

On a group of theories one can found a school; but on a group of values one can found a culture, a civilization, a new way of living together. -- Ignazio Silone

Apartment/House Agreement

Living in an apartment or house is a valuable opportunity for students to learn more about themselves and about how to communicate their needs with others. Living in an apartment requires respect, flexibility and responsibility. This document is to be an agreement to ensure that basic needs and lifestyles have been discussed. You are encouraged to discuss each topic and come up with guidelines.

This is a working document. As roommates learn to live with each other, they are encouraged to revisit the Apartment/House agreement and revise it as necessary. You are also encouraged to read the Student Handbook (www.xu.edu/handbook/) to learn more about the University policies by which you are expected to abide. These policies may have some impact on your apartment/house.

Mediation through the Office of Commuter Services is available to assist students resolve differences. The GA for Commuter Services or the Assistant Director can serve as an impartial third party to assist in identifying what the real struggles are and creating a plan of action to help work through those challenges. Often times it is a matter of clarifying perceptions and learning how to effectively communicate.

Cleanliness: How clean is the apartment/house expected to be? Define your standards for “clean.” How frequently will cleaning occur? Will you create a cleaning chart? This document should outline who will sweep, dust, and take out the trash, etc. and how often?

Purchase/Use of possessions/Utilities: What items in the apartment/house will be considered “community property” (clothes, TV, radios, computers, personal cell phones, food, etc)? How will the apartment/house purchase apartment staples (paper towels, shower curtains, toilet paper, cleaning products, garbage bags, light bulbs, etc.)? Will you share groceries? If yes, how will costs be split?

If you are paying for utilities, how will these items be divided amongst roommates? Whose name will be on the utilities bill? Will you sign up for cable-if yes, what level cable will you sign up for? How will this be decided?

Visitation/Environment: How late will visitors be allowed in the apartment/house? How many at one time and how often? Male, female? If you are out of town, can someone visiting use your room and bed? What is going to be the atmosphere in the apartment/house (quiet for study, social, etc.)? How will the common area (living room) be used? Can people nap there or is a place to hang out? Will you host parties? What kind of parties (large, small groups of friends, etc.)? If hosting a party, will you serve alcohol? If yes, will you allow underage drinking to occur? *(Please discuss, and visit the Student Handbook to learn more about the University's alcohol policy. You are also strongly encouraged to visit the Commuter Services website to view local cities policies.)*

Sleeping Habits: What will be the typical bedtime and morning hours for all living in the apartment/house? Are you a heavy or light sleeper? What sort of noise is acceptable in the apartment/house when a roommate is sleeping (i.e. TV, music, IM, etc.)?

Security: When will the apartment/house be locked? *(for your own personal safety, The Office of Commuter Services and Campus Police strongly encourage you to keep your doors locked at all times)*

TV/Radio/Computer Usage: If you are watching TV can your roommate listen to music? If studying, can you have noise in the background (TV/Radio)? For those that share bedrooms, will you disable computer noises (IM) when you're not in the room?

Phone usage: If you select to have a land line telephone, how will messages be delivered to roommates? How will the phone be paid?

Communication: How will you communicate with each other when there is a problem? It is best to be specific so that you have clear guidelines in case you need to communicate regarding a problem.

Neighbor Relations: Take full advantage of your community and talk with your neighbors (above, below and on either side of your apartment/house). This provides you with an opportunity to meet new people and perhaps borrow things when you are out of them. In addition, it is a good idea to let them know they can call you if the noise from your apartment/house is disturbing them. This could save your apartment/house from a noise complaint being called into the Police.

We have agreed on the above guidelines.

Date: _____

Resident's signature

Resident's signature

Resident's signature

Resident's signature

Resident's signature

Resident's signature

Resident's signature

Resident's Signature

*Residents are encouraged to revisit and revise this document.