



Roommate/Suitemate Agreement

Welcome to UC Merced Housing & Residence Life. You may have lived on campus before or this may be the first time experiencing residence hall living. You may have chosen a friend to room with, but chances are you have been assigned to a roommate/suitemates that you know very little about.

You and your roommate/suitemates will spend a lot of time together over the next year. While it our hope that much of this time is filled with fun, trust and sharing, there may also be times when you and your roommate/suitemates will experience differences and difficulties.

Your goal and that of your roommate/suitemates will be to establish relationships based on mutual respect, tolerance for individual differences, and a commitment to open discussion and resolution of problems, which may arise while living together.

Keeping the lines of communication open is a key to maintaining positive roommate relationships. Roommates will need to share their thoughts as well as their feelings while living together. As with all relationships, developing good roommate/suitemates relationships takes time and effort.

The following is presented to you as a proactive effort to alleviate and decrease any future conflict among your roommate/suitemates. We realized that you have just briefly met each other and feel very excited and positive that “nothing will cause us any hardships over the next year.” However, it is inevitable, that there will be at least one (if not many) times where you will not agree with each other. For this reason, we have created this form.

Experience has shown that participating in open communication about subjects and issues prior to situations arising, increases the probability that the issue/situation will be resolved in a quick and equitable manner. Your Resident Assistant will offer to schedule a meeting time

Hall: _____ Room: _____

during the few weeks of move-in, to discuss this Agreement and help facilitate the discussion within each area.

This is a MANDATORY exercise for all roommates/suitemates living on campus at UC Merced. It is written to ensure that everyone’s rights are respected. Everyone should mutually determine the contents of your agreement and endorse it. This Agreement will be used during any conflict mediation procedures. You will be expected to uphold the decisions documented within the Agreement, so you are encouraged to take this process very seriously and to make sure your concerns and/or issues are represented during the discussion. The biggest key to success? ... COMPROMISE!

The items within this Agreement may not violate any Federal, State, or University policy and/or regulation.

All residents have:

- 1) The right to read and study free from undue interference in one’s own room/suite.
- 2) The right to sleep without undue disturbance from noise, guests, etc.
- 3) The right to expect that roommates will respect one’s personal belongings.
- 4) The right to a clean and safe environment.
- 5) The right to have access to one’s room and suite without pressure.
- 6) The right to personal privacy.
- 7) The right to host guests only with the agreement of the roommates/suitemates and the expectation that the guest will respect the rights of roommates and other residents.
- 8) The right for redress of grievances.
- 9) The right to be free from fear of intimidation, physical and/or emotional harm.

CONNECTING WITH YOUR ROOMMATE/SUITEMATES

A simple, often-overlooked fact about living with another person is that it's easier to do so if you discover who they are and what they stand for. During one of your first roommate interactions, whether it's over dinner or just hanging out in the room, get a good conversation going. Don't get too personal right off the bat, though. Just put the following types of questions into your own language and get better connected.

Interests:

- What are some of your hobbies and interests?
- What kinds of things do you feel like you're pretty good at? (i.e. things you did in high school, etc.)
- What are some of the things you feel very passionately about? (i.e. causes)
- What kinds of movies do you like? Music? Sports teams? TV shows?

Background:

- Have you ever shared a room with someone before? If so, what was it like?
- Where are you from? What was it like growing up there?
- What do you feel comfortable telling me about your family and friends back home?

College perspective:

- What are you looking forward to here at college? Is there anything you're nervous about?
- Do you know what your major will be? What do you hope to do with it?
- What types of things are you hoping to get involved in this year?

Personal Characteristics:

- What really annoys you?
- How can people tell when you're angry? Stressed?
- Are there any touchy subjects you'd prefer not to discuss?

Roommate Issues:

- What do you think are the most important things for us to work on as roommates?
- What type of environment helps you concentrate on your studies most effectively? (i.e. can you study with music or others in the room, etc.)
- Are you more of a morning or a night person? When do you typically go to bed? Wake up?
- How do you feel about having overnight guests?

Take time to talk with your roommate/suitemates right off the bat and keep at it! Not only will you discover more about one another, you'll be building the foundation for a promising year ahead.

Myth: "My roommate and I need to have a lot in common."

Fact: Two different people can live together and learn from one another's experiences – as long as both people stay open to it! After all, politician Al Gore and actor Tommy Lee Jones roomed together in college, as did actors Robin Williams and Christopher Reeve. Just imagine these combinations!

Myth: "As long as (s)he keeps her/his hands off my stuff, we'll be fine."

Fact: Living with someone is about much more than material possession. Respect, communication and flexibility all work into the mix as you learn to have a *relationship* with your roommate.

Roommates don't always end up best pals. Friendship isn't the main factor in developing an excellent roommate relationship. Instead, respect and a willingness to communicate clearly are the key factors

Signed,

Signature

Name

Date

Signature

Name

Date

Signature

Name

Date

Signature

Name

Date

Signature

Name

Date

Signature

Name

Date

RESPONSIBILITIES

SECURITY

All parties will be responsible for locking the door and windows of our room whenever they leave.

