HOW TO FOSTER AWESOME ROOMMATE RELATIONSHIPS

Written by, Trent Fredericksen, Associate Director of Housing

We’ve all been there. When you live on-campus, you find yourself thrown into a living situation that’s completely different from the one you had at home. Suddenly, you live with three people you may or may not have met. When living with new people, there are bound to be some differences between you and your roommates. As a freshman, I did not get along with my roommate. I stayed up late, and he always went to bed early. I liked a clean apartment, and he was OK with a little clutter. I’m an extrovert, and he was more of an introvert. Needless to say, we just didn’t get along.

Around this time in the fall semester, the Housing Office starts hearing about concerns and issues between roommates. Typically at the heart of these concerns is a lack of communication between residents. Talking with roommates about expectations they have for one another or coming up with constructive solutions or compromises, something that is necessary if everyone in the apartment is to have a positive living environment. In 10 years working with on-campus housing, I’ve learned a thing or two about resolving roommate disputes. Here are a few tips that I can offer to help you.

1. Work with your RA to create a roommate agreement where everyone collectively writes down expectations. All of the roommates should take a moment to sign it. This agreement is kept on file, and if a conflict arises, your RA can help mediate the situation.

2. Talk to your roommate face to face. Don’t leave notes. Don’t send texts. Don’t vent on Facebook. If you have an issue, talk to your roommate face to face in a positive manner. Working things out in a mature way is a life skill you are going to need long after you graduate from college.

3. You don’t have to put up with a roommate who is violating policy. UNO’s policies were established to help you be a successful student. You can call the RA on duty. You can call campus security. Your concerns can be anonymous. If you don’t take steps to notify your RA, you could potentially face a conduct hearing.

4. You are not alone and we are here to help! If you need advice, talk to your RA or Hall Director. They can assist in addressing concerns and facilitate conversations with roommates when needed. We can’t help fix a situation if we don’t know that there is one occurring.

PERKS OF LIVING ON CAMPUS

Written by, Abby Regier, UNO Housing Student

Many residents are coming to UNO from out of town and living in a larger metropolitan area for the first time. This can be a big adjustment. However, UNO’s campus is a very safe place to live. UNO has a Campus Security crew that makes all residents feel safe. They patrol campus 24/7 and are always near housing in the evenings. They are all friendly and willing to help students in a jam. If students are ever walking on-campus by themselves, they will offer to escort residents back to their residence hall and students to their cars. Campus security is a great resource if you have a flat tire, dead car battery, or other various car troubles.

All over campus, there are also blue light emergency poles strategically placed for emergencies happening on campus when there isn’t anyone around.

If you don’t have a car, that’s okay too, because there are lots of ways to get around Omaha. The Metro Bus system has a stop on Dodge Street right in front of Dodge Campus, and there are stops on the Pacific Campus and the surrounding areas as well. There is also a shuttle that goes from the Dodge Campus to the Crossroads Mall, where Target and Barnes and Noble are located. If you feel like getting a little exercise on your journey, there are plenty of attractions within walking distance, or you can rent bikes from the blue B-cycle bike stations on the Dodge Campus or the Aksarben area.

Every housing facility has an excellent and well trained staff of Resident Assistants (RA). RAs are trained to handle any situation, from roommate disputes to incidents of students breaking policy. There are two RAs on duty every night, so there’s always someone only a quick phone call away. RAs also throw events every month. With 20 RAs on the Dodge Campus alone, there are a lot of programs every month. These are great opportunities to meet people from all over campus and have loads of fun. The best part about UNO is there’s something here for everyone!
MAINTENANCE UPDATES
Written by, Ryan Schmit, Maintenance Manager

Dero Fixit bicycle stations will be installed soon. These Fixit stations are great for repairing any bike. They include a stand, pump, and all the basic tools needed for routine maintenance.

The next scheduled filter change will be during the first week of November. A reminder will be sent out before maintenance staff begins to enter units and replace furnace filters. Thank you all in advance for your cooperation.

