

Welcome home to Pace University!! We are excited you have chosen to live on campus with us this year.

To best prepare yourself for life with your roommate(s), we have put together some helpful hints. While you and your roommate do not have to be close friends or share every aspect of each other's lives, you do have to learn to live together and will experience parts of college life as a team. The best way for you and your roommate(s) to get to know each other and avoid unintentional conflicts is to talk about your likes, dislikes, personalities, and attitudes.

Your roommate(s) most likely grew up in a different family, was/ were educated in a different school, formed a different set of friends, and developed a set of values, beliefs, opinions, and habits that are somewhat different from you own.

Some find it awkward at first to discover each other's backgrounds, goals, motivations, and lifestyles. Others have little difficulty exploring these conversations. However, the patterns of cooperation, communication, and mutual trust can help make your room an enjoyable and comfortable place to live.

What is a Roommate Agreement?

Whether this is your first time sharing a room, or you have for several years, it is important to spend time setting expectations about shared living spaces. The Office of Residential Life & Housing has tools to help you accomplish this. One of these tools is a "Roommate Agreement." This is a document that highlights major aspects of shared living so you can set clear, successful expectations for your space. All first year students should complete a roommate agreement. We encourage you to take this seriously and complete within the first two weeks of school. Your Residence Director (RD) or Resident Assistant (RA) are available to assist you in this process, if needed.



You and your roommate(s) are bound to hit some tough patches- all relationships do. That is why it is important to establish clear, healthy patterns of communication.

Here are some steps you can make to resolve things on your own:

- 1) Talk to each other! Communication is the first step to resolving a conflict.
- 2) Compromise: This will require you to spend the time to understand what each person in the conflict values/wants and will require you to try to find a middle ground.
- 3) Expect Success: Entering a difficult conversation or conflict with optimism can help set you up for success. This also applies to goals/ changes you create and commit to in response to the conflict.
- 4) Use your RA: Your RA is a great resource for many things, including being a neutral source to help you and your roommate(s) work



through conflict. Your RA can help you in steps 1-3 as well and/or set up a time for a roommate mediation. Your RA can connect you to your RD for additional assistance.

Tip #1

Questions to ask:

- ⇒ What do you think are the most important things for us to work on as roommates?
- ⇒ What type of environment helps you feel comfortable?
- ⇒ What is the best way to communicate if one of us does not agree with the other's actions?

Tip #2

Use "I" statements. This lets you take ownership of your feelings. It removes a blaming tone and will likely decrease defensiveness.

Incorrect: "You are always loud and such a pig. I cannot stand it."

Vs.

Correct: "I am uncomfortable when the room is not clean and I cannot study when there is a lot of noise."

Communication

Living with someone on-campus is an enjoyable, exciting experience. It may also be a new experience. You and your roommate(s) will share events of your lives - joys, frustrations, and in some cases, a similar group of friends. In order to make this relationship as strong as possible, it is essential to communicate openly and effectively with each other.

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Say "Hi! How are you?"

Basic communication is the starting point for a good relationship. A simple "Hello! How are you?" can establish an immediate connection and lead to further topics of discussion. Just remember to do your best and be friendly and kind.

Be clear, open-minded, and firm when completing your roommate agreement.

Roommate agreements are intended to establish ground rules and to foster mutual understanding of each other, which in turn can foster a healthy roommate relationship. Because this is the foundation of your mutual understanding, it is essential to voice all concerns and preferences. Be clear and reasonable.

Be an active listener.

Active listening is re-stating or paraphrasing what you have heard in your own words to confirm what you have heard and display understanding. This will help you show your roommate you are an active part of any conversation.

Don't assume.

Body gestures, tone of voice, and mannerisms sometimes come across as offensive when they are not intended that way. If you are unsure if something was intended in a certain way, address the situation by asking instead of assuming- this helps open a line of communication.

Additionally, never assume you can use something that belongs to your

roommate – set the rules in your roommate agreement.

Don't let issues pile up.

The majority of roommate conflicts arise through a lack of addressing discomfort. Address issues in a clear manner to help come to a solution. Letting an issue or question linger will make it larger.

