

## ROOMMATE(S) CONTRACT

*St. Norbert College Residential Education and Housing Office*

### **The Roommate Bill of Rights**

The following Roommate Bill of Rights is a reminder to each resident of their responsibility to their roommate(s). Your enjoyment of life in a residence hall will depend, to a large extent, on communication and the thoughtful consideration that you demonstrate toward one another.

1. The right to read and study free from undue interference in one's room. Unreasonable noise and other distractions inhibit this right.
2. The right to sleep without due disturbance by noise, guests of roommate(s), etc.
3. The right to expect that a roommate will respect one's personal belongings.
4. The right to a clean environment in which to live.
5. The right to free access to one's room and facilities without pressure from the roommate(s).
6. The right to privacy.
7. The right to host guests (with the agreement of your roommate(s)) with the understanding that guests are to respect the rights of the host's roommate(s) and other hall students.

### **Section 1: Getting to Know Each Other**

You are a unique individual, unlike anyone else! So while it's easy to think that everyone thinks the same way you do about certain things, that may not be the case. It's important to share those unique characteristics with your roommate(s) so they can begin to see things from your point of view. Go back and forth and share answers to the following questions! **We recommend answering all of them and taking notes so that you can resort back to this in times of questioning.**

1. Where I'm from
2. What my family is like
3. Something random about me I want you to know
4. What sorts of friends I have
5. What my health is like most of the time
6. What kinds of extracurricular activities I want to be involved in
7. Some things likely to annoy me, or make me tense and uptight
8. Some things that will cheer me up when I am down
9. Times I would prefer to be left alone
10. How I feel about conflict (it might be helpful to think of past situations you have been in and how you have resolved them)
11. Things I feel roommates should do together-include activities such as: cleaning, grocery shopping, eating, campus activities, etc.
12. How I feel about parties and socializing
13. How I feel about drugs and alcohol
14. Something I like about you is
15. Important similarities and differences between us are

Other things that would be important for my roommate(s) to know about me:

**Things that you might want to think about sharing (circle or highlight your answer):**

Clothing	Food/ Drinks	TV/ Electronics	Dishes	Bed	Furniture (chairs/ futon)	School/ Office Supplies
Yes No Ask First	Yes No Ask First	Yes No Ask First	Yes No Ask First	Yes No Ask First	Yes No Ask First	Yes No Ask First
Light Sources	Toiletries	Cleaning Supplies	Other:	Other:	Other:	Other:
Yes No Ask First	Yes No Ask First	Yes No Ask First	Yes No Ask First	Yes No Ask First	Yes No Ask First	Yes No Ask First
In order for personal items to not be a problem I need:						

**Section 2: Guests**

You may want to have people over in your room. It’s important to really think about what matters to you when it comes to guests. Guests are to be accompanied by a resident student at all times. **\*COVID-19 Policy: Only one guest per bed space in a residential area. No overnight guests will be allowed until further notice.**

Guests may be in our room during:	Same Gender Guests	Opposite Gender Guests	Do we want our guests to wear masks in our room?
<input type="checkbox"/> Study Times <input type="checkbox"/> Sleep Times <input type="checkbox"/> Dress/Bathing Times  <input type="checkbox"/> Other times guests are not allowed:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Ask First	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Ask First	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Ask First
What are my guidelines for how my belongings are used/left when I am away and guests are present?			

Can guests use the following?
<input type="checkbox"/> Bed <input type="checkbox"/> Desk <input type="checkbox"/> Food <input type="checkbox"/> Clothes <input type="checkbox"/> Electronics <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Guests that I anticipate having over (friends, family, partner, study-partner, etc.)
How will you discuss guests who make you uncomfortable?
How long in advance should you notify your roommate about a guest?
In order for guests not to be a problem for me, I will need:

**Section 3: Cleaning**

Your room will quickly become your home on campus. It's important that you let your roommate know what you expect/prefer when it comes to your room so that you both can be comfortable coming home.

I don't like it when my room is (check all that apply)	To be clean the room must be (check all that apply)	In order to feel clean, I need:
<input type="checkbox"/> Untidy <input type="checkbox"/> Too Neat <input type="checkbox"/> Noisy <input type="checkbox"/> Quiet <input type="checkbox"/> Empty <input type="checkbox"/> Overcrowded <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Floors cleaned <input type="checkbox"/> Dusted <input type="checkbox"/> Belongings picked up and put away <input type="checkbox"/> Trash removed <input type="checkbox"/> Appliances cleaned <input type="checkbox"/> Laundry completed <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

How frequently will we clean our half of the room?

How often will we clean our shared spaces?
Will we create a cleaning schedule? If so, list it here:

**Section 4: Noise and Sleep**

Studying is an important part of your college experience. Your study habits might change over time, but it's important to discuss your studying needs with your roommate at the start of the year! Sleep is the key to success. It is important that each of you are discussing ways that you can get quality sleep.

I prefer to study:	Describe your ideal study environment:	When one roommate is studying it is okay to:	Studying days and times in our room is:
<input type="checkbox"/> In my room <input type="checkbox"/> Library <input type="checkbox"/> Lounge <input type="checkbox"/> Friends Room <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Sight (light level):  Sound (background music/quiet):  Touch (overall environment):	<input type="checkbox"/> Have the tv on <input type="checkbox"/> Have music playing <input type="checkbox"/> Have guests over <input type="checkbox"/>	

What time do you like to go to bed on weekdays? What about weekends? How many hours of sleep do you like to get?
Are you a night owl or a morning person?
Are you a sound sleeper or are you easily awakened? How will you adjust to your roommates' sleep habits?

What are your expectations of your roommate(s) when he/she returns to the room at night after you are already asleep? How do you feel about lights, TV, music, video games, computer, phone usage, etc.?

**Section 5: Communication Preferences**

Everyone communicates differently, so it is important that as roommates you identify what will work best for you with each other.

How do you want to leave messages for each other? (Notes, text, etc.)

How will we approach each other if we have a concern, including but not limited to violations of this agreement?

If you address the concern and it is still not resolved, what will the next step be?

**What are the top 3 most important room rules you agree to follow?**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Additional Notes:**

**Roommate Agreement**

If my roommate(s) or I have any concerns with these rights and agreements, we have the responsibility of making an effort to find a mutually agreeable solution. By signing this agreement, all roommates agree to adhere to all things discussed in order to not violate the rights and freedoms of each other. All roommates agree to take responsibility for their actions in order to comply with the agreement.

Hall & Room Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate Signatures \_\_\_\_\_

It IS okay to change your mind! You're an ever-growing and changing student and your preferences on one day may not be the same as they were the day before. Be sure to keep your roommate(s) up to speed with these changes by taking time to regularly revisit and revise the roommate agreement as needed.