

Housing Search Steps

Step 1: Decide what you can afford to pay each month.

Complete a prospective monthly budget to determine what you can spend on housing and utilities each month. Use the “How to Decide Your Budget” worksheet on our webpage for assistance.

Step 2: Decide how close to campus you would like to live.

The campus shuttle services many area apartment complexes with stops along the way. Check the “Campus Shuttle Schedule” for further information.

Step 3: Decide if you want to live alone or with others.

Sharing a house or apartment with a roommate can be a good way to keep expenses down. However, it is important to find someone who is responsible and with whom you will be compatible.

Step 4: Decide what type of housing you are looking for.

Do you want to live near other students? Do you need a place that is furnished? Are you going to have a pet? How long do you want to be committed to a lease? How much space do you need? Do you want certain amenities such as a pool, garage, or exercise facility? The answers to these questions will help you determine what type of housing you would be more suited for.

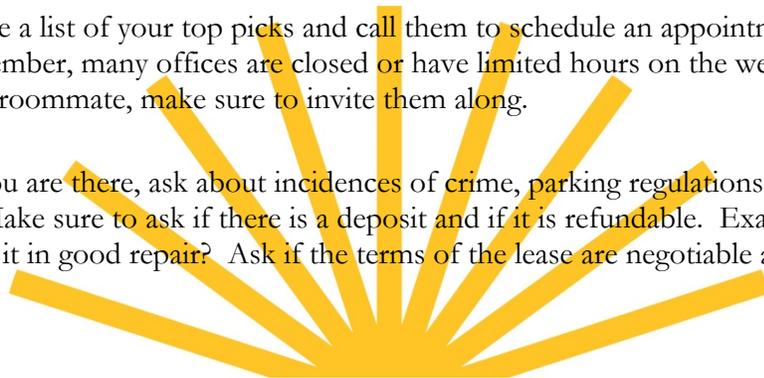
Step 5: Do some comparison research.

Once you have decided on the type of property you are interested in, you can consult the right information sources. The Non-Residential Student Resources page has a list of potential area complexes as well as other area resources that you may find helpful in your search.

Step 6: Narrow your search and begin visiting properties.

Generate a list of your top picks and call them to schedule an appointment to visit the property. Remember, many offices are closed or have limited hours on the weekend. If you are going to have a roommate, make sure to invite them along.

Once you are there, ask about incidences of crime, parking regulations, and the upkeep of the property. Make sure to ask if there is a deposit and if it is refundable. Examine the outside of the building. Is it in good repair? Ask if the terms of the lease are negotiable and how long the lease



will be (3, 6, 9, or 12 months). Understand the rules of the community regarding noise, visitors, smoking, parking, pets, etc. Understand what repairs/damages you are responsible for and which are the responsibility of the manager/owner. If you are looking at apartments, make sure you ask to see the exact apartment you will be getting and not just the model.

Based on the information you have gathered and your overall impression of the places you have visited, you should now be able to select a property.

Step 7: Before you sign that lease, READ IT!

You may need a co-signer or guarantor (such as a parent) to secure the lease depending on your income. A lease is a legally binding agreement. Should you break your lease, you are still responsible for paying the rent even if you are no longer there. The property manager/owner is not able to make allowances for roommate conflicts. Even if a roommate leaves, the person(s) who signed the lease is still responsible for the entire rent payment.

Step 8: Your search is over, now what?

Time to get set up in your new home! Visit our **Off-Campus Resources for Asheville City Residents** page for information setting up your utilities, telecommunications, as well as other useful information.

