

# Roommate Agreement

As a student living in Edgewood Commons, you have the **RIGHT to...**



- 1. read and study** free from undue interference in your room.
- 2. sleep** without undue disturbance from noise, guests, etc.
- 3. respect for your personal belongings** and cooperative use of “shared” appliances (TV, DVD player, fridge, etc.) and a commitment to honor agreed upon procedures.
- 4. a safe and clean environment** in which to live and to be free from fear of intimidation, physical, and/or emotional harm.
- 5. free access to your room** and facilities without pressure from your roommate(s).
- 6. personal privacy.**
- 7. host guests** who respect the rights of your roommate(s) and other hall residents.
- 8. reasonable cooperation** and a good faith effort from your roommate(s) in being able to live together peacefully in a shared space, no matter your differences.

and the **RESPONSIBILITY to...**

- 9. keep your door locked** when you and your roommate(s) are not home.
- 10. talk to your roommate(s)** about your wishes and preferences for hours of sleep, study, and guest visitation, and to work through any differences you may have in a peaceful manner.
- 11. listen to your roommate(s)** about their wishes and respond appropriately.
- 12. read and follow the rules** and regulations of Edgewood Commons and Frostburg State University (*see your Community Standards booklet and Student Handbook*) and to sustain a safe and comfortable living community in the residence halls. You are responsible for what happens in your room.
- 13. examine your own behavior** when confronted by another and work toward resolving conflicts.
- 14. confront others** in a non-aggressive and non-threatening manner.
- 15. recognize that community cannot exist if any individual is excluded.** Actions, direct or indirect, that discriminate on the basis of race, disability, age, sex, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or national origin cannot be tolerated in a community based on mutual respect and cooperation.
- 16. talk openly with your roommate(s) first** if you have problems living together or if any of you do not respect the terms established in this agreement. If talking to each other alone does not solve the problem, you then have the responsibility to seek the advice and assistance of an RA or Residence Life staff member to help resolve the problem peacefully.

# STEP A: Breaking the Ice

*Whether you and your roommate(s) have been best friends since pre-school or just met yesterday, there's always something to learn about the other person. Before you discuss and come to an agreement, it's best to know a little bit about each other as a basis for your conversation. Talk to each other about the following questions. We've found this is a helpful starting point.*

## WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES AND INTERESTS?

What do you do for fun? What do you watch on TV or read about? What are your favorite websites, You- Tube videos, celebrities, or foods?

## WHAT DO YOU VALUE?

What is most important to you? Is it faith, family, friends, fun? Who are the most important people in your life? Just share what is most comfortable, but it's ok to talk about how you see your life and the world. After all, this is college!

## WHAT ARE YOU LIFESTYLE CHOICES?

Do you drink alcohol? Are you a vegetarian or a vegan? Again, it's ok to not share, but sometimes it's good for your roommate(s) to know if there's something that may be important or could affect them.

# STEP B: Respecting Each Others' **RIGHTS**...

*Living together cooperatively is all about respect and communication. People as different as night and day can successfully live in the same apartment with one another if they learn to respect one another's rights. For each category, answer each question individually and try to come to an agreement together.*

## 1. STUDY TIMES

What times do you like to study and where? In your room, in the library, in a lounge? Do you study in the afternoons, mornings, evenings, late at nights, or on the weekends? What times would you like for the apartment to be available for each of you to study free of interruption?

## 2. SLEEP TIMES

Are you a night owl or an early riser? Do you use an alarm clock and what times do you set it for? What time do you usually get up and go to bed? Do you consider yourself a light sleeper, easily awoken by light or noise, or a heavier sleeper who can sleep through anything? What can you each do if your roommate(s) are different in their sleeping habits?

### 3. PERSONAL BELONGINGS

This is often a source of confusion, just because everyone grows up with different boundaries and expectations about how their things get used. Think about using each others' things. How do you feel about your roommate(s) using your food, toiletries, pots, pans, paper towels, toilet paper, television, computer, laundry detergent, stereo, etc? Is it ok to borrow without asking for certain things, or should you always ask first? May guests and visitors of your roommate(s) use your things?

List some of the bigger, more expensive or more-important-to-you items that each of you own and then write how you feel about your roommate(s) using them. (*Example: Bob's laptop - please don't touch!*)

How will you decide to buy food? Do you have any food allergies that you need to share with each other that could be important to cooking? Will one person buy groceries and the others split the grocery bill? Will you each buy your own food and only split some items? Where will you keep shared food/individual food in your apartment or suite?

