

# ResidenceLife®

## I Have Roommates!...Now What Do I Do?

Congratulations on your housing assignment at Baker College. We're thrilled you've selected to live here and hope that you thoroughly enjoy your housing experience. To get you started off to a successful roommate relationship, we've prepared some topics for you to begin the discussion.

The Residence Life staff understands how important those first few conversations with new roommates can be. They can also be a little awkward not knowing exactly what to talk about. Aside from getting to know them, their personality, hobbies and interests, and coordinating apartment needs, it is critically important to discuss **how** living together may look and feel.

Everyone will have different expectations of living with roommates on campus. Not everyone organizes their sock drawer or closet by color. Furthermore, not everyone cleans a dish right after using it or hangs their bath towel up to dry. Don't assume things are universally understood. You may not always agree with how things are operating within your residence hall unit, but know that the Residence Life staff and your supporters are here to help you along the way.

To get the conversation started, Residence Life has some ideas to offer you. Discuss the topics listed below with your family and friends or reflect upon them on your own. Use these as guides as you speak with roommates as well. We encourage you to go beyond what you see on a Facebook profile. As foreign as it may seem, the Residence Life staff wants you to pick up the phone and **talk** to your new roommates as you get to know them.

**Social Habits:** Noise Level, TV and Computer Usage

**Study Habits:** Time of Day, Noise Level, Location, Guests Allowed

**Use of Personal Property:** Stereo, Television, Other Technology, Clothing, Toiletries

**Visitation:** Overnight Guests, Overnight Guest Gender, Room Visitation Hours, Guests' Behavior, Where Do Guests Sleep

**Sleeping Environment:** Noise, Windows Open/Closed, TV ON/OFF, "Snooze" Button Use

**Community Purchases:** Furniture, Housewares, Cleaning Supplies, Food/Drink

**Personal Hygiene:** Bed Linens, Laundry, Shower Time, Scheduled Bathroom Time

**Cleanliness of Unit:** Picking Up Personal Items, Taking Off Shoes, Cleaning Schedule

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