Finding Your Perfect Roommate

One section of the housing application includes filling out the roommate matching questionnaire. These questions prompt you to imagine living with your ideal roommate and your answers to the questions can help you find a roommate with whom you can have a pleasant living experience.

It’s important to be honest on every question. Any potential roommate will be able to see your answers and you will be able to see theirs. Make sure your answers reflect your preferences and your real behavior.

You will be the one living with this person, not your friends, parents or guardians. Don’t base your answers on others’ opinions and take it seriously. A well-matched roommate can make all the difference.

CLEANLINESS

Every individual has different expectations regarding cleanliness. It’s important to consider your level of tidiness and how that might change when you move onto campus.

How much do you agree with the following statement? “I consider myself to be a clean and tidy person.”

- Very clean and tidy
- Somewhat clean and tidy
- Not at all clean and tidy

This question asks you to rate your personal preferences for cleanliness.

Choose “very clean and tidy” if you enjoy keeping your room free of clutter, always put clothes away, take your trash out frequently and clean your bathroom after use. This is the best option for those
who do not function well when things are out of place or messy.
» Choose “somewhat clean and tidy” if you enjoy a clean room in general but are okay with waiting until the next day to clean if you have had a busy day. You might clean your bathroom once a week and vacuum occasionally. Trash is taken out when needed.
» Choose “not at all clean and tidy” if you don't mind having a messy room. You might have clothes or clutter in your space. Your trash sometimes fills too much and cleanliness doesn’t take a high priority in your day-to-day routine.

How important is cleanliness to you?
- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

When you move to campus you will likely have one or two roommates, possibly more. Whether you’ve always had your own room or shared a room, this question is asking how important it is to you that your roommates maintain your standard of cleanliness.
» Choose “very important” if you expect that you would grow resentful of your roommate or have trouble functioning if they do not maintain high levels of cleanliness.
» Choose “somewhat important” if you prefer living with someone who maintains a standard of cleanliness, however it isn’t the most important thing to you.
» Choose “not important” if you don’t value cleanliness and are not bothered by a messy or cluttered room.

SLEEPING

When do you generally like to go to bed?
- Before 11 pm
- Between 11 pm and 2 am
- After 2 am

This question is asking what your typical bedtime routine is. College will present you with a multitude of new opportunities such as differing class schedules, new extracurricular opportunities and perhaps a new routine in general. As you think about these things, when will you likely prefer to go to bed as an incoming freshman?

How important is it to you that your roommates go to bed around the same time you do?
- Very important
Taking into consideration that you will likely be sleeping in a room with one or two other people, this question asks you to consider your level of comfort with varying sleep schedules among roommates.

**What type of sleeper are you?**

- Light sleeper
- Moderate sleeper
- Deep sleeper

Since you might be sharing a room with other people this question asks you to rate how sensitive you are to others making noise or having lights on while you are sleeping.

---

**FRIENDSHIP**

**How important to you is having a friendship with your roommates?**

- Not important
- Somewhat important
- Very important

This question is asking you to consider what type of relationship you would like to have with your roommate. Perhaps it is your expectation or desire to become close friends with your roommate, for others this might not be important.

Addressing your expectations beforehand can help you navigate your roommate relationship. It’s important to realize some roommates may become life-long friends and other roommates might just be a learning experience where you learn how to be a good roommate.

» Choose “not important” if you do not expect to become best friends with your roommate but desire to have a respectful living environment.

» Choose “somewhat important” if you are open to developing a friendship with your roommates if you connect but also plan on looking outside the room to make new friends.

» Choose “very important” if you hope to develop a close friendship with your roommate and it would be disappointing to not be friends with your roommate.
GUESTS

How often do you anticipate having friends or guests over?

- All the time
- Sometimes
- Rarely

This question asks you to consider how often you will be inviting people into your space with whom you can socialize. While some people may be comfortable spending time outside of the room for socialization, others might enjoy spending time in their living area.

It’s important to recognize where you fall on this scale and, while there are many places to hang out with people outside of living areas, some prefer having friends over in their living space.

How important is it to you that your roommates have guests over as little or often as you do?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

Now that you’ve considered how often you would like guests over, consider whether you want your roommates to have the same opinions about having guests over.

» Choose “very important” if you want your roommate to have the same opinion on guests as you do.
» Choose “somewhat important” if it would be nice to be on the same page as my roommates in terms of having guests over, but you are open to other perspectives if there is clear communication.
» Choose “not important” if you don’t mind if your roommates have different values regarding guests in the living area.

STUDYING

How often do you anticipate studying in your suite or apartment?

- All the time
- Sometimes
- Rarely

This question asks you how frequently you plan to be in your room to study as opposed to somewhere else such as the library, coffee shops and other study-friendly spaces. Being in college may require more study time then you needed in high school, so please consider how often you might want to remain in your space for studying vs. going elsewhere.

**CONFLICT**

Conflict is an expected part of any roommate relationship and issues should be addressed early. How comfortable do you feel addressing conflict with your roommates?

- Very comfortable
- Somewhat comfortable
- Not comfortable

When you hear the word “conflict,” your instinct may be to envision an intense or heated argument however discussing issues that arise in your room such as differing perspectives, frustrations or unmet expectations may create a sense of conflict.

This question asks you to consider how comfortable you are bringing these things to the attention of your roommates through a face-to-face conversation when you are the one with the issue.

**How comfortable do you feel with your roommates addressing conflicts with you?**

- Very comfortable
- Somewhat comfortable
- Not comfortable

If your roommate is the one to bring a concern, frustration or issue, to you and other roommates, this question asks you to consider your level of comfortability with that confrontation. Every individual has different perspectives on conflict being addressed, often this is based on examples or experiences one has had with conflict, this can affect each personality differently.