



Two white-covered
beds

Do I Have a Room to Myself? By Markus Dudley

Hey there! You are probably acting how I did when I saw nothing below “My Roomate(s)” on RoomRez. Maybe you were a bit confused, and a bit anxious as well. No matter the reason, I’m here to give you the scoop as to how to make the most out of your single living situation. When I first moved on campus, I had no idea whether or not I had a roommate since RoomRez does not explicitly say so. I moved in normally like everyone else, and throughout the year I learned to adapt to my unexpected outcome.

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UNCERTAINTY

“So what are the pros and cons?” you may be asking, and there are a lot! To start with the cons—making friends is made a little harder than usual. You’ll have many opportunities to meet people in class, at clubs, and in your dorm, but it all relies on you to go out and interact with people. For pros—for starters, you have a space to yourself. You don’t have to compensate for another person, meaning you can go to sleep and wake up whenever as well, so no need to coordinate timing with anyone! Overall, you’re left with a blank canvas to customize to your heart’s content! With that being said, I do not recommend using the entire room, and just sticking to one side.

**“NOW WHY
USE ONLY HALF
THE ROOM?”**

“MOVE WEEK”

Now why use only half the room? Well, when you have a room to yourself, it is as though the sky’s the limit with decorating, but you don’t want to get carried away since your situation may be only temporary. It’s completely fine if you want to use the extra furniture as a place for something, but make sure to have a backup spot on your side of the room. I advise this because once a semester there is a period of time when people can change rooms to be with someone else. It’s called Move Week, and it happens about a month into each semester (Late September/Late January). During this week, anyone is allowed to move into your room, and, unfortunately, you don’t have a say in the matter. You can’t say no to whoever joins you, so the best you can do is clean your room, have your side organized, and prepare for the potential change. That being said, two other outcomes of Move Week exist—the first being that no one moves in. The other outcome—or option—is to “pull” someone into your room. If you have a friend you would want to have move into your room, the first day of Move Week is dedicated to letting this happen! Now before you get excited or start panicking over a potentially new roommate, people switching rooms is less common than you’d think, and I don’t recall an instance of this really happening.



Blue suitcase

SOPHOMORE HOUSING

The other major event you should be on the lookout for is future housing

applications. See, upon becoming a sophomore at Loyola, you dorm in suites and apartments as opposed to a simple two-person room. These spaces are shared in groups of 4, 6, or 8 people, and you can make these groups with your friends, but I was put in a rough spot. Because everyone I knew was paired up in even numbers, there was nowhere to slip myself in, and since having an odd number of people wasn't allowed, it became a battle finding a place to insert myself. I was not very proactive, and as a result my application finished by itself and pulled me into a random group. While it is more me not being fast enough, the process would have been a lot easier if I had a roommate to partner with. You might want to go to the "roommate social" that Housing hosts to find a roommate (lots of people do). But of course, I am only one person, and everyone has different experiences, so why not go over some?

REILLY'S TAKE

I interviewed some fellow freshman who are all like me and have a room all to themselves. I started with my friend Reilly Hylton, who hasn't had a roommate since the beginning of the school year. When she first found out about her predicament, she said that "When Loyola emailed us over the summer about the RoomRez information, it was supposed to say my roommate's information and it just didn't, so I panicked and emailed ... They just told me to wait, and then I never got a roommate." When first coming into the school as one of the few without a roommate, Reilly said, "It was weird. Especially the first night, everyone was kind of paired off with a roommate ... But it was also kind of nice, especially the day we moved in to be able to have my own space and everything. It was nice overall." She notes that she wasn't the only one on her floor without a roommate, as two other people beside her didn't have one either. Reilly remarks that having her own room was nice due to being an introvert, enjoying the personal space and being able to have friends over with no hassle. However, she notes that it is hard to keep the room maintained since she does not have to keep it clean for anyone. On top of that, Reilly says that she struggled with meeting people on her floor, believing that due to a lack of a roommate, "I couldn't relate to a lot of people who were having roommate struggles or really good connections." Overall, she is glad to not have had a roommate her freshman year.

REILLY'S MOVE WEEK AND HOUSING

When first experiencing Move Week, Reilly was stressed about the ordeal, as the wording of the announcement sounded like she was guaranteed a new roommate. As she describes, "I rearranged my room to fit my possible roommate, and then I kind of waited ... I was really stressed during the first Move Week especially."

She notes that finding a roommate for sophomore year was "harder at first" due to her friends already being paired up, but it all ended well since she was able to find a someone who needed an extra slot filled. For some I



Suitcase on a bed

**"THEY JUST
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GOT A
ROOMMATE."**



Man lying down
looking at his phone

ast tips and tricks Reilly recommends to “Make the other side kind of home-y.” While she was sad at first for not having a roommate, she quickly bounced back as she was able to “look at the bright side of not having a roommate.” Reilly also advises putting yourself out there due to it being hard to latch onto someone since you’re on your own. One last tip of advice from her is to be direct with people when finding roommates for sophomore housing and not put it off, recounting how some of her friends scrambled for one.

REBECCA’S TAKE

I also interviewed my classmate Rebecca Berry about her experience having a room to herself, but she actually started off having a roommate until they left around Thanksgiving. The main differences she saw between her two circumstances are that having her own room gave her freedom, but having a roommate taught her to compromise. Once her roommate left, Rebecca recalls feeling what she described as “a relief” due to her being able to make a more flexible schedule that she couldn’t before. Rebecca also didn’t change her room much except for some decorations so she wouldn’t look like she was in “solitary confinement.” She notes as a positive that she can work on her own schedule and not have to compensate for anyone else’s, but says that it can get lonely, so she tries to not be in her room so much. When Move Week came around, she noted that “It was stressful just being highly unsure of someone coming into my room at any moment and didn’t have to tell me.” Rebecca and her old roommate were put together by the school and were not compatible, so knowing she could be plopped into the same scenario set her on edge. Luckily this was not out of left field as she notes that she received a message that she could potentially have a transfer student coming in. With sophomore housing she didn’t have a problem finding a direct roommate but finding two other people was not easy. As a tip, Rebecca warns to those in a similar spot to not “let yourself get isolated.”

CONCLUSION

So, how are you holding up? You still excited or anxious about having a room to yourself? No matter where you stand, I can assure you that you will be able to make the most of your freshman year (and time here at Loyola) despite this abnormality. You will still be able to make your own friends like everyone else. If you want a new roommate, you can always take advantage of the week to partner up with someone! If you are hoping to not get a roommate, then do not fret! The chances of getting one assigned during this week are so low, it’s not worth losing sleep over. So use your room and decorate it as you like—just be prepared to clean it up when necessary. Lastly, don’t expect lightning to strike twice when applying for sophomore housing; the chances of getting a room to yourself again are even lower than getting a roommate during Move Week! Just take it all in stride, and I promise you’ll be fine! And with that, I formally welcome you to Loyola! Best of luck!



Apartment Building

**“DON’T LET
YOURSELF GET
ISOLATED.”**



Woman looking out
window