



# LIVING OFF-CAMPUS AT TCU

## STUDENTS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES

Whether you are considering renting a house, duplex or apartment, off-campus living can be a wonderful experience. With this experience comes a new sense of independence, increased privacy and more options. However, it is important to pay close attention when selecting your new home and to consider the pros and cons that come with living off-campus.

Junior Lauren Jancoski lives in an apartment with three friends close to TCU. For Lauren, proximity to campus was an important factor when deciding where to live. "We like that we have friends who live on this street near us," Lauren said. "It's also nice that we can walk to campus if we need to."

Living close to campus was also important to juniors Grace Fontenot and Austin Alex. Both said it was one of the main reasons they chose the GrandMarc Apartments at Westberry Place. "Living close to campus was important to both of us, and the GrandMarc was as close as you can get," Austin said.

Senior Spencer Requa and his friends also wanted to live in an apartment and chose Edge 55, an apartment complex that, like GrandMarc, also rents exclusively to students. "We love Edge 55 because everyone who lives here is a TCU student," Spencer said. "It was also

important that our apartment came fully furnished."

Juniors Sarah Adams and Hannah Morris decided to live in a house a little over a mile from campus to have a different experience. "We love our neighborhood," Sarah said. "It's quiet and convenient to get to our jobs and internships downtown."

Look at each housing option and decide what matters the most to you and your roommates. All students mentioned things they love about their off campus home but also noted that it's not all fun and games.

Junior Leah Colburn advises students to prepare for other responsibilities that are taken care of when living on campus. "Remember that in most cases you will have to pay separate bills for water and electricity, aside from rent," Leah said. "There are also the little things you forget about like having to buy paper towels, toilet paper and other household items."

Even though there are differences between living on and off campus, the transition can be smooth and rewarding. Living off campus is an enjoyable experience for many TCU students especially when you take time to look around and ask good questions. Decide what living situation fits you best and look forward to a new chapter of living!

# MAKE A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO OFF-CAMPUS LIVING

Your home is a place that should provide peace, relaxation, comfort, and enjoyment. Moving off-campus can be an exciting time in the career of a college student. As you prepare to make your transition off-campus, you need to be aware of the many differences off-campus living provides when compared to living on campus. Whether you choose to live in an apartment or rent a house, there are a few things that you need to be aware of as you begin your search for a new place to live. We have prepared this bulletin to help make that transition to off-campus living as smooth as possible. Our hope is that we can provide you with some tools to assist you in finding a place that will maximize your enjoyment in your new living experience.



## THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN MOVING OFF-CAMPUS

### Pros:

- Different style of living space
- Independent living
- Cook your own meals
- Different living options
- Pets are often allowed

### Cons:

- New responsibilities
- Farther from campus
- Monthly utility bills
- Meals are not prepared for you
- May be disconnected from campus life

## QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

### Monthly budget?

Understand your monthly budget for rent, utilities, and living expenses. This is great place to start when looking for off-campus living.

### House or apartment?

An apartment provides less maintenance, but lacks the space and privacy of a home.

### What area is best for me?

Think about the area around campus you want to live in. Generally the closer to campus you get, the more expensive your rent will be.

### What are your needs?

Decide exactly what it is that you are looking for. Know how many bedrooms, baths, size, location and amenities that you need. All of these factors will play into how much your rent will be.

### Do I have a plan?

Plan out how long you plan to stay at your new home. Sometimes if you sign a longer lease term you can negotiate a reduced rent price.

## QUESTIONS TO ASK A LANDLORD

- What is the deposit amount?
- What are your lease terms?
- Are utilities the tenant's responsibility?
- Will the lawn care be the tenant's responsibility?
- What appliances are included with the property?
- What is your turnaround on maintenance requests?
- How will I be required to make my monthly payments? In check or cash? And where?
- What are your subleasing terms?
- Do you allow pets?
- Where do I park?
- Where can my guests park?

## YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A RENTER

It is important to know that living off-campus comes with a new set of responsibilities. Being unaware of these requirements and the commitment made toward your landlord, neighbors, and community can affect your rights as a tenant, and affect you financially.

Study your lease and what is required of you and your roommates. Make sure that you are informed and educated as to your rights and requirements as an occupant of the property. Keep your lease handy for easy access.

Also remember as a TCU student, you represent your school everywhere you go, especially at your place of residence. Carry the good name TCU has created into your community and into your neighborhoods. Respecting your landlord, neighbors, and local community will make living off-campus an enjoyable experience for everyone.