

Tips on How to Select a Roommate

Room selection is coming up! Finding a roommate is no small task. No doubt the year ahead is going to be full of wonderful new community experiences with friends and strangers alike. Whether it is on campus, in your living area, or in your room, who you share these experiences with is important. In selecting a roommate there are some important things to keep in mind. Below are some topics to discuss with potential roommates for next year:

1. **Start with yourself:** Take time to understand what you need from your living space. Determine if you are someone who needs more alone time or if you want to use your room as a hangout space for your floor. Either way, choose someone who compliments *your* preferences for the living space you want to have for the year.
2. **Know your living habits:** Additionally, understand your living habits. Are you someone who sleeps with a fan on? Do you need the room hot or cold? Does your space need to be clean? Just because someone is your friend, it does not mean they will be a good roommate. In fact, friends can sometimes be more difficult to room with than acquaintances. Choose someone who lives similarly to you. Here are some specific things to discuss:
3. **Communicate your expectations:** In any healthy relationship, coming to clear mutual expectations are crucial to set well in advance. Especially when it comes to living with another person, clear expectations about what YOU need from a roommate are critical to be successful. If you need your space for a place of rest, set that as a boundary. If you would like it to be a community hangout space, then ask for that. Whatever your hopes are, make sure that you can communicate those expectations well.

Conversational Questions for a Potential Roommate:

1. When it comes to your living space, what do you need to feel comfortable? (Think about the answers to your questions above!)
2. Thinking about our roommate relationship, what is your desired connection? What will it take to make this happen?
3. Where do you stand on the following roommate habits:
 - a. **Room Temperature:** Hot **or** Cold
 - b. **Cleanliness:** Clean **or** Messy
 - c. **Study habit:** Study when necessary **or** Continuously studying
 - d. **Study Location:** Room, Lobby/lounge, **or** out of the living area
 - e. **Room Vibe** Social Hub, Open to some guests **or** My Personal Space
 - f. **Engagement with others:** Loud and Talkative **or** Quiet and Soft spoken
 - g. **Bedtime:** Early to bed **or** Late to bed
 - h. **Wake-up time:** Early to rise **or** Late to rise
 - i. **Sleep Environment** Some noise **or** Silence
 - j. **Roommate Relationship:** Friends **or** Acquaintances
4. What is your communication style? When faced with conflict, how would we handle it?
5. What is the most important thing you think I should know before we decide to room together?