

Housemate Hunting

Are they “the one”?

Unlike reality TV, in the real world of off-campus living you can't vote out a housemate who suddenly doesn't suit you. Living off campus with a group of peers, without the moderating influence of a supportive Don, is hard work. Experience tells those who work in Student Affairs that a good outcome in your off campus living situation depends on good preparation. Get your group of potential housemates together and take this survey to see if you share harmonious expectations for the business and interpersonal workings of your house.

Upper-year student says:

“Housemates will make or break your off-campus living experience. You might be the best of friends in residence, but you can soon find yourself in a fight with a housemate over whether the thermometer should be set at 18 or 21 degrees. Dishes and garbage fuel the fire and before you know it someone wants to move out of your house. Choose wisely; compatibility is key.”

Personal Information:

I am prepared to spend \$_____ on rent.

I expect that shared costs such as utilities, phone cable & internet will cost \$_____

My general philosophy on paying bills is _____

My greatest contribution to a shared living situation will be my _____

I think all our housemates should share the following 3 characteristics

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

In my personal belief structure (secular or sacred) the following 3 things are most important:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Yes or No:

- Y N I am comfortable with smoking in our house
- Y N I expect limitations on how often guests stay over
- Y N I want to share grocery shopping and meal preparation with my housemates
- Y N I plan to bring/get a pet
- Y N I want to sublet my/our space over the summer to reduce costs
- Y N I expect our house to be the social center for all our friends
- Y N I can tolerate living in a dirty house

Compare your results with those of your potential housemates. If there is too great a difference it's time to either start again with different people or start negotiating and formalizing your expectations into a workable housemate contract.

Rank of my Personal Priorities 1 - 15:

- Good soundproofing between rooms and units
- In-house laundry
- Equal sized bedrooms
- Parking
- Dishwasher
- Atmosphere conducive to quiet study
- At or under my budget price
- More than one bathroom
- Proximity to Campus
- Stand-alone house (not an apartment or divided house)
- Access to outside space (not all leases allow for use of lawns & porches)
- In an all-student neighborhood (noisier/greater risk for break-in)
- Large common areas - kitchen living/family room
- Mixed student/family neighborhood (safer/less tolerance for late-night noise)
- All living spaces above ground (not a basement apartment/no basement bedrooms)

Don't leave things to chance, negotiate a housemate agreement.
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