

# Elon's Tips on Getting Along with Your Roommate...

Communication is key to any living situation! If you have any problem with your roommate don't let it build up, talk about it right away. Don't let those little annoyances build into a mountain of problems. If you are having a problem talking with your roommate always remember you can utilize the help of your Senior Resident Assistant or Resident Advisor who are trained to help mediate conflicts.

Have an open mind. You and your roommate probably did not have the same exact life experiences. You may differ in religious beliefs, political viewpoints, music and food preferences, and entertainment activities. Often a roommate who is totally different can be exciting and introduce you to new experiences. Be willing to learn from these differences and appreciate something different from you. Do not write off a roommate that seems to have a different lifestyle than you.

Your roommate doesn't have to be your new best friend. Go out and make friends that are separate from your roommate and his/her friends. By having other friends to spend time with you can assure yourself a variety of people to interact with when you need a break from your roommate. The key is peaceful coexistence!

RESPECT is a necessity! A successful roommate situation is one where each roommate is respectful and treats their roommate, as they want to be treated. This is not rocket science, just common courtesy. If you don't want to hear the alarm ring 8 times before it gets shut off, then don't hit the snooze button for hours on end yourself. Successful living requires some give and take.

Remember that disorganization can be disastrous for both of you. Having a room that resembles a trash heap may not be how you want to live for nine months. Talk with your roommate about how clean you want the room to be, and at a minimum, keep your belongings and mess on your side of the room.