

# Choosing a Roommate Wisely Checklist

## What are you looking for in a roommate?

- Familiarity - what can each of you bring to the table
- Someone who shares common interests
- Someone who shares the same expectations in terms of cleaning, paying for things, food, using each other's things, etc.
- Someone who shares a similar budget
- Someone who shares similar sleep and studying habits

## All things considered, do you want to live with...

- Male or a female
- Smoker or a non-smoker
- Someone with pets
- Someone younger or older than you
- Someone in a serious relationship

## Expectations – Consider this.

- How do you handle rent and utility payments?
- What's your policy for using each others possessions including those in the common areas like the couch or television?
- What is your guest policy & who gets a key to your apartment?
- How do you handle cleaning responsibilities?
- Do you grocery shop for one another or just yourself?
- How do you handle messages and mail?

## How do you set expectations?

- First and foremost you must communicate with your potential roommate openly and honestly.
- Do not feel that you have to compromise on things you feel strongly about.
- Complete a roommate contract or an agreement between you and your roommate about how you are going to handle certain situations.

## You've found a roommate. Now what's your game plan?

Taking time to consider the following will cut down on headaches in the long run.

- How will you communicate what you have found. Will you talk directly to one another or will a third party be involved such as boyfriend, girlfriend, mother, or father.
- Who will look for your place? Will one person be responsible or will both?
- How will you make a final decision as to where you will be living?
- Who will put down a deposit and when?

## **You've found a roommate. Now where are you going to live?**

Here are some details to consider when looking for a place to call home.

- What are you both looking for in terms of price, location, and amenities?
- What type of housing do you want to consider; an apartment or a house?
- Does it matter if your place has 24 hr. security, laundry in the building, parking off street or on, utilities included or not, pets allowed or not, and a 12 month lease?

## **Who will bring what?**

- Make sure you sit down and make a list of what each of you is going to bring from furniture to appliances.
- Remember houses and apartments don't furnish themselves - unless of course you have rented a furnished apartment!

## **Once you move in...**

Just a few more things to consider....

- Who will be responsible for calling the landlord if you are having problems inside your apartment or house?
- How will you make each other aware of the conversations you have with your landlord?
- Finally, remember that you and your roommate must continue to communicate with each other if you want your relationship to remain a positive one.

## **When expectations are NOT met.**

- Stay Calm.
- Schedule a house meeting.
- List what you want to talk about before you get to the meeting. Remember to stay in the present. Do not list things that happened a month ago.
- Talk to one another and come to an agreement. Look at what you can all do differently next time. Do not yell and do not accuse.
- Try not to leave notes. Communicate face to face or verbally over the phone.
- It is no ones fault but your own if you do not confront issues that are bothering you.

## **If problems persist.**

- If you and your roommate(s) are not able to settle your problems yourself you can contact the Off-Campus Housing Office to assist with mediation.
- Please Note: All roommates must agree to participate in the mediation.