Being Respectful

Diversity

Take the time to discover what you have in common and explore your differences.

Think about all the things that make up "you" and how that can be different than those around you.

- Lifestyle choices (ex. vegetarianism, hobbies)
- Cultural Background
- Sexual Orientation
- Socioeconomic Status
- Spiritual/Religious Life
- Family/Holiday Traditions

It is critical that each person respects individual differences. The ability to learn about other cultures, religions, or ways of life can be a great and beneficial experience- as long as it is built on respect.

Respecting Space

Sharing a space also means sharing a responsibility to make it a safe place for you and your roommate(s). This should include locking your room when not present and remembering to carry your keys with you. Additionally, ensuring that you are both following university policies can help to proactively avoid conflict.

Respect Each other

In order to respect your roommate...

- Allow for uninterrupted study time
- Do not always hit the snooze button
- Be quiet if you come home late
- Take long phone conversations elsewhere
- If you need space, ask!



Being a part of a community means living in close proximity and interacting on a regular basis with a diverse group of students who share a common purpose. As part of a residential community, you must be respectful and considerate of others and take responsibility for the safety and well-being of your living environment.

Policies and Procedures

Residents must abide by all policies, rules and regulations while living on campus, which include, but are not limited to:

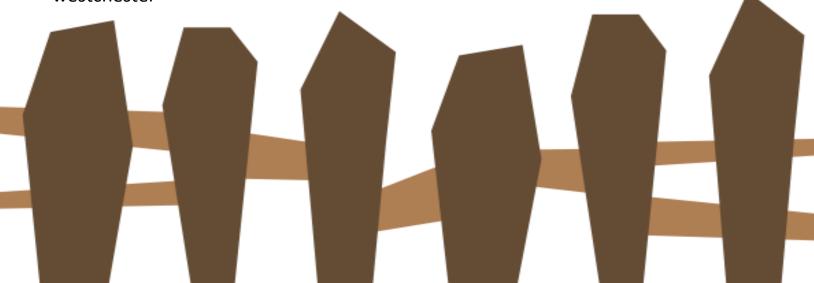
Student Handbook

Guiding Principles of Student Conduct

Guide to Residential Life

Abiding by the regulations set forth is a major part of developing a supportive residential community that encourages academic, social, and personal growth. While most residents demonstrate respect for others and conduct themselves in an appropriate manner, a small number may cause problems that disrupt the community. Failure to comply with University policies may result in disciplinary action.

For more information on policies please go to http://www.pace.edu/housing/westchester





All of our Residence Halls have live-in professional and student staff.

RA: Resident Assistant - RAs live on the floors with students. These are student staff who have been selected and trained as a resource within the halls. If you are having a roommate concern, we suggest first visiting your RA. In addition to your own RA, an RA on duty is available after 6:00PM each weekday and always on the weekend.

RD: Residence Director - This is a full time staff member who supervises the RAs. The RD is there to assist in a multitude of ways. Visit your RD if you need additional assistance with your roommate issue. They have an office in your community and can assist you with any concerns.

Office of Residential Life & Housing, Elm Hall, Suite 132

914-597-8777

Alumni Hall

RD Office, Room 136, (914)-597-8763 **OR** (914)-597-8764 RA Office, Room 119, (914)-587-8762

Elm Hall

RD Office, Room 121C, (914)- 597-8789 RA Office, Room 121A, (914)-597-8788

Martin Hall

RD Office, 1st floor, (914)-597-8303 RA Office, 1st floor, (914)-597-8402

North Hall

RD Office, 1st floor, (914)-597-8302 RA Office, 1st floor, (914)-597-8413

The Townhouse Community

RD Office, TH #26, (914)-597-8304 RA Office, Next to TH #1, (914)-597-8440 My RA is...

Name:

Room #:

Office of Residential Life & Housing Elm Hall, Suite 132

Follow the advice and tips in this guide and you will be well on your way to a successful start to your time here at Pace University. The Office of Residential Life & Housing is here for you, so please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We are glad you are here and hope you have an amazing year!