

Roommate Conflict Policy

If a roommate disagreement or conflict arises in a room we ask that students go through the following procedures before requesting a room change. Space is very limited on campus, and we ask that students try to discuss their problems and concerns as a room change may not be an immediate option.

If a student is having difficulties in their room and/or with their roommate, we encourage students to first discuss the issue with their roommate directly. Many times the roommate is not aware that there is a problem. If students cannot resolve the issue on their own, they then may approach their Resident Advisor to discuss having roommate mediation. During this mediation, the RA will go over the Roommate Contract and revise/make changes that all parties are in agreement with.

If the RA cannot successfully mediate the situation or assist in solving the conflict, residents will schedule a meeting with their Resident Director or Area Coordinator. Resident Directors and Area Coordinators are professional staff members who have been trained in roommate conflicts and mediations.

Roommate Conflict Policy- a Step by Step Guide

In the event a resident finds his or her roommate incompatible, please follow the list of steps below:

1. Talk to your roommate! Open communication is key, and this first step may solve the issue.
2. Contact your Resident Advisor (RA). Your RA will schedule a meeting with all roommates in the room.
3. During the meeting, the RA will go over/revise the Roommate Agreement. Throughout this process, the RA will offer advice on how to improve the living situation.
4. The RA will check in with all students 2 days after the mediation has occurred. If the conflict persists, the RA will refer the residents to meet with their Resident Director/Area Coordinator.
5. The Resident Director/Area Coordinator will meet with all residents and mediate a discussion that focuses on the conflicts that are still occurring in the room.
6. If a situation is deemed irresolvable by the Resident Director/Area Coordinator and/or residents have not complied with the outlined guidelines of the Roommate Contract, then a resident(s) may be directed to complete a Room Change Request form.

Please Note: The Office of Campus Life retains the right to move a student or group of students at any time, if it is found that a conflict cannot be resolved.

The ultimate goal of the Campus Life Staff is to have a successful discussion with the concerned resident and respective roommates in which a Roommate Contract is formed. All residents must abide by the stipulations of the contract, which in turn leads to a more positive living experience.

Managing Roommate Conflict

If you do find yourself involved in a roommate conflict, here are some tips to help you address the situation:

1. Do not become too dependent on your roommate for friendship. It is healthy and natural to develop good friendships with people who you do not live with. It is okay to not be best friends with your roommate, as long as there is mutual respect.
2. Talk to your roommate directly and deal with issues as they arise. It is much more effective to assert yourself as things happen, rather than to let several small issues build up over time, and

eventually explode! Create an open line of communication so that all roommates feel comfortable expressing their feelings.

3. Talk honestly and directly. Level with each other. For example, "When you do X in situation Y, I feel Z". Be honest about your needs, thoughts, and feelings.
4. Validate others' positions. Try to understand others' points of view even when they differ from your own. For example, "I understand how you might feel that way, but..."
5. Attack problems, not each other. Come to an agreement on what the conflict is and what a solution may be. Make a plan of action, and set a future time to evaluate the situation.
6. Use "I" statements to express your thoughts/feelings. For example, "I felt left out" sounds very different from "You never spend any time with me".
7. Try not to involve your neighbors or mutual friends in your conflict. This can aggravate the conflict and complicate the situation.
8. Avoid direct or indirect posting on social media. This often results in feelings getting hurt, and can escalate a situation that could have been resolved.
9. If you find you cannot resolve a conflict on your own, seek out the Resident Advisor. It can help to have an objective party to help talk things out.

Most importantly, always remember that none of us are perfect. If problems develop that you cannot solve on your own, there are people trained to help mediate these conflicts. Since room changes are not always an available solution, always seek out a professional to help navigate through a conflict.

Room Change Policy

If a resident would like to change rooms, they must submit a Room Change Request Form.

Once a student submits a room change request form to our office, the form is given to the student's Resident Director/Area Coordinator. The Resident Director/Area Coordinator will then schedule a meeting with the student to discuss the request for a change in room assignment. They may determine that mediation needs to occur between the conflicting parties before any room change requests are granted.

- Room Changes may not be accepted within the first two weeks of the fall or spring semesters, allowing our staff to check in students and determine if there are available spaces.
- If a room change can be granted, and an offer is made, a student has 48 hours to accept or decline the offer. If accepted, students then have approximately 48 hours to move to their new assignment.
- If a room change cannot be granted due to space not being available, the room change request will continue to be reviewed weekly to see if space has become available.
- Unauthorized room changes are considered a violation of the student code of conduct, and may result in a student going through the student code of conduct process.

Note: Single spaces are always extremely limited in availability. Freshmen students will only be offered freshmen spaces; upperclassmen students will only be offered upperclassmen spaces. Room changes in or out of LLCs may not be permitted. Room changes may not be permitted during final exams or reading days.

Rooms with Vacancies

All vacancies are considered as available space by the University and must be accessible to other students looking to change rooms.

In such cases, the resident assigned to the room has three basic options:

1. Invite someone to move into the space
2. Request to move to a different space
3. Have our office assign a roommate to the space. This would involve students looking to change rooms.

Residents are given a set amount of time to choose their option before Campus Life would then manage the vacancy administratively. Typically residents are given one week from the date the space becomes vacant, but can be shorter due to an emergency situation or at the beginning of a term.

Administratively, Campus Life reserves the right to assign another student to the space and/or change a resident's assignment at any time.

Please note:

- Requesting to leave a space vacant is not an option
- Under no circumstances should you consider this space your own or cause circumstances that will prevent other students from considering it a possible room for them to move into. Residents with an open bed in their room should create a welcoming environment to any new student assigned to that room.
- All furniture including the bed, desk, wardrobe, and closet must be left assembled and set up in your room so that another student can easily move into the space
- If you fail to comply or obstruct this process in any way, you may be held accountable through the student code of conduct.

This policy does not intend to create an uncomfortable living situation for any individual, but to ensure that all students have access to available space.