HOUSECLEANING

The below responsibilities will be completed as follows:

| Responsibility | Discussion Areas |
|--|-------------------------|
| Sweeping & mopping bathroom area | |
| Emptying trash/recycling | |
| Picking-up, dusting & vacuuming living room/hallways | |
| Picking-up, dusting & vacuuming bedrooms | |
| Cleaning bathroom area (counter, mirrors, toilet & shower) | |

FOOD

| | Discussion Areas |
|--|-------------------------|
| Refrigerator use Sharing food/space | |

NOTE: Anytime a new roommate moves in, a new agreement must be filled out within the first week of the new roommate's arrival.

COMMUNITY/PERSONAL PROPERTY

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Roommate Initials: | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| May you use my possessions | Yes , except below __ No, except below __ Yes, but ask, except below __ | Yes , except below __ No, except below __ Yes, but ask, except below __ | Yes , except below __ No, except below __ Yes, but ask, except below __ | Yes , except below __ No, except below __ Yes, but ask, except below __ | Yes , except below __ No, except below __ Yes, but ask, except below __ | Yes , except below __ No, except below __ Yes, but ask, except below __ |
| Specify specific items or concerns discussed Examples: <input type="checkbox"/> TV/VCR/DVD <input type="checkbox"/> CD/Movies <input type="checkbox"/> Computer/ Printer <input type="checkbox"/> Clothes <input type="checkbox"/> Food <input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries <input type="checkbox"/> Sports equip. <input type="checkbox"/> School supplies <input type="checkbox"/> Fridge/Microwave | • • • • • • • • • • • | • • • • • • • • • • • | • • • • • • • • • • • | • • • • • • • • • • • | • • • • • • • • • • • | • • • • • • • • • • • |
| If items are lost or damaged how will we resolve the repair and/or replacement? | | | | | | |

PET PEEVES / OTHER COMMENTS

The following are potential issues to me...

| Roommate _____ | Roommate _____ | Roommate _____ | Roommate _____ | Roommate _____ | Roommate _____ |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| • | • | • | • | • | • |
| • | • | • | • | • | • |
| • | • | • | • | • | • |

LIFESTYLE/HOURS

| | Days | | | Times | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------|--|-----------------------------|----------------|--|
| Hours reserved for study: | | | | | | |
| | Roommate _____ | Roommate _____ | Roommate _____ | Roommate _____ | Roommate _____ | Roommate _____ |
| Where will studying be conducted? | | | | | | |
| For common area studying: will it be completely quiet or is background noise ok? | | | | | | |
| | Days | | | Times | | |
| Minimal noise hours (other than community based Quiet Hours) | Sun-Thur 11pm-8am & Sat-Sun 1am-8am | | | | | |
| | Roommate _____ | Roommate _____ | Roommate _____ | Roommate _____ | Roommate _____ | Roommate _____ |
| | Time | Time | Time | Time | Time | Time |
| Most weeknights I go to sleep by: | | | | | | |
| Most weekend nights I go to sleep by: | | | | | | |
| When my roommate wants to go to bed I will: | | | | | | |
| I expect to get up most mornings by: | | | | | | |
| These activities will not occur when roommates are sleeping: | | | | | | |
| The thermostat will be set at the following: | Warm Days (higher than 75): | | During the day: ____ During the night: ____ | Warm Days (higher than 75): | | During the day: ____ During the night: ____ |

VISITATION (Must comply with Housing & Residence Life Policies)

| | Roommate _____ | Roommate _____ | Roommate _____ | Roommate _____ | Roommate _____ | Roommate _____ |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Should advance notice be given before a planned guest or visitor arrives? | Yes ___ No ___ Yes, discuss ___ | Yes ___ No ___ Yes, discuss ___ | Yes ___ No ___ Yes, discuss ___ | Yes ___ No ___ Yes, discuss ___ | Yes ___ No ___ Yes, discuss ___ | Yes ___ No ___ Yes, discuss ___ |
| If yes, how much advance notice is appropriate? | | | | | | |
| Are visitors allowed in the shared bedroom? | Yes ___ No ___ Yes, but ask ___ | Yes ___ No ___ Yes, but ask ___ | Yes ___ No ___ Yes, but ask ___ | Yes ___ No ___ Yes, but ask ___ | Yes ___ No ___ Yes, but ask ___ | Yes ___ No ___ Yes, but ask ___ |
| When I'm gone, may my roommate's visitor/guest use my belongings? | Yes ___ No ___ Yes, but ask ___ | Yes ___ No ___ Yes, but ask ___ | Yes ___ No ___ Yes, but ask ___ | Yes ___ No ___ Yes, but ask ___ | Yes ___ No ___ Yes, but ask ___ | Yes ___ No ___ Yes, but ask ___ |
| How long/late are guests allowed to visit? | | | | | | |
| Overnight guests may include: | Male ___ Female ___ Transgender ___ | Male ___ Female ___ Transgender ___ | Male ___ Female ___ Transgender ___ | Male ___ Female ___ Transgender ___ | Male ___ Female ___ Transgender ___ | Male ___ Female ___ Transgender ___ |

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

For the areas where we differ, we have decided to compromise in the following manner: (List areas and compromises-remember that you **MAY NOT** make changes or compromises on UC Merced Housing & Residence Life policies.).

How will we communicate? (Face-to-face, email, notes) How will we handle disagreement when it arises?
