What are your study habits? Do you need a totally quiet environment when you study or is background noise/activity fine with you?

What are each of your habits and feelings toward smoking, drug and alcohol use, music and pets?

What are your sleeping habits? Do you like to go to bed early or stay up late? Do you desire a quiet apartment when you are sleeping? This topic is particularly important if you are sharing a bedroom.

After the Move, Settling In

Now that you’ve made your decision to live together, fill out and sign a formal Roommate Agreement Form. This will clarify the responsibilities of each member of the household and set some ground rules for your new home. A sample Roommate Agreement Form can be found in the forms section of this publication.

When you first set up your household, allow a period of time in which you and your roommate concentrate on just being yourselves and living in a way that makes you comfortable. After a week or two of doing what comes naturally, set aside time to talk about the ways your living styles conflict with or complement each other. Frankly discuss things that bother you as well as things you really enjoy. Where there are differences, work together to explore creative solutions that allow both of you to get what you want out of your living situation.

Communication & Mediation

The Community Housing Office provides a mediation service if you need help discussing and resolving difficult issues with roommates. Mediation is a process in which people who have a dispute can communicate with the help of a neutral third party. More information on the Mediation Program can be found on page 29. The most important thing is to keep the lines of communication open. If something new bothers you, or your arrangements are not working, talk to your roommate(s). The idea is to keep life running smoothly. Successfully living with someone else means working hard to have a place you can all feel good about coming home to after a long day on campus or at work.