

Roommate Convos

As a part of Residence Life we value Christian community. Our hope is that you as roommates are living together in a way that promotes growth during your time here at Houghton. This roommate conversation guide is a list of questions that might be helpful in setting clear expectations and boundaries within the room. If you are not able to come to a compromise or are having trouble in a specific area, you are encouraged to contact your RA.

Study Habits

- What times of the day do you prefer to study?
- Do you need a quiet place to study or can you study with background noise?

Sleeping

- What time do you prefer to go to sleep?
- What time do you usually wake up?
- What are ways you can be respectful towards one another's sleeping habits (lights, noise, doors open/close, alarm setting)?

Use of Possessions

- Are there certain possessions you are both willing to share?
- Are there certain possessions you are not willing to share?

Room Condition

- In what ways will each of you keep your designated areas of the room clean?
- What is your idea of "clean" and/or "presentable"?
- How many times a week should the room be cleaned?

Guests

- During open hours, are there other expectations about the opposite-sex visiting?
- Are there specific concerns about opposite-sex guests?

Personal

- Do you have preferences or dislikes in types of music or movies?
- Are there allergies, physical limitations, or other medical conditions that you feel are pertinent to share?

Tips for approaching conflict:

- Never assume someone knows your preferences or concerns about living together. At the same time, never assume you understand or know your roommate's preferences or concerns about living together.
- Discuss concerns as they arise, do not let concerns compile.
- Do not assume or blame, but instead, begin conversations with the phrases like, "I feel..." or "I hope..."
- Work towards compromise.
- Commit to confidence and privacy as it is appropriate about things shared within the room.

Coordinate a date to revisit this conversation guide, as a check-in date: _____