### 4. SAFE & CLEAN SHARED SPACES

Residence hall rooms should be clear of obvious safety hazards, trash should be taken out regularly, and lack of cleanliness should not pose a health risk. After that, it's all up to you. People don't usually clean half of a floor, or a refrigerator, or only take out half of the trash. Standards of "clean" and "dirty" are different for everyone. You may be totally ok with that crusty pizza box from last week sitting out. Talk about that. How do you each define "cleaning"? Is anyone vacuuming or dusting? Who and when? Who is taking out the trash? Talk about use of kitchens. What about dishes? Will you do your own/each others' if needed? If your roommate(s)' dishes pile up, how will you handle this? Are you bothered by dishes left in the sink overnight? What about over the weekend

## 5. HOSTING GUESTS

Any guest is permitted to stay overnight with your roommates' permission. When may guests visit and when may they not visit? If an roommate(s) guest stays over, can the guest use your things according to the same terms that your roommate(s) can? Do you anticipate certain guests visiting or staying often? How do you feel about your roommate(s) having frequent guests? Are there times when you do not want guests to be in the apartment at all? Can they eat your food?

## 6. REASONABLE COOPERATION

Getting along is great! But sometimes, it's hard. When you have a disagreement with your roommate(s), this does not automatically entitle you to move to any open room in Edgewood. Knowing that, what other considerations do you need to make from having this discussion that will help you communicate better and share a common space for the rest of year? *Remember, this roommate agreement is binding upon all parties once approved by your RA/AD, but can be renegotiated in part or in full at any time by talking with your RA.*

# STEP C: Knowing your **RESPONSIBILITIES**...

*Rights are meaningless if no one has a responsibility to respect them. Sharing a room involves more than just being there. Every resident has certain responsibilities to their roommate(s) which they must live up to in order to be a part of safe and peaceful community. Each roommate should read the statements below and initial to indicate they understand their responsibilities to each other and to the Edgewood Community...*

**9.** I agree to **keep the door locked** to our apartment whenever myself and my roommates are not present and to never lend my keys or ID out to anyone else. I understand the risk of theft and entry by unwanted intruders if I leave the door unlocked.

*Roommates' Initials:*

**10.** I agree to **talk to my roommate(s)** about my wishes and preferences for hours of sleep, study, and guest visitation, and to work through any differences we may have in a peaceful manner.

*Roommates' Initials:*

**11.** I agree to **listen to my roommate(s)** about their wishes and respond appropriately.

*Roommates' Initials:*

**12.** I agree to read and **follow the rules** and regulations of Edgewood Commons and FSU (*see your Community Standards booklet and Student Handbook*) and to sustain a safe and comfortable living community in the residence halls. I understand that we are both/all responsible for what happens in our apartment and my room.

*Roommates' Initials:*

**13.** I agree to **examine my own behavior** when confronted by another and work toward resolving conflicts.

*Roommates' Initials:*

**14.** I agree to **confront others** in a non-aggressive and non-threatening manner.

*Roommates' Initials:*

**15.** I agree to do my best to see that **no individual is excluded from our community**. I understand that actions, direct or indirect, that discriminate on the basis of race, disability, age, sex, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or national origin cannot be tolerated in a community based on mutual respect and cooperation.

*Roommates' Initials:*

**16.** I agree to **talk openly with my roommate(s) first** if we have problems living together or if any of us does not respect the terms we have both/all established in this agreement. If talking to each other alone does not solve the problem, I agree to seek the advice and assistance of an RA or Residence Life staff member to help resolve the problem peacefully.

*Roommates' Initials:*

# STEP D: Sign It. Send It. Follow It.

*"As resident students of Edgewood Commons, we the undersigned have read and discussed the terms outlined in this Roommate Agreement, which we have created. We understand that this is a binding contract between us for how we can live together in our shared space and that it does not take priority over University policies or the Edgewood Housing Contract as found in the Community Standards and Student Handbook. We understand that this agreement can be renegotiated at any time by requesting to do so through our RA and/or Professional Staff."*

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*ROOMMATE NAME (PRINT)*                      *SIGNATURE*                      *DATE*

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*ROOMMATE NAME (PRINT)*                      *SIGNATURE*                      *DATE*

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*ROOMMATE NAME (PRINT)*                      *SIGNATURE*                      *DATE*

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*ROOMMATE NAME (PRINT)*                      *SIGNATURE*                      *DATE*

*DATE* \_\_\_\_\_

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*RESIDENT ASSISTANT*

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*Professional Staff COMMENTS:*

*Pro Staff APPROVAL* \_\_\_\_\_ *DATE* \_\_\_\_\_