

SOME TIPS FOR ROOMMATE SUCCESS

BE RESEPECTFUL

- Never borrow anything unless you ask permission first. Don't borrow items like shampoo with the hopes that they won't notice.
- When you do have permission, be careful and conscientious so you won't break anything.
- If you and your roommates have a cleaning schedule, take it upon yourself to do your turn, and don't wait to be reminded.
- Respect each others independence. Being a good roommate does not mean agreeing with everything your roommate suggests or does, nor does it mean doing everything together.

BE COURTEOUS

- Try to have good manners. For example, when your roommate is doing homework or is talking on the phone, don't blast your music.
- Be civil with each other. There's no need to scream or yell at each other to get a point across.
- Be gentle. Don't use your roommate as your frustration punching bag. Take it easy! Breathe!
- Be willing to compromise, but don't let yourself get walked on. Each roommate should work together to find a solution.

COMMUNICATE

- Take time. If you both have busy schedules, try to set aside time every week just to talk about how things are going.
- Be honest about your feelings. If you're upset about being woken up when your roommate comes in at 2:00 AM, let your roommate know. Identify the problem. Discuss your likes and dislikes. Remember, people cannot read your thoughts. What bothers one person may be totally acceptable to another. Express yourself, but be sure to listen as well. Be flexible with yourself and with others.
- Be able to take constructive criticism. Don't be defensive. Try to listen open-mindedly.
- Be compassionate. Your roommate isn't used to living with someone else either. Understand each other and be supportive.
- Discuss new approaches and ways in which you and your roommate can comfortably co-exist. Living with another individual is as much of a learning experience as the classroom. When the result is not satisfactory, talk it over and generate new ideas.

BE ALERT

- It's good to notice when your roommate is having a bad day, but don't constantly ask "What's wrong? Are you mad at me?"
- Notice signs of preparation for bed and studying.
- Offer to do fun things with your roommate when she/he looks bored, but don't expect to be joined at the hip.
- Be aware of petty irritations: noise, messes, consistent guests, etc.