

# Choosing a Roommate



## Topics to consider before you match!

Choosing roommates can be stressful. You'll be living together for the next several months. It's a good idea to start a conversation over the phone, in person, or via a video chatting application. Only speaking via email, text, Facebook, etc. can sometimes lead to issues, as your message could be taken out of context. Talking face-to-face allows you and your potential roommates to open the lines of communication early.

### Expectations of Each Other

Whether you met someone at Orientation or will be searching for roommates using our Housing Portal, it is important that you have open, honest conversations about what you expect from a roommate relationship. Are you looking for roommates to be your next best friends? Do you want roommates who will simply respect you and your belongings, but not be part of your immediate friend group? If your future roommates are expecting to come with you to meals and events, and that is something you are not interested in, it is important to have these conversations before you live together. If you start off the semester understanding what each of you are looking for from a roommate relationship, it will make the transition much easier and spare all parties disappointment and hurt feelings.

### Common Interests

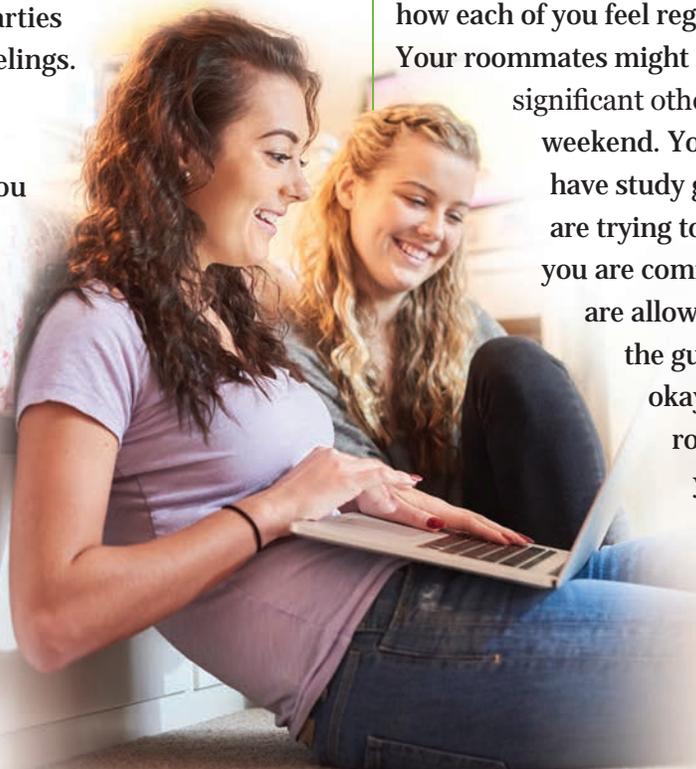
Is it important to you that you and your future roommates have common interests? Do you only want to room with someone who loves field hockey? Same major? Loves photography? Perhaps you want to room with someone who has opposite interests.

### Sharing

Sharing items in the room is another essential topic for you and your future roommates to discuss. Is it okay that your roommate borrows your favorite hoodie without asking? Will your roommate mind if you take their last can of soda from your shared fridge? We highly suggest that roommates not split the cost of a large item such as a fridge. We recommend that one roommate bring the fridge, the other roommate bring the microwave, etc. Discussing with your roommates when and what is okay to share will help avoid many issues throughout the semester.

### Guests

You and your potential roommates should also discuss how each of you feel regarding guests in the room. Your roommates might not feel comfortable with your significant other in the room visiting each weekend. Your roommates might like to have study groups late at night when you are trying to sleep. Discuss what each of you are comfortable with, like when guests are allowed in the room, and what things the guests are allowed to use. Is it okay if your friend eats your roommate's chips? Is it okay for your roommate's significant other to use your speakers?



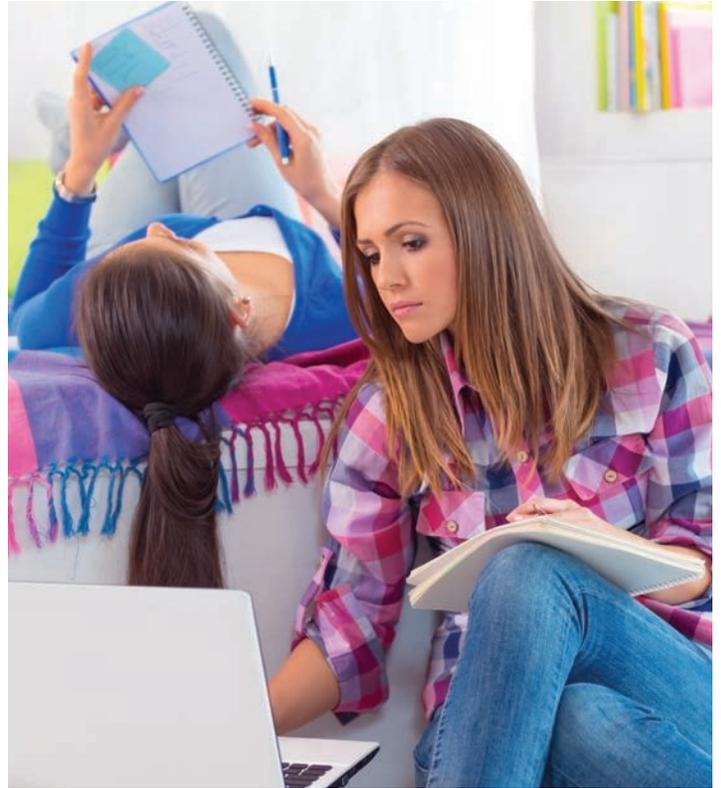


### Room Atmosphere

The atmosphere of your room should be another topic for discussion before you choose your roommates. How often will the room be cleaned? Will there be a quiet study time each night? Is it okay if you keep the light on when studying late at night? You and your future roommates might not agree on everything, but what needs to be agreed upon is respecting each other and compromising so that each party can feel comfortable.

### What to do when things go WRONG

There is no such thing as a perfect roommate, and at some point you and your roommates will have a disagreement. We suggest you speak with your roommates right away when this occurs. If your roommates do not know that something is bothering you, how can they fix it or attempt to work on the issue? Remember, your roommates are not mind readers! If speaking directly with your roommates isn't working, the Office of Residence Life offers many resources to you. You can speak with your Resident Assistant about requesting a roommate contract, speak with your Area Coordinator about a mediation, email [reslife@nichols.edu](mailto:reslife@nichols.edu), or come to Fels 301 to speak with one of our senior staff members. Remember, our office is here for you!



### Important Housing Deadlines

- **ADA Accommodation Paperwork** — Due July 1, 2020. Contact [reslife@nichols.edu](mailto:reslife@nichols.edu) for more information
- **Housing Application Form** — Available beginning May 15, 2020; Due July 1, 2020
- **Online Roommate Selection** — Open June 1, 2020 through July 8, 2020
- **Housing Assignments** — Emailed no later than the second week in August



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[reslife.nichols.edu](http://reslife.nichols.edu)

[reslife@nichols.edu](mailto:reslife@nichols.edu)

508-213-2480

[www.nichols.edu](http://www.nichols.edu)