



**RESIDENCE  
EDUCATION**

# SHARED SPACES: GUIDE TO LIVING WITH ROOMMATES

## **Resident Rights and Responsibilities**

As a campus resident of UC Merced, you possess specific individual rights that your roommate and those living around you must respect. These rights carry with them a reciprocal responsibility on your part to ensure that these same rights exist for your roommate, suitemates, and other residents. Your basic rights are listed here; you and your community may choose to add to this list. It is important that these items and the concept of others' rights and responsibilities be discussed throughout the year.

### **You have the right...**

- to read and study in your room
- to have control over your personal possessions
- to access your room [and suite]
- to live in a clean, safe environment
- to sleep and relax in your room
- to confront another's behavior which infringes upon your rights
- to seek the aid of staff in resolving possible roommate conflicts

# COMMUNICATION

Building a good relationship with your roommates and housemates will benefit you now and serve you later in other relationships. Just like building a house, roommate relationships require skills we can learn. **The foundation is communication.**

Being honest and open from the beginning will make it easier to talk later about how your relationship is changing. It will be easier to resolve issues if you communicate directly and immediately as issues arise. **You are capable of learning and applying these skills.**

## You are responsible for:

- Knowing what is important to you
- Being accountable for your own behavior
- Confronting (talking clearly and directly to) someone who is violating your rights
- Identifying the compromises necessary for living with others
- Negotiating and re-negotiating an agreement that works for all residents

# CONFLICT & AGREEMENTS

## Differences And Conflict

Differences are normal and offer an opportunity for growth. Conflict exists in all relationships and it can be an opportunity for interpersonal growth and for learning about different people. Sometimes roommates become close friends. Many will not be close but will live together respectfully.

## Negotiating An Agreement

- Take time to go through these exercises alone before negotiating with your roommate/housemates.
- Then, sit down together to share results with each other verbally.
- Negotiate, compromise, and develop agreements on all issues listed in this form.
- All roommates/housemates must sign this form.
- Turn in a copy of this form to your RA, and keep a copy for yourselves.
- Agreements can be re-negotiated at any time.
- Your RAs are good resources and can help mediate disagreements.



# SELF-ASSESSMENT

***Please complete the Self-Assessment prior to completing the Roommate Agreement.***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Building: \_\_\_\_\_ Room: \_\_\_\_\_

## **ABOUT ME:**

What I like to do in my spare time: \_\_\_\_\_

The kind of music I like most: \_\_\_\_\_ least: \_\_\_\_\_

What I am like when I am down or upset about something: \_\_\_\_\_

How I am when things are going pretty well: \_\_\_\_\_

Times when I prefer to be left alone: \_\_\_\_\_

My idea of relaxing after being tense is: \_\_\_\_\_

Something that is likely to annoy me: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions or Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

## **CLEANLINESS:**

How important is it for me to have a clean & neat room? *Very / Average / Little*

I prefer that we:

- ☐ Each take care of our own parts of the room
- ☐ Alternate cleaning tasks (be specific).
- ☐ Don't clean

## **SLEEP:**

I generally go to sleep around: \_\_\_\_\_; I wake up around: \_\_\_\_\_

Sleep Preferences (i.e no light, with a fan): \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONAL PROPERTY:** List items of personal property

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**ADDITIONAL THINGS TO DISCUSS:** Pet peeves, stressors, communication preferences, hobbies/interests, health concerns, storage division, room temp and window preferences, views on alcohol/drugs/smoking, etc.



# ROOMMATE AGREEMENT

When you all have completed the self-assessment, please schedule a meeting with your Resident Assistant to complete your Roommate Agreement.

**Building:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Room:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Room Type:** Double / Triple / Quad / Suite

Our Resident Assistant is: \_\_\_\_\_ Agreement Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## PART I: RESIDENT INFORMATION

| Name / Preferred Name | Pronouns | Preferred Method of Contact |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------------------------|
|                       |          |                             |
|                       |          |                             |
|                       |          |                             |
|                       |          |                             |

## PART II: CLEANLINESS

How do you personally define cleanliness? How can we work together to define cleanliness as roommates?

Define Neat & Clean: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### We will clean:

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ As needed

### Our shared space will be:

- ☐ Neat
- ☐ Messy
- ☐ In between

### General cleaning supplies will be purchased:

- ☐ On a rotation basis
- ☐ With the cost split each time
- ☐ Other/additional:

### When we clean, we will:

- ☐ Do our laundry
- ☐ Put away any personal items in shared spaces
- ☐ Wash dishes after using them
- ☐ Vacuum/dust
- ☐ Take out the trash
- ☐ Other/additional: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Other/additional: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Other/additional: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Other/additional: \_\_\_\_\_

### Cleaning Schedule:

Determine who is cleaning when?



