

WELCOME

Welcome to LMU. Living on campus can be a great experience for many students. We have created this guide to help you and your roommate(s) to have an open conversation about the habits and the routines that will affect your living space. With honesty, self-assessment, compromise, and open communication, your experience living in the residence halls should be a much more positive experience where you and your roommate(s) can learn and grow. We hope you enjoy your time in the residence halls.

The start of this relationship is understanding who you are and what you do in your living area. This guide will ask you questions about your sleeping habits, how you feel about sharing personal items, etiquette for using the phone, and other key questions. The key to this is being honest. This is a tool for you to assess how you use your living area before your sit down with your roommate(s) to discuss your living agreement.

Once you and your roommate(s) have completed the self-assessment, the next step is to sit down with your roommate(s) and talk about your answers. Feel free to refer to your self-assessment when needed. Remember you need to be honest with each other about your needs. During the conversation, you may come upon a topic where you cannot agree on an issue. When this occurs, you and your roommate(s) will need to come up with an alternative agreement that is acceptable to all parties, otherwise known as “The Compromise.” Areas where you will need to compromise mainly focus around facilities, services, and equipment provided by the University including, but not limited to door locks, closets, the room, bathrooms, etc.

If you and your roommate(s) reach a section where you are unable to reach a compromise, you can continue to the next point. You can ask your RA for assistance in conducting a mediation that will facilitate further conversation to reach an agreement.

Once the agreement is completed all roommates will sign the document. Each roommate will get a copy and the original will be returned to the RA. This is a living document and can be revisited at any point in the year. If this happens, the RA must receive a new copy of the agreement.

SELF-ASSESSMENT:

The following are questions to ask yourself

1. I study best in an environment that is? (has background noise, quiet, etc.)
2. My sleeping habits are? (lights off/on, the tv on, quiet, etc.)
3. On a scale of 1 to 10 (1=really messy, 10=immaculate) regarding cleanliness, I am a _____.
4. When I am angry, I _____.
5. When I am in disagreement with someone I prefer to:
 - a. Not argue
 - b. Seek the advice of others
 - c. Compromise
 - d. Fight to the death
6. What role does your family/culture/religion play in your education?
7. What cultural events/rituals/celebrations are important to you?
8. What values are important to you?
 - a. Personal Time
 - b. Privacy
 - c. Social interaction (friends, roommate)
 - d. Religion
 - e. Etc.
9. How will you work out differences with your roommate(s)?

ROOMMATE AGREEMENT

Use this as a worksheet before completing the agreement. You can compare your needs to that of your roommate(s) and then work to compromise when you complete the contract. Agreements made in this contract do not supercede University and Student Housing Policies.

Studying

1. Studying? How do we study?

	Roommate 1	Roommate 2	Roommate 3	Roommate 4
I study in the room				
I study outside the room				
It's ok to ask me to study somewhere else				

2. I cannot study if:

	Roommate 1	Roommate 2	Roommate 3	Roommate 4
There are guests in the room				
The television is on				
Someone is on the phone				
Others are using their computers				

3. I normally study between these hours:

	Roommate 1	Roommate 2	Roommate 3	Roommate 4
Morning				
Afternoon				
Evening				
Late Night/Overnight				

The agreed upon study time is between _____ and _____.

During this time, the following activities are permitted: _____

During this time, the following activities are not permitted: _____

Sleeping

	Roommate 1	Roommate 2	Roommate 3	Roommate 4
I like to sleep by (time)				
I normally wake by (time)				
I am a heavy/light sleeper				

I cannot sleep when the following things are happening in the room:

	Roommate 1	Roommate 2	Roommate 3	Roommate 4
There are guests in the room				
The television is on				
The lights are on				
Someone is talking on the phone				
The stereo is on				
Others are using their computer				

I would prefer that guest or other roommates do not _____ on my bed:

	Roommate 1	Roommate 2	Roommate 3	Roommate 4
Sleep				
Sit				
Lay belongings down				
Other				

I like to take naps during the day:

	Roommate 1	Roommate 2	Roommate 3	Roommate 4
Yes				
No				

I cannot nap when:

	Roommate 1	Roommate 2	Roommate 3	Roommate 4
There are guests in the room				
The TV is on				
The lights are on				
Someone is talking on the phone				
The stereo is on				
Others are using their computer				

Do you snore?

