

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING IN 8 EASY STEPS

STEP ONE:

Begin with broad options and narrow down as you go.



STEP TWO:

Prioritize what type of housing you want to live in:

- Apartment/Condo
- Duplex/Multiplex – two or multiple levels
- Townhouse/House
- Fraternity/Sorority – If current members don't fill up the house, the extra spaces are rented out to students who are not members of the chapter. These houses are within walking distance from campus and there is no obligation to join the fraternity or sorority.
- Room & Board – live in a home for no or reduced rent in exchange for services such as childcare, home maintenance, or lawn care
- Room in Private Home – individual rooms available for rent in private or student homes
- Shared / Roommates – share room(s) with others in an apartment or house
- Short Term / Furnished – summer and winter sublets
- Suite / Apt in House – each room has its own entrance

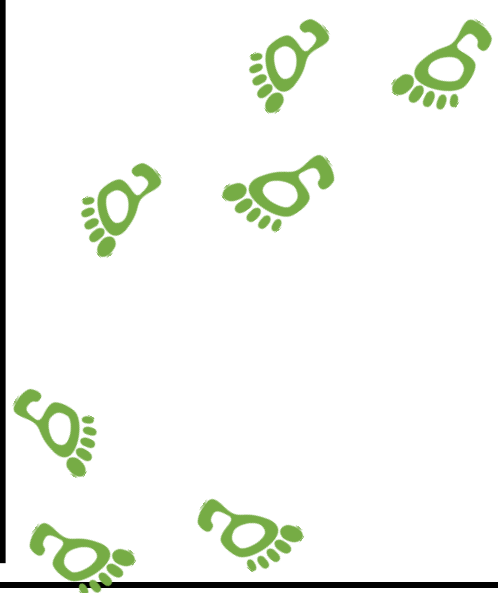


STEP THREE:

Develop a financial budget for rent, utilities, food, transportation, entertainment, and emergency costs. The cost of living in the residence halls with a meal plan is about \$11,000 per academic year. The cost of living off campus without a meal plan can be as low as \$9,600 per academic year. Generally, living in a house with roommates is cheaper than living in an apartment on your own.

Typical Area Rents:

- 1 Bedroom Apartment.....\$700-\$1,700
- 2 Bedroom Apartment.....\$900-\$1,900
- 3 Bedroom Apartment.....\$1,200-\$2,000
- Efficiencies/Studio.....\$600-\$1000
- Apartment in a House.....\$500-\$1000
- Vacant House.....\$1,200-\$4,000
- Room in a House.....\$300-\$800
- Fraternity/Sorority House.....\$3,000-\$5,000 (per semester)



STEP FOUR:

Consider what types of transportation are available and convenient. Check to see if there is a Shuttle-UM stop close to your place of residence. Many local apartment communities are on the Shuttle-UM routes.

- Shuttle-UM is a free transportation service for students and operates within a 6-mile radius of campus. Certain shuttles run on weekends or during breaks, and many typically run until at least 10 p.m. on weekdays.
- Parking Registration: Do not put yourself at risk for an expensive ticket! Off-campus students are guaranteed to get assigned to a commuter parking lot, though it may not be for the lot that is most convenient. You can register for parking at dots.umd.edu



STEP FIVE:

Check for safety by:

- Making sure interior and exterior doors shut ... and lock!
- Visiting the property at night to see about lighting, parking, and other security considerations.
- Looking up crime statistics on our Local Area Profiles handout (www.och.umd.edu/OCH/GeneralInfo.aspx)
- You can also go to the Prince George's County crime mapping website to for detailed crime information for the last three months at: www.goprincegeorgescounty.com/Government/PublicSafety/Police



STEP SIX:

Signing a lease protects you as a renter. You can get a free sample lease from the office of Undergraduate Student Legal Aid, 3125 South Campus Dining Hall. You can also contact them by calling 301-314-7756 or on the web at: www.studentorg.umd.edu/legalaid. Staff there can also review a lease to make sure it is legitimate and that there are no abnormal provisions.



STEP SEVEN:

Consider your dining options:

- The Apartment Meal Plan from Dining Services can be charged to your student account and billed through the Bursar's office. For more information go to: www.dining.umd.edu
- Terrapin express is a pre-paid debit account. It is a convenient way to access products and services across campus without carrying cash. The account balance automatically carries over to each new semester term or academic year and can be used in places such as the bookstore, food court, dining halls, and participating restaurants. For more information, call 301-314-8068, or visit the web at: www.dining.umd.edu/terrapin



STEP EIGHT:

Look into obtaining renters insurance:

- Renter's Insurance is highly recommended to protect expensive property such as stereos, computers, TVs, video games, clothes, and other valuables if they are destroyed or stolen. It typically costs less than \$20 per month, depending on the extent of the coverage. Renter's insurance can cover personal property that is damaged by fire, smoke, vandalism, water, hail, and wind storms.

Good Luck!