# ROOMMATE AGREEMENT

## PART II: USE OF SPACE

What resources will you use to support your academic success? How can your roommate(s) support your academic success?

Define Privacy: \_\_\_\_\_

On school nights, we plan to wake up and go to bed by:

| ROOMMATE | Wake Up Time | Sleep Time |
|----------|--------------|------------|
|          |              |            |
|          |              |            |
|          |              |            |
|          |              |            |

**Sleeping atmosphere will be:**

- ☐ Silent
- ☐ Low Music
- ☐ Low TV Volume
- ☐ Night Light/ Desk Light
- ☐ No Light
- ☐ Other/additional: \_\_\_\_\_

**While other(s) are sleeping in the space, it is okay to:**

- ☐ Make noise
- ☐ Listen to music
- ☐ Keep overhead light on (if applicable)
- ☐ Have guests over
- ☐ Other/additional: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Use microwave/appliances
- ☐ Keep desk lamp on (if applicable)
- ☐ Watch TV
- ☐ Use hair dryer
- ☐ Other/additional: \_\_\_\_\_

**Study time(s) in the space will be:**

- ☐ 9:00AM – NOON
- ☐ NOON - 5:00PM
- ☐ 5:00PM – 10:00PM
- ☐ 10:00PM – Midnight
- ☐ Midnight - 9:00AM
- ☐ Other/additional: \_\_\_\_\_

**Study atmosphere in the space will be:**

- ☐ Silent
- ☐ Low Music
- ☐ Low TV Volume
- ☐ No distractions
- ☐ Anything goes
- ☐ Other/additional: \_\_\_\_\_

**Which items can be shared or borrowed without asking:**

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**Which items are to be shared or borrowed only after asking:**

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**Which items are not to be used or borrowed under any circumstance:**

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# ROOMMATE AGREEMENT

## PART II: USE OF SPACE (continued)

Sharing a room with each other, also means sharing closet, dressers, fridges, microwaves, and so forth.

Room window will typically be left:

☐ Open ☐ Close

Items in the fridge and shared storage should be:

☐ Labeled ☐ For everyone ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Food or drink consumed that is not ours, will be:

- ☐ Replaced within three days  
☐ Replaced within a week  
☐ Not replaced (what's mine is yours)  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Shared Closets/ Storage division:

One of the most common problems between roommates lies in the area of visitation. Who visits, when, and for how long are common questions. If you discuss these issues with each other, you should be able to avoid some conflicts. Students may host guests of either gender in their residence hall rooms provided the following guidelines are met:

- All roommates have agreed upon the appropriate hours of guest visitation.
- All roommates agree who is visiting and the length of the visit.
- At no time may a roommate deny other roommates access to the room.
- At no time may a roommate force other roommates to share the room with a visitor.
- Overnight guests are not permitted to stay in their host's room longer than a three-day period.
- All roommates involved make reasonable accommodations.

### Should advance notice be given before a non-overnight guest arrives?

☐ Let us know ☐ Ask us ☐ No

### Guest of another gender staying in the room overnight?

☐ Yes ☐ Ask us ☐ No

### Guests in our space are allowed to:

- ☐ Sit on/use each other's beds  
☐ Sit on/use each other's furniture  
☐ Eat other's food  
☐ Use other's Personal belongings  
☐ Other Items: \_\_\_\_\_

### Guests are allowed to visit during the following times:

- ☐ Before 10:00AM  
☐ 10:00AM - Noon  
☐ Noon - 5:00PM  
☐ 5:00PM - 10:00PM  
☐ 10:00PM - Midnight  
☐ Midnight – 2:00AM  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Notes:



# ROOMMATE AGREEMENT

## PART III: Communication Plan

How have you solved conflict in the past? How will that shape your conflict mediation style with your roommates?

Define Conflict: \_\_\_\_\_

Define Civility: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred means of communication with roommate(s) during conflict:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Speaking face-to-face          | <input type="checkbox"/> Mediation with a staff member RA/CM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communicating over email       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Additional: _____             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communicating via text message | <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Additional: _____             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communicating via Social Media |  |

If one of us is bothered by the action of the other, we should:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keep it to ourselves                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Not post it on social media sites   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immediately voice our concerns by talking | <input type="checkbox"/> Not gossip to others about it first |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consult RA/CM                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Additional                    |

Notes:

By signing this agreement we agree to abide by the items above and discuss any issues and needed changes with each other. We also agree to following and cleaning schedules established. Finally we agree that conflicts should be resolved by members of the suite and Residence Education staff, if necessary, and conflicts will not be shared with others in person or online. This agreement must be reviewed & revised when a new resident moves into the room/suite or at the request of any roommate.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

RA Name: \_\_\_\_\_ RA Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_