# SlugMates

*UCSC-Exclusive Roommate Matching Platform*

Product Requirements Document

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## 1. Problem / Opportunity

UCSC students face significant challenges finding compatible roommates, leading to poor living situations that negatively impact academic performance, mental health, and finances.

**The Core Problems**

- Fragmented search: Information scattered across 5+ platforms (Facebook, Places4Students, Discord, Craigslist)
- No compatibility matching: Students manually evaluate each potential roommate with no filtering
- Trust and safety concerns: No student verification leads to scam risk
- UCSC-specific needs ignored: National apps don't understand college affiliations or campus housing

  *"A bad roommate match affects academic performance, mental health, and finances. Students deserve better than hoping for the best."*

## 2. Target Users & Use Cases

**Primary: Housing-Seeking Student**

**Sarah, Sophomore:** Living on campus, wants to move off-campus next year

**Pain Points:**
- Doesn't know anyone looking for roommates
- Nervous about living with a stranger
- Worried about compatibility (early sleeper, needs quiet)

**Goals:**
- Find 1-2 compatible roommates for a 3BR apartment
- Verify the person is actually a UCSC student
- Chat before committing

**Secondary: Room-Filler**

**Marcus, Junior:** Already has a lease, needs to fill one room

**Pain Points:**
- Posted in 3 Facebook groups, got 50 messages

- No way to filter for compatibility
- Some responses seem like scams

**Goals:**
- Find someone compatible by specific date
- Efficiently filter through candidates
- Verify student status

# 3. Current Landscape

No existing solution combines UCSC-exclusive verification, compatibility matching, and real-time communication.

| Platform | Strengths | Weaknesses |
|---|---|---|
| Places4Students | UCSC official | No matching, clunky UX |
| Facebook Groups | High usage | Chaotic, no filtering, scams |
| Roomsurf | Good quiz | Not UCSC-specific |
| Bunky | Good UX | Not focused on UCSC |

# 4. Proposed Solution

**Elevator Pitch**

*SlugMates is a mobile app that helps UCSC students find compatible roommates through verified matching. Students complete a lifestyle quiz, browse matches sorted by compatibility, and chat with mutual matches—all within a trusted, UCSC-exclusive platform.*

**Core Value Propositions**

1. Trust: @ucsc.edu email verification ensures every user is a real UCSC student
2. Compatibility: 15-question quiz with weighted algorithm calculates match scores
3. Simplicity: One app replaces 5+ scattered platforms

# 5. Goals / Measurable Outcomes

| Metric | Launch Target | 3-Month Target |
|---|---|---|
| Registered users | 50 | 500 |
| Quiz completion rate | 80% | 85% |
| Mutual match rate | 15% | 20% |
| Messages sent | 100 | 2,000 |
| 7-day retention | 40% | 50% |

**Non-Goals for MVP**

- Housing listings integration

- Group matching (2-3 roommates together)
- Expansion to other UC campuses

# 6. MVP / Functional Requirements

Requirements organized by user journey. P0 = required for launch, P1 = important, P2 = nice-to-have.

### Journey 1: Onboarding & Profile

**[P0] Must Have**
- User can sign in with Google using @ucsc.edu email
- Non-UCSC emails rejected with clear error message
- User stays logged in for 7 days
- First-time user completes profile: name, photo, bio, college, year, housing status, budget
- User can edit profile from settings

**[P1] Important**
- Upload custom profile photo
- Specify optional move-in date

### Journey 2: Compatibility Quiz

**[P0] Must Have**
- User completes 15-question lifestyle quiz
- Quiz shows progress bar, allows back navigation
- Cannot access matches until quiz complete
- Answers saved for matching algorithm

### Journey 3: Discovery & Matching

**[P0] Must Have**
- See potential matches sorted by compatibility (highest first)
- Each card shows: photo, name, college, year, bio, compatibility %
- Like or Pass on each profile
- Mutual like creates a match with celebration UI
- Only show users with >= 50% compatibility
- Exclude users already liked/passed/matched

**[P1] Important**
- Filter by college, year, budget overlap
- Expand card to see full profile + quiz summary

**Journey 4: Matches & Chat**

**[P0] Must Have**

- View list of all mutual matches
- Send and receive messages in real-time
- Message history persists
- Matches list shows last message preview

**[P1] Important**

- Online/offline status indicators
- Unread message indicators
- Push notifications for new messages

**[P2] Nice to Have**

- Typing indicators
- Read receipts
- Unmatch functionality

# 7. Appendix

### A. Quiz Categories & Weights

| Category | Weight | Questions |
|----------|--------|-----------|
| Sleep Schedule | 20% | Bedtime, wake time, noise sensitivity |
| Cleanliness | 20% | Cleaning frequency, dishes, organization |
| Social Habits | 15% | Guests, parties, alone time |
| Study Habits | 15% | Study location, silence needs |
| Lifestyle | 15% | Smoking/vaping, alcohol |
| Communication | 15% | Conflict handling, check-in frequency |

### B. Matching Algorithm

For each question, similarity = 1 - (|answer1 - answer2| / 3). Final score is weighted average across all categories, scaled to 0-100%.

### C. Technical Stack

- Mobile: React Native with Expo
- Backend: Node.js, Express, Prisma ORM
- Database: PostgreSQL
- Real-time: Socket.io
- Auth: Google OAuth 2.0 + JWT

## D. Open Questions

4. Should users be able to unmatch? (Recommendation: Yes)
5. How long to hide passed users? (Recommendation: Forever for MVP)
6. Show "who liked you" or anonymous? (Recommendation: Anonymous until match)

## E. Wireframes

See separate wireframe document for visual designs of: Welcome Screen, Profile Creation, Quiz, Discover, Match Celebration, Matches List, Chat, and Profile screens.