Awesome new deal: We have recently installed USB outlets in both MV and UV clubhouses. Charge phones, tablets, etc. via the USB plug-in outlets located in the UV clubhouse TV room and laundry study room and in the MV clubhouse game room and classroom. These convenient USB plug-ins will also be installed in each MV laundry room.

Maverick Village clubhouse will be getting a new ice machine in October. This machine is available for all residents to use. It is an ice dispenser, so you will need to bring an ice bucket or cooler to fill up. It will be located in the MV clubhouse hallway near the vending machines.

HAVING MAINTENANCE TROUBLES?
Below are links to the work order forms:

Maverick Village:
maverickvillage.unomaha.edu/workorder.php

University Village:
universityvillage.unomaha.edu/workorder.php

MEET YOUR RESIDENT ASSISTANTS (RA)

Sarah Watkins
Grade: Graduate Student
Hometown: Sioux Falls, SD
Major: Social Work
Village: Maverick
Building: Wellness Learning Community Building A

Best part of being an RA?
I love being an RA because it gives me the opportunity to meet many different students on campus and help them throughout the journey of higher education.

Jacob Robinson
Grade: Sophomore
Hometown: Omaha, NE
Major: Pre-Pharmacy or Pre-Medicine
Village: University
Building: 4 Low.

Best part of being an RA?
Getting to meet and interact with so many residents around campus. I also really appreciate never having to drive off campus for a job. It is very nice and convenient to have a job on campus.

Amanda Butler
Grade: Junior
Hometown: Marysville, MI
Major: Secondary Education with a Spanish endorsement
Village: University
Building: Global Learning Community 5 low

Best part of being an RA?
Being able to connect with the residents and making an impact on the housing community.

Jonathon Wortman
Grade: Junior
Hometown: West Point
Major: Physical Education and Deaf Education
Village: Maverick
Building: R

Best part of being an RA?
Getting to know my residents and making new friends!
NEED TO MAKE A PAYMENT?
Written by, Denise Wieczorek, Business Manager

PAYMENTS MAY BE MADE:
1. Via mavlink with credit/debit cards
2. By mail with personal checks or money orders

PAYMENTS MAILED TO:
University Housing
Attn: Business Manager
6608 University Drive South
Omaha, NE 68182

IN-PERSON PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE AT:
Maverick Village or University Village Clubhouse, Front desk
Payments can also be made at Cashiering/Student Accounts located in the Eppley Administration Building. You may bring checks, cash, credit/debit cards, or money orders.

Please make checks payable to University of Nebraska at Omaha. Be sure to write student’s NU ID on all correspondence and NEVER send cash through the mail.

CENTRALIZED BILLING AT UNO
Written by, Denise Wieczorek, Business Manager

The University of Nebraska at Omaha has a centralized billing system. This means that you can access your bills via your mavlink account or a parent may access your bills after setting up a guest account to your mavlink account. Any charges incurred for tuition, fees, and University Housing will appear on one statement. All other types of billing like lock outs, damages, records, and other charges will be billed directly from housing to the student and will NOT be on mavlink. Payments made to University Housing are applied to tuition and fees first on the centralized bill. Unpaid bills are subject to late fees.

If you are awarded scholarships or financial aid, it will be credited to your UNO Student Account and will be applied against your tuition, fees, and housing. This is dispersed once in the fall and once in the spring. It is important to know that all scholarships and financial aid applied to mavlink go towards tuition and fees first, and then is applied to housing.

Make sure you to check your mavlink regularly, especially if you are on a monthly payment plan. For questions related to charges or payments towards Housing that can be found on your centralized bill, please contact: Denise at 402.554.4000.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT
Written by, Denise Wieczorek, Business Manager

Any student removed from campus housing for student conduct reasons will still be held liable for the terms of their contract.

Violating student conduct policies does not provide students the ability to end their housing contract.

Students looking to end their housing contract forfeit their $200 deposit for the administrative cancellation fee.

CANCELLATION POLICY
Written by, Denise Wieczorek, Business Manager

What if I need to cancel my residency, but it’s after August 1st?

1. You would forfeit your $200 deposit for the administrative cancellation fee.
2. You would be billed 50% of remaining balance of contract (based on the payment plan you selected and the day you cancel).