	Roommate 1	Roommate 2	Roommate 3	Roommate 4
Yes				
No				

We agree that sleep time will start at _____ during the week and _____ during the weekend.

During sleep time we agree to: _____

The following is not permitted during sleep time: _____

Telephone

1. We agree that if the call waiting beep occurs, we will:
 - a. Answer and see who it is
 - b. Let voicemail pick up
 - c. Initiate the call waiting showdown (i.e. when talking to a friend and a parent calls)
 - i. Which people should be given priority?
2. Messages will be:
 - a. Written down and put in an agreed upon space
 - b. Left on voicemail
 - c. Other
3. We will agree on the outgoing message
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
4. We agree to set up individual voicemail boxes
 - a. Yes
 - b. no

Guests

1. Will overnight guests (of the same sex*) be allowed in the room
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
2. The following advance notice will normally be given for overnight guest
 - a. ___Hours
 - b. ___Days
 - c. ___Week(s)
3. The following are restrictions to the room overnight guest policy*
 - a. ___ Days (not to exceed three consecutive)
 - b. Test Time (Midterms/Finals)
 - c. Other: _____

* You cannot agree to anything that would violate Student Housing Policies

4. Non-overnight guests are allowed to hang out in the room
 - a. Always
 - b. At Specific Times
 - i. When roommate is not sleeping/studying
 - ii. Until X time each night

Room Environment

1. Trash will be taken out:
 - a. Daily
 - b. Weekly
 - c. When it gets full
 - d. Other

2. We will take out the trash on a:
 - a. Rotating Basis
 - b. Whoever sees it first
 - c. Other:

3. The room will be vacuumed on a:
 - a. Daily
 - b. Weekly
 - c. Whenever it gets full
 - d. Other:

4. We will vacuum the room on a:
 - a. Rotating basis
 - b. Whoever sees it first
 - c. Other:

5. Roommates will wash laundry:
 - a. Daily
 - b. Weekly
 - c. Whenever it gets smelly
 - d. Other

	Roommate 1	Roommate 2	Roommate 3	Roommate 4
Preferred Day Temperature				
Preferred Night Temperature				

6. During the day, the room temperature will be:_____.
7. During the evenings, the room temperature will be:_____.

Common Areas (Suites/Apartments Only)

- 1. How will the common room be used?_____
- _____.
- 2. When are guest allowed in the common room?_____
- _____.
- 3. Who will clean the common room and how often?:_____
- _____.

Bathroom (Suites/Apartments Only)

The Bathroom will be cleaned:

- a. Daily
- b. Weekly
- c. Whenever it gets dirty

Sharing

The following items are ok to use either “With permission”, “Always”, “Never” Mark appropriately with a W, A, or N.

	Roommate 1	Roommate 2	Roommate 3	Roommate 4
Television				
Computer				
Stereo				
School Supplies				
Clothes				
Toiletries				
Vehicle				
Hairdryer/Hair care products				
Food				
Refrigerator/Appliances				
CD/Tapes/Movies				

Decorations

How will we decorate the room? How will we store items? What is allowed in plain view? What should be kept in closets or under beds?

Attire

What do you consider to be appropriate clothing for your room? For bedtime? What is the appropriate attire when your roommate has guests?

Things that may cause frustration

The following things tend to frustrate me:

Conflict Resolution

What will we do if a roommate violates a topic in the agreement?
(speak to roommate, speak to an RA, speak to your RD)

As we mentioned earlier, the agreement should be reviewed periodically by both roommates to make adjustments when necessary.

If conflict occurs we suggest the following actions be taken.

DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH YOUR ROOMMATE

Your roommate may not be aware that you have an issue. Make sure that you have discussed it. Don't hold things in and wait until the end. Be specific about the issue.

SEE IF YOU CAN COMPROMISE

Try and discuss the specific issue. See if the original agreement needs to be revised. What can you do to come to an agreement or reinforce the original agreement?

IF COMPROMISE DOESN'T WORK, THEN SPEAK TO A RESIDENCE LIFE STAFF MEMBER

If you are unable to agree on an issue, contact an RA or your RD to assist with the mediation process. The mediation will consist of you and your roommate(s) meeting with an RA or RD to discuss the problem. The goal of the mediation will be to come an agreement where you and your roommate(s) can live together. If mediation does not work, your Area Coordinator will select a Student Affairs staff member to serve as Arbitrator.