



Residential Learning Tips

UC Smart: Know Where You Are



One of the best parts of living on our campus is that you will be living in the city's hottest neighborhood, *University City*, in one of the hottest cities in the country, *Philadelphia*!

University City earned its name from the institutions that call it home: *Penn*, *Drexel*, *University of the Sciences* and, most notably *Walnut Hill College*! You will be one of the 52,000 students that live and learn in this vibrant college-town neighborhood.

This means you will be surrounded by restaurants, cafes, coffee shops, movies, shopping, live music venues, museums, etc. *University City* has it all.

You will learn and see quite a lot during our walking orientation of *University City* on the day after your move-in. This informative walk is mandatory, but hey, you will want to learn about your new neighborhood!

Want to experience more of *Philadelphia* such as *Center City*, *Olde City*, and the *South Street* area? All things in time! We will advise you on all the city's greats as well.

A car on campus? Not a great idea at all. You are living in the fifth largest city in the country. Some estimates are that the *University City* area needs an additional ten thousand parking spaces. Leave the car at home.

Valuable Tip: Go online and research some websites about *University City* and *Philly*. You will definitely want to check out www.campusphilly.org , www.visitphilly.com , and www.universitycity.org .

Independence: Give Yourself Three Weeks



Living on your own for the first time not only means you are independent; it also means you are self-reliant and responsible.

Your parents will always be there for you. Hey, you will probably go home; dirty-laundry in tow; enjoy some home cooking and return to campus with a full stomach, clean clothes and some extra cash.

When to return home? You decide. But statistics prove that dorm students that stay on campus for the first three weeks have a remarkable connection to their college. In short, going home to hang out with your high school friends might mean that you might ALWAYS be doing that; permanently. (AKA – drop out!)

You are bigger than that! Prove to your family and friends that you are a committed, dedicated college student, that soon enough you will be a star. Stick with us – literally!

Talk with your family before you leave for campus. Ensure them that they will always be an important part of your life. Explain that this is your time. When you do return home, you will notice how wise your parents truly are... Let that sink in.

Valuable Tip: Texts, emails and lots of photos will connect you to your family and high school friends. Consider “blasting” those texts and emails to your grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, neighbors and more. You will be very surprised at the overflow of support you will receive.

Who is my roommate?



Consider these:

- Your roommate might wake you up so that you are not late for class.
- Your roommate will listen to your stories; good and bad.
- Your roommate will tell you a joke. Or laugh at yours.
- Your roommate will meet you for lunch.
- Your roommate will study with you.
- Your roommate will watch your favorite movie and share theirs with you.
- Your roommate will bring you juice when you are not feeling well.
- Your roommate will keep you up all night – laughing.
- Your roommate will lend you anything.
- Your roommate will share their snacks.
- Your roommate will lend you their notes.
- Your roommate will go for a walk with you.
- Your roommate will invite you home for Thanksgiving.
- Your roommate will surprise you with popcorn or a pizza.
- Your roommate will most likely become your best friend for life.

Valuable Tip: Start the connection now. If you haven't done so already contact your roommate by email, text or phone. Tell them ten things that identify you; and they should do the same. What is your favorite food? Are you a neat-freak or need to be encouraged to clean up? What student clubs would you both like to join?

Really? You put THAT on Facebook?



Okay; kids will be kids. Nowadays, that means high school students putting up all kinds of – well – questionable things on social media. Those posts can be embarrassing, silly, childish and offer way too much information. Social media is a great source for social mistakes.

Now you are in college. Regarding your use of social media, its time – to say the least – to grow up. You may have looked at your roommate’s whatever-page. Did you see that *Facebook* faux-pas? Terrible Tweet? Insta-mistake post? Don’t judge a roommate by their world-wide social media mistake. After all, they didn’t realize that 4 billion people around the world were reading that ummm... update – along with their parents, teachers, employers and, oh yeah, their poor grandma! And don’t forget you; the new roommate. In a word...awkward!

Realize that potential employers will most likely look at your social media as a way to judge your character. Start building mature, logical and good character NOW! Is your email address silly? Change it to something professional.

It’s time to wipe that tablet clean. Start fresh. And yes; grow up. Remember, as a future hospitality professional you are on your way to stardom. Consider; all of the cooking, baking, hotel, restaurant, bar and travel TV shows as well as books, cookbooks and blogs about business, hotels, baking, wines, restaurants, cooking, etc. You have the potential be a star!

So, start your public-relations campaign now. Clean up your act. Change your place in the social media world. Sell yourself, your passions and your new skills. Four billion people will love you for it!

Valuable Tip: Become a member of Linked-In. It’s a world-wide network of professionals looking to connect with other professionals. Having a Linked-In profile will certainly upgrade your social-media status.

A Clean Room and a Clear Mind!



You enter your new home and think “*Is this really mine?*” and then say “*Yes it is, this is MY place!*” Ah but wait, you have a roommate and housemates. Going to college requires both a clear mind, and a clean room. There is no escaping either.

It’s a proven fact; staying organized keeps you at the top of your game. Were you a little sloppy at home? Then it’s time to change. Clean up your act!

We have some tricks up our sleeves to keep you on top of things. We have purchased the world’s smallest trash cans for your room. Hmmmmm, why so small? A student once said “with a trash can this small I seem to be emptying the trash every day”... We hoped that would happen!

The *Residential Learning Coordinators* and members of the facility staff will be visiting your room from time to time. They will knock. If things look great they will thank you. If it looks bad – they will be back; most likely the next day.

Combat a sloppy room with pride – yours. Look around, imagine the room as the cover of your first book and decide if this is how you would like everyone to think of you. Sloppy does not equal cool.

Valuable Tip: Make a roommate pledge. Each of you will keep your own side in great shape. All trash is removed daily. Once per week you will have a cleaning day for the shared space.

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