

## Off-Campus Living

### Roommates Transcript

Deciding who you are going to live with is a BIG decision and needs to be given careful consideration. There are legal, financial, and personal implications that affect people living together. Even if your best friend appears to be the perfect roommate, they may not live up to your expectations.

Use these tips to help you find the right roommates:

- Use Louie's List\* – Louie's list will help make your off-campus housing search easy, but it will also help you find a roommate. You can create a profile and search for other students that may be compatible to live with. Louie's List lets you search for roommates with similar interests, study habits, or majors. \*Louie's List is introduced on script "1 – First Steps".
- Get to know your roommates – You never really get to know someone until you live with them, but there are steps you can take to ensure your future roommate will be a good fit. As you narrow down potential roommates, take time to get to know them and have conversations about your lifestyles. The more you know about your future roommate, the better.
- Ask questions – Focus on questions that allow you to assess whether you are compatible with a potential roommate. Think about what kind of leisure activities you enjoy, and how you feel about the use of tobacco, alcohol or other drugs and if you would be okay living with pets. In addition, since you will be living off campus, you will definitely want to discuss finances, too. Here are some useful questions to ask potential roommates:
  - What is your major?
  - What does your class schedule look like?
  - Do you consider yourself a morning person or a night owl?
  - Would you rather split cooking/meal duties or fend for yourself?
  - What are you open to sharing? What are you not willing to share?
  - How do you feel about visitors and overnight guests?
  - Is your budget able to support your share of the rent and bills?
  - How do you like to spend your time off from school or work?
  - How clean does a space need to be for you to feel comfortable?

Believe it or not, groceries can create some of the biggest issues between roommates. Here are a few ideas to help:

- You can designate cabinets for each roommate.
- Condiments are something everyone needs and you do not want your fridge to have four ketchup bottles taking up space.
- Have each roommate donate a condiment before you move in.

Open and honest communication is key in establishing and maintaining a positive and successful roommate relationship. Talk often and work together to resolve potential conflicts. Avoid

making assumptions about how your roommate feels or acts. Ask questions and initiate dialogue on a regular basis.

In case issues arise once you and your roommate are living together, it is always helpful to have a written roommate agreement in place. A roommate agreement usually explains the duties and responsibilities roommates agree to uphold and helps make living with one another peaceful and cooperative.

[Roommate Agreement Sample](#)