

Roommate Relationships

You may or may not have known who your roommate(s) was when you first got to WCU. You could have been lifelong friends from high school or you could have been complete strangers. Everyone's situation is different and unique to them. But whether or not you knew that person doesn't mean you will have a successful roommate relationship. What is important to a successful roommate relationship are the interactions that you have with each other. Ways to ensure this happens is to first and foremost talk to your roommate(s). Communicate with each other and get an understanding of your life styles and backgrounds. The more you know about your roommate(s) the better chance that you will get along and avoid confrontation. A few things that I believe are important to discuss are:

- **Keeping your room clean to both of your satisfaction:** If all roommates are satisfied with the condition of their room and it is up to code of the university, then all parties will be happy!
- **Having guest over:** If your roommate(s) tend to have guest over late into the night and it is affecting you negatively, don't be afraid to have a kind discussion with them and see if you can reach an agreement about having guest over.
- **Academic/Co-curricular schedules:** I see this discussion as probably one of the most important. If you have an 8 am class and your roommate(s) is keeping you up till 3 in the morning playing Call of Duty, then you might want to talk to your roommate(s) about your schedule. Let them know that you have to be awake early and discuss a compromise.

Something that you should definitely **NOT** do is bottle up your emotions. This will just add fuel to the fire and will make all other situations worse than what they truly are. So talk to your roommate(s) immediately about a situation and see if all of you can resolve the issue(s) before it gets out of hand. Now if you are in a situation where it has already elevated to a really bad point, ask your RA or the RD of your building to intervene and moderate a discussion to resolve the issue(s).

The college roommate experience should be an enjoyable one, but what you might not realize is that this is also a learning experience. Not every roommate relationship is going to be a perfect one, but through effective communication your experience can be very enjoyable one!