

# ROOMMATE SUCCESS!

One of the most exciting parts of transitioning into college is the prospect of living in a new place with new people and LIM wants to prepare you to do this successfully. The first step is making the initial phone call, but what should you talk about? Below you'll find some questions that involve issues that roommates should discuss to build a foundation of success through open communication. Please refer to the housing contract/agreement to see official rules on guests, alcohol, and other items to use as a guideline. You will be expected to complete a roommate agreement in the first few weeks of the semester to formally discuss these issues. One thing we don't recommend at Residence Life is to use online communities to find your roommate and decide "who they are" based on their pictures, likes & dislikes, or friend comments. **An online profile is indeed a piece of them, but may not perfectly illustrate their personality and background. Please be careful to meet the person behind the profile!**

## General:

- ❖ Where are you from?
- ❖ Any brothers, sisters, or pets?
- ❖ What clubs and activities did you participate in during HS?
- ❖ What are you interested in doing while you're here at LIM?

## Guests:

- ❖ When is it OK to have guests over? Is there a difference between guests on weeknights Vs weekends?
- ❖ How much advance warning is needed before I have a guest?
- ❖ Are there different rules for guests of the opposite gender ?
- ❖ How should we go about asking for privacy in the room when we have a guest?
- ❖ How long can a guest stay with me?
- ❖ What happens if we both want to host a guest at the same time?
- ❖ What will we do if one of our guests damages someone's property?

## Personal Property:

- ❖ What is OK to share? What is off-limits?
- ❖ How will we resolve an issue when something is touched without permission?

## Common Area Items (*refrigerator, freezer, bathroom*)

- ❖ Will we share the cost of food? Will we share food at all?
- ❖ How often will we clean our microwave, refrigerator, and freezer?
- ❖ What will our bathroom cleaning schedule be?
- ❖ Who will buy the cleaning supplies and toilet paper?

## Cleaning our Room:

- ❖ What's your idea of clean? What do you consider messy?
- ❖ If my side of the room is messy, will that bother you?
- ❖ Where will we put dirty laundry?
- ❖ Will we share a trash can or keep small ones to ourselves?
- ❖ Should we create a weekly cleaning, tidying schedule?

### **Study and Quiet Time:**

- ❖ When do you most like to study? Do you need complete quiet while you study?
- ❖ Do you fall asleep with the TV or music on? If you need noise to make you fall asleep, can you use headphones if it distracts me?
- ❖ Are you a late-night or a morning person?
- ❖ Do you need complete darkness to fall asleep?
- ❖ When is "lights out" in our room?

### **Telephone:**

- ❖ Is there a time limit on how long one person can be on the phone in the room?
- ❖ Is it OK for your roommate to talk on the phone while you are sleeping or studying?
- ❖ Are there certain hours when friends shouldn't call?

### **Decorating the Room:**

- ❖ How will we decorate our room?
- ❖ Are there items that we don't want on the walls? (Please see Housing Agreement/contract for acceptable use of tape, etc)

### **Disagreements:**

- ❖ How will we handle disagreements?
- ❖ How will we discuss a broken agreement?

### **Other Issues:**

- ❖ Is there anything else you need to know about each other? Is there anything you need your roommate to know about you?

### **Ask Yourself:**

- ❖ If my roommate has an issue with me, how would I like to be approached?
- ❖ Should I be up front with my roommate, or communicate my issues via text or IM? Does digital communication allow for more interpretation than is appropriate in this situation?

Discussing these concerns up-front prevents a lot of potential hassle. Initially you may agree to speak about issues as they arise but that is much harder to do once emotions become involved. At LIM we encourage courtesy, communication, and compromise between roommates. You don't need to be best friends with your roommate in order to live together. Just like nobody gets married expecting to get a divorce, nobody enters into a roommate situation expecting not to get along. Still, it can happen so it is worth having guidelines in place to help work things out. Of course, if you need some help meeting a compromise or reaching resolution, we have RAs and RHDs staffing the building to help you sort it out!