

Arcadia University

Residence and Commuter Life

Roommate Discussion Points

Off-Campus Housing



The purpose of this document is to provide several topics you should discuss with potential roommates prior to signing a lease. Leasing a house or apartment is a financial commitment, one that may carry financial penalties if you choose to leave and find an alternative living arrangement, so it is important that you select roommates wisely, and discuss the topics below.

If you experience a disagreement with your roommates after you have moved in, and you are having difficulty working it out, you may want to consider enlisting the support of the Commuter Assistants (CAs). Similar to the Resident Assistants, CAs are available to help mediate disputes between roommates or housemates. However, CAs nor Residence and Commuter Life can settle monetary disputes or other disagreements over a lease. CAs are available for informal mediations only.

Lease and Bills

How much will each roommate pay for:

- A. Rent
- B. Electric
- C. Heat
- D. Water
- E. Cable
- F. Internet

When will payments for these bills be due?

In whose name will these bills be under?

What happens if someone is late with a payment? What happens if a bill is not paid on time – how will late charges be dealt with? What happens if something happens and a roommate is unable to pay their share?

What process should someone follow if they want out of the lease?

Pets and Animals

Are pets allowed?

What if damage is incurred, or other charges, such as cleaning – who will be responsible for these?

Who does the pet belong to?

Who takes responsibility during breaks, summer, and after graduation?

Privacy and Personal Property

What does privacy mean to you? At what times will you require privacy?

What situations could make finding privacy difficult? What would you be willing to do in these situations?

What personal property is off-limits to others? What personal property is shared?

How will groceries be purchased and used?

Communication

How will you discuss problems that arise?

How do you react with someone tells you something you have done bother's them?

How would you like your roommate to approach you in this situation?

Sleeping Habits and Study Time

Where will you do most of your schoolwork? What times of day or night do you study the most?

Do you play music or watch TV when you do your schoolwork? Can you study without being distracted by others?

When will study hours be? During study hours, will the property be quiet and free from all distractions?

When do you typically go to sleep? What conditions are necessary for you to fall asleep?

Guests and Gatherings

During the week, how late can guests stay? On the weekends?

How do you feel about guests sleeping over? When would you like your roommates to ask permission before bringing a guest over?

Will social gatherings be permitted? Under what conditions?

Before hosting a gathering, it is recommended that roommates agree to comply with all relevant laws and agree to be responsible for all damages caused by them, their guests and invitees and any persons attending the party whether specifically invited or not.

Be aware of specific township limitations on parties or noise -- all housemates should agree to comply with such by-laws, regulations, or terms.

Domestic Responsibilities

How often do you expect the kitchen and bathrooms to be cleaned? The floors vacuumed or swept?

How will you divide up chores? Who will be responsible for purchasing supplies?

Consider the following chores (some you may not have considered!):

- A. Kitchen
- B. Bathroom(s)
- C. Common Living Space
- D. Yard and/or Trash Removal
- E. Snow removal (Know local ordinances!)

It is suggested to have housemates be responsible for their own personal room cleaning and laundry.

Where will dirty laundry be stored?

Who will cook and when? Will roommates be responsible for their own cooking and food?

Who is bringing what kitchen and cleaning products, and what will you be purchasing after you move-in?

Storage, Room Alteration, and Floor Space

How will closet and storage space be shared?