1. Habits and Compatibility
What traits are you looking for in a housemate (e.g., sleeping, studying, cleaning, smoking, and sharing items)? Think about your habits and ask your potential housemates about theirs.

2. Financial Reliability
Can your potential housemates afford to pay their share of the rent and utilities? If one of them leaves early, you might still be responsible for paying the full rent. Discuss all housemate’s financial resources before you sign a lease together.

3. Communication Style
Start a group text and have a house meeting when you move in. Good communication (about bills, chores, etc.) makes good housemates. Start these conversations early to avoid conflict later on.

4. Expectations
Do you and your potential housemates have shared expectations about guests, parties, food shopping & sharing, cleaning, community, personal property, sleeping, studying, and pets? Find this out before you sign a lease together.

5. Resources
Use the UMass Amherst Off Campus Student Life website (www.umass.edu/offcampuslife) to look for compatible housemates.

6. Put it in Writing
Complete a housemate agreement (www.umass.edu/offcampuslife) that details everyone’s responsibilities.
Student Legal Services Office

The Student Legal Services Office (SLSO) is a student-funded law office providing legal assistance to fee-paying UMass Amherst students and student groups.

We offer FREE, CONFIDENTIAL advice and/or referral in most legal matters affecting students, assisting them to identify and solve their legal problems. In certain limited circumstances we represent students in court.

922 CAMPUS CENTER
WWW.UMASS.EDU/SLSO
SLSO@UMASS.EDU
(413) 545 - 1995

Disclaimer

The information contained in this document has been prepared for educational purposes only. Communication of information through this document is not intended to solicit clients, to provide legal services as to any particular matter, to convey or constitute legal advice, nor to provide a substitute for obtaining legal advice from a qualified attorney.