

Questions to Ask Before Renting Your Own Place

Renting a place to live is an exciting venture. Your new residence will be your home away from campus for a year, perhaps more. With this in mind, many considerations must be taken into account before you rent the place that is just right for you.

This checklist is to assist you in finding your new home.

- ✓ **Location** What neighborhood would I like to live in? Do I want to live in walking distance of campus? Do I have my own transportation or will I take public transportation?
- ✓ **Rent** How much is my rent per month? When is it due? What is the starting date?
- ✓ **Deposit** How much is the deposit? How will it be used? How and when is it refunded?
- ✓ **Credit history** Is my credit history sound? Some landlords check the credit history of a prospective tenant.
- ✓ **Utilities** Are any utilities (electricity, gas, water, cable, etc.) included in the rent or do I pay them myself directly to the utility companies? Are there installation fees if the utilities are not included in the rent?
- ✓ **Damage** Who pays for breakage or other damages over and above normal wear and tear? Is it an individual responsibility or one shared by all occupants?
- ✓ **Subletting** Is subletting permitted? What is the procedure?
- ✓ **Roommates** Do all roommates sign the lease? Are roommates responsible for only a portion of the rent? If someone moves out, must the remaining roommate(s) make up the difference?
- ✓ **Alterations** May the unit be altered, such as painting? Can pictures be hung on the walls? If so, what methods are acceptable?
- ✓ **Laundry facilities/hook-ups** Are laundry facilities on site? If so, are there any restrictions?
- ✓ **Pets** Are pets allowed? If so, is there an additional charge for having a pet? Are there size limits on pets?
- ✓ **Parking** Is off-street parking available? If so, is there a charge for it?
- ✓ **Inspection by landlord** When may the landlord legally enter your unit? How much notice must be given?
- ✓ **How long will it take to find housing?** When time is very limited, you can often find a place to live with a week of concentrated searching by various methods. If you know in advance when you will need a new place to call home, allowing one to two months' search is advisable. You will have more options and are more likely to find the right place for you when you are able to devote time to your search.

Good luck with your quest! If you need additional assistance, please contact us by phone, in person, or via email.

For more information, contact
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