

Finding an Apartment: Tips and Advice

Is the Living Center an option for upper-division students?

As you know, with a few exceptions, we require our first year students to live on campus. After the first year, however, there is no such requirement and most of our students move off campus. A number of upper division students do wish to return to the Living Center each year (10-20), but recent trends show this is not what most students prefer. Furthermore, spaces in the Living Center are not guaranteed to returning students until mid to late July when we have a better idea about the size of our incoming class who are, for the most part, required to stay on campus.

So where does this leave you and how do you find apartments?

During the spring semester, we work with students in an effort to prepare you to research, seek, and find off campus housing options. The good news is that there are a lot of options near campus. The bad news is that you have to find them and compete with others who are also looking. One of the keys to successfully navigating this process is to be proactive. Below are some tips to consider:

- *Start early.* Some students have already started looking for off campus housing options that will start over the summer or next fall, but many haven't, so you can still be ahead of the curve.
- *Research, research, and then, do more research.* There are a lot of properties out there, so it is important to not only know what you want, but also what you don't want, and whether or not the landlord/property manager is going to meet your needs.
- *Determine if roommates will be necessary/preferred,* who they will be, what the financial arrangements will be, and who will sign the lease. Leases also often involve a co-signer, or one person to be listed as the "responsible party" for utilities, so be sure to look into this and communicate proactively as needed.
- *Consider safety and transportation as it relates to the property.* Staying at home or in the Living Center made this less of an immediate concern for many of you, but it will now be even more important. Review apartment safety tips [here](#).
- *Consider the additional/hidden costs of food and utilities* and note that you will likely need to take on more responsibility for grocery shopping and preparing your own food.

There are many more tips we could share, but hopefully, this serves as a good start. We want students to be excited about this process, but also prepared. To this end, we have developed some resources that may be of interest:

- *Off campus housing property list.* We have a list of properties that are close by and have expressed a willingness to work with our students.
- *KCAI roommate list.* We keep a list of KCAI students who have expressed interest in seeking, or being sought as a roommate.
- [Off campus housing guide.](#) This guide has general information and things to consider when moving off campus.

If you would like to request a copy of the roommate list or off campus housing property list, or should you have questions about any of the information related to housing, please contact Joe Timson, assistant dean of students, at jtimson@kcai.edu. The best advice is: START NOW!