



HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE

The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

ROOMMATE BILL OF RIGHTS

This document works to establish clear and consistent housing and residence life expectations that foster a supportive and empowering living environment where students can grow and reach their fullest potential while they are living together.

Learning to live alongside someone else—embracing differences, respecting individuality, and giving each other room to develop—creates an environment where both people can thrive. Spend some time with your roommate(s) so that you can get to know one another better. This will help if problems arise later. Find out your common interests and build on them. Respect your roommate. Not everyone is alike or does things the same way.

As a Roommate, YOU have the following RIGHTS...

- To read and study free from unnecessary disturbances in one's room.
- To sleep without unnecessary disturbances from noise, roommate, guests, etc.
- To expect that a roommate will respect one's personal belongings.
- To a safe and clean environment in which to live.
- To free access to your room and facilities without pressure from a roommate.
- To personal privacy.
- To host guests during approved visitation hours who respect the rights of your roommate and other hall residents.
- To be free from fear of intimidation and physical and/or emotional harm.
- To expect reasonable cooperation in the use of shared appliances (refrigerators, etc.) and a commitment to honor agreed-upon procedures.

As a roommate, YOU have the following RESPONSIBILITIES...

- To keep your door locked.
- To observe quiet hours, keep your music, TV, etc., and voice at a reasonable volume, and communicate to others that you expect the same of them.
- To let your roommate know of your wishes and preferences for hours of sleep, study, and guest visitation and to work through any differences you may have in a peaceful manner.
- For you and your guests to respect your roommate's preferences of the space so that all students in the space can have a successful dorm experience.
- To listen to your roommate's wishes and respond appropriately.
- To read and follow the rules and regulations established to support the educational purposes of the University (provided for you by the Community Living Standards) and to sustain a safe and comfortable living community in the residence halls and apartments.
- To examine your own behavior when confronted by another and work toward resolving conflicts.

- To interact with others and not be threatening or aggressive.
- To notify a staff member of problems or violations of rules that happen in the living community.
- The right to seek help with the roommate relationship from Residence Life staff and to cooperate with the staff as they work with you to resolve your problem.
- To participate in community meetings and to adhere to and enforce community policies and guidelines.
- To be a positive member and influence in your community.
- To recognize that community cannot exist if any individual is excluded; any action, direct or covert, that discriminates on the basis of race, gender, religion, handicap, national origin, age, or sexual orientation or identity cannot be tolerated in a community based on mutual respect and cooperation.

ROOMMATE/SUITEMATE COMMUNICATION TIPS

When you are living with a roommate, clear and honest communication is essential. You have the responsibility to contribute to the function and success of the room so that all students in the space can have a successful dorm experience. Here are some ways you can try to help develop a successful dorm environment between yourself and your roommates and suitemates:

- If you or your roommates/suitemates struggle with managing shared expectations in the dorm or apartment, come up with a schedule together to divvy up tasks.
- If you or your roommates/suitemates do not communicate well, plan to meet with each other in-person to intentionally discuss a problem you share.
- If you or your roommates/suitemates have not gone through a conflict together, sit down together and build a plan for how you all want to resolve future conflicts. Make sure everyone in the group shares ideas for an actual plan you all can follow in the future.
- If you or your roommates/suitemates want to practice communication, try listening to each other actively without interrupting each other, talk to each other instead of posting complaints on social media, and make yourself slightly uncomfortable so that your roommate/suitemate has the space to share their own concerns.

Conflict is almost always uncomfortable, but so long as you are trying to communicate sincerely with your roommates/suitemates and given them the space to communicate and respond, conflict can feel a lot more approachable.