



## ROOMMATE RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

### Pacific Lutheran University ♦ Residential Life

As you prepare to kick off a successful roommate relationship, we encourage you to take the opportunity early on to communicate about your expectations, needs, and ideas about what it is to be a good roommate. Here are some things to think about that will help start a conversation with your new roommate(s). This is not a solution to all the challenges you might face, but it can help the two or three of you talk about shared expectations and provide the foundation for mutually-fulfilling roommate relationships. It is important to be true to yourself and honest about your expectations for your roommate(s). If a conflict should arise between you and your roommate(s) during the year, this agreement may be referred to by your Resident Assistant or your Resident Director. The following is the process for establishing and managing a successful roommate relationship.

#### **Roommate Rights**

- The right to sleep and study free from undue interference. *Unreasonable noise, guests, and other distractions inhibit the exercise of this right.*
- The right to expect cooperation in the use of shared space and items.
- The right to privacy; including the use of one's own belongings.
- The right to expect that roommates will respect one's personal belongings.
- The right to a clean environment in which to live.
- The right of free access to the room and facilities without pressure from roommate(s).
- The right to open communication between roommates.
- The right to be free from peer pressure and ridicule if one's life choices differ from a roommate's life choices.
- The right to be free from intimidation, physical and/or emotional harm. This includes the right to be free from discrimination harassment, or undue emotional distress.
- The right to host guest(s) who respect the rights of the community members, with the expectation that guest(s) will abide by agreed-upon roommate expectations and PLU guest policies.
- The right to expect that a roommate will not violate PLU policies in the room subjecting others to possible consequences.
- The right to expect that conflicts are resolved in a reasonable time frame agreed by all. This includes the right to involve a residence hall staff member in the discussion if desired.

#### **Roommate Responsibilities**

- The responsibility to afford the rights above to your roommate(s).
- The responsibility to seek the above rights for yourself.
- The responsibility to appropriately communicate with roommate(s) when you feel as though your rights are possibly being infringed upon.
- The responsibility to appropriately seek assistance if needed to resolve a potential roommate conflict at the earliest possible level.

#### **Roommate Mediation Process**

Sharing a living space with another person is not easy. Successful roommate relationships require regular effort. PLU's responsibilities include expecting you to communicate with your roommate and equipping you to do so. If you have a concern related to your roommate relationship(s), but have been unsuccessful in your attempts, or are unsure how to address, your Resident Assistant is an excellent resource.

- Your RA will listen to your concerns and talk through with you possible ways for you to communicate these concerns to your roommate(s). This form and your Roommate Agreement will be basic tools. The importance of keeping an open mind and utilizing good listening skills will be emphasized along with clear communication of needs and impact of behaviors.
- If this is not effective, the RA will assist by facilitating a conversation between roommates.
- If this is not effective, the Resident Director will assist with a mediated conversation between roommates.