Living on campus is central to the Elizabethtown College experience! Living in a community with others is an exciting opportunity to learn from one another and to build friendships that can last a lifetime.

The key to a healthy roommate relationship is open and honest communication**.** This is your roommate agreement to set you up for success for your roommate relationship.

This roommate agreement form guides a conversation you and your roommate(s) should have about your needs, expectations, differences, and living styles. Take time to fill out this form collectively (with both roommates present), honestly, and in a conversational way that upholds one of our College’s values – human dignity. Roommates should have equal participation in the discussion of shared expectations. You may make changes and updates to your responses as you navigate your roommate relationship and college experience.

There are various discussion topics to cover with specific questions for each topic. We encourage you to discuss all of the listed questions and add anything else you find relevant in your conversation with your roommate(s). We recommend that both roommates review one topic and the accompanying questions together, discuss them openly, and then write in your responses. This format promotes an open and organic conversation.

Occasional conflict is a natural part of living with others. There is a section in this form that is dedicated to how roommates will address conflict with one another. Additionally, Community Living staff members (Resident Assistants and/or Assistant Directors) are available to empower, equip, and provide support to individuals experiencing conflict with their roommate(s). Campus Security (717.361.1111) should be contacted any time the health, safety, or wellbeing of any student is jeopardized.

At the end of this form, both roommates will sign, indicating that they are in agreeance with what was written. Roommates have the ability to log into JayWeb and review this form. The Office of Community Living has the ability to access roommate agreements as well. Should Community Living staff be asked to mediate a roommate situation, staff members will access this form to supplement and guide the mediation.

**Discussion Topics**

**Studying**: Discuss strategies to allow each roommate to study effectively in your space.

* Will you study primarily in your room or primarily outside of your room?
* What time of day do you and your roommate(s) typically study?
* What conditions allow you to study effectively (complete silence, music with headphones, with friends or alone, etc.)?
* Will you designate days and times for quiet studying? If so, what will those times be?
* How will you communicate with your roommate(s) if you are having difficulty studying in your room?
* Are there any other questions/expectations/talking points you have for each other regarding studying?

Textbox

**Sleeping**:Discuss strategies to allow each roommate to get adequate sleep in your space.

* Discuss the sleeping preferences of each roommate (lights, noise, etc.).
* How quiet and dark does each roommate need the room to be in order to sleep?
* During what times should room conditions be appropriate for sleeping in your space?
* Are there any other questions/expectations/talking points you have for each other regarding sleeping?

Textbox

**Personal Belongings:** The Office of Community Living strongly recommends that roommates do not share belongings to mitigate the risk of transferring germs. If both roommates choose and agree to share belongings, discuss strategies to ensure that each roommate’s belongings (food, drinks, towels, pens, etc.) are respected.

* What belongings will not be borrowed by roommates?
* What belongings can be borrowed as long as the owner is asked first?
* What belongings can be borrowed without asking first?
* How will you communicate with each other when you would like to borrow something that belongs to a roommate?
* How will belongings be cleaned and disinfected prior to returning them to the owner?
* Are there any other questions/expectations/talking points you have for each other regarding personal belongings?

Textbox

**Privacy:** Discuss strategies to ensure that each roommate’s privacy is respected.

* Will roommates have personal phone conversations in the room, or will they leave the room?
* What expectations of privacy exist for roommates getting dressed, undressed, prepared to shower, etc.?
* What expectations of privacy does each roommate have of each other?

Textbox

**Guests:** As of August 2020, the maximum occupancy of standard double bedrooms is 3 persons. Students living in different residential buildings are not permitted in buildings other than their own (e.g., Founders residents are not permitted in Ober). Discuss the preferences of each roommate related to hosting guests in your space.

*Note: Any roommate has the right to ask any guest to leave the space at any time. For updated guest policies, review the current Elizabethtown College Student Handbook.*

* How will roommates seek and obtain approval for a guest to come over?
* Will an approved guest wear a mask while in the room?
* Do you prefer to be alone most of the time, or with people most of the time?
* Is there a certain time that guests should plan to arrive or leave?
* How regularly will you and your roommate(s) have overnight/weekend guests?
* Do you have specific expectations about guests who are family members, significant others, non-students, or a different gender-identity from yourself?
* How will you communicate to each other when you feel that it is important for a guest to leave your space?
* Are there any other questions/expectations/talking points you have for each other regarding guests?

Textbox

**Health and Safety:** Discuss strategies to allow each roommate to live in a clean, safe, and healthy environment.

* How clean and tidy do you prefer your space to be?
* How often will you clean and disinfect your space, do laundry, and take out the trash?
* Will you rotate cleaning, trash, and recycling responsibilities?
* What responsibilities will each roommate take as it relates to cleaning, trash, and recycling?
* Are any roommates especially sensitive to certain scents, allergens, or conditions?
* How will you communicate if you perceive that your space is not clean, safe, or healthy?
* Are there any other questions/expectations/talking points you have for each other regarding health and safety?

Textbox

**Communication:** Discuss strategies to identify potential areas of conflict and ways to communicate respectfully with each other in situations of disagreement.

* What makes each roommate feel respected and appreciated?
* What makes each roommate feel disrespected?
* How will you communicate with each other when one or more roommates is upset?
* Will disagreements be discussed in the moment or after a cooling period?
* In what situations will you decide to include an RA to mediate a disagreement?
* Are there any other questions/expectations/talking points you have for each other regarding communication?

Textbox

**Conflict:**

* Regular conversations are beneficial for living together. How often will you meet (once per week, once per month, etc.) to discuss how things are going as roommates?
* How does each roommate prefer to have conflict addressed with them?
* What is your conflict style? (There are a variety of online quizzes/inventories to learn about your conflict style. We recommend this one: <http://www.blake-group.com/sites/default/files/assessments/Conflict_Management_Styles_Assessment.pdf>).

Textbox

**Further Agreements:** Discuss any additional agreements that will be beneficial in your room.

Textbox

By signing below, we agree to uphold this agreement to the best of our abilities throughout our experience as roommates, and to communicate respectfully and constructively with each other when the agreement is not upheld equally by each roommate. We acknowledge that any part of this agreement can be adjusted by mutual agreement of each roommate.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_