

Shared Living Expectations Worksheet

The purpose of this agreement is to provide residents sharing a room the opportunity to examine each other's personal living style and preferences. This agreement will also help to ensure that the rights of each individual resident are respected. Learning to accept each other's differences without infringing upon one another is an important skill to learn and makes residence hall living easier. Below are topic areas to be covered, however, roommates should add any additional topics or areas that they would like included for discussion.

As a result of completing this worksheet, the following questions should be answered:

- What traditions will we have as roommates?
- What do I need from a roommate?
- How will we communicate?
- What's the best way to communicate when things get tense?
- How will we address a violation of these expectations?

General Expectations:

- Know and abide by William & Mary's Student Handbook policies and Housing Agreement.
- Think about what you need in order to function in life. Keep in mind that your room will be where you do most of your socializing and studying. Try to rank order what issues may be most important to you.
- Try to work out expectations, which are acceptable to all. This may mean compromising on some issues, which are of less importance to you.
- Communicate with your roommate regarding concerns and be active in creating a solution.
- Settle conflicts by being upfront and honest. Your RA is available to meet with your roommate periodically to ensure that each member is supportive of each other and can provide assistance as needed.
- When problems arise during the year refer to this document and discuss your reason for the decisions, and how the situation has changed. At any point during the year roommates can renegotiate this agreement.

How can we read, sleep, study in the room with as little disturbance as possible?

Times reserved for quiet study time?	
What background activities can take place while one of us is studying?	
How does this change during midterm and final exam periods?	
What do we want to consider "sleeping hours"?	
What background activities can take place while one of us is sleeping?	

Other Notes:

How will we share, or not share, personal belongings

What items may be used/shared (i.e. yes, no, ask first) –

- Computer
- Books
- Desk items
- Food
- Toiletries
- Clothing
- Other

Other Notes:

How will we keep our shared space?

How will we work together to complete the following housekeeping duties and decide the frequency at which each should be performed?

- Trash removal
- Recycling
- Vacuuming
- Other

How often should each roommate straighten up their personal belongings?

How hot or cool do we prefer our space to be? (i.e. windows open/closed, fan use)

How will we ensure safety and security of our space?

Other Notes:

For Apartments/Suites/Private Baths

How will we share the use of our kitchen?

- Cooking
- Food prep and use
- Dishes
- Refrigerator/freezer use
- Appliances
- Other

How will we share the use of our bathroom?

- Scheduling
- Use
- Frequency of cleaning
- Use of personal items
- Visitor use
- Locking door
- Other

How will we share the use of other common spaces?

- Cleanliness
 - Visitors
 - Personal property
 - Temperature
 - Lights
 - Other
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Other Notes:

How will we invite others into our space/be aware of each other's needs for personal space?

What are our personal needs for space/time?

How will we ask permission to have a guest over? An overnight guest?

How long in advance will we ask prior to a guest coming over?	
Are guests allowed during sleeping hours? How often can a roommate have an overnight guest?	
What will we do if a guest in our space is being disrespectful or unruly?	
What activities do we feel comfortable with when guests are over?	

Other Notes:

How will we ensure our shared space is free from the fear of intimidation, physical and/or emotional harm?

What is the best method for each of us to engage in difficult conversations?	
What other measures will we take to allow our space to remain a place we can feel comfortable in?	
What habits do either of us have that might affect our roommate relationship?	
What will we do when we can't reach an agreement?	

Other Notes:

Methods for holding each other accountable: (If X happens, I will do Y)

If my roommate or I have any concerns with the expectations and agreements stated above, we have the responsibility of taking the following steps in order to reach a mutually agreeable solution:

1. We must first honestly and openly talk with each other and attempt to work out the problem ourselves.
2. If the problem fails to be resolved, we will consult the RA, who will work with us to find a resolution to the problem.

We understand that any changes to this agreement must be made with all members of the room. It is also beneficial to involve a Residence Life staff member (i.e. the RA) if the changes are made as a result of a problem in the room.

Roommate Signature

Roommate Signature