

HOW TO FIND HOUSING

Below are some key tips for finding off-campus housing. It's best to start your search early. However, you should only end your search when you are completely comfortable with where you'll be living. Don't be pressured: despite what you might hear, in the Chicago area there will always be more good options coming available to consider.

LOCATION

- How far do you want to live from campus?
- What are your transportation options, including public transport?
- Pick some neighborhoods to explore and consider before looking at places.

ASSESS YOUR BUDGET

- Rent and deposit amount
- Cost of monthly utilities
- Find roommates with a similar budget
- Can you afford to furnish it?
- How do you plan to eat?
- How do you plan to divide rent?

FIND YOUR PERFECT PLACE

- Find rentals at the Off-Campus Housing website for listings
- Look for "for rent" signs and postings on campus and around Evanston
- Attend OCL's Housing Fairs in Fall and Spring.
- Start your housing search early! The longer you give yourself, the more likely you'll find something you're ultimately happy with.

ASK YOUR HOUSING PROVIDER

- What are the measurements of your room?
- Who are the neighbors?
- Will your landlord take care of repairs and maintenance promptly?
- Where can I do laundry?
- Is there parking?
- View page 2 for questions to ask your housing provider.

BEFORE SIGNING YOUR LEASE

- