contract Policies & Instructions Booklet regarding these and related residence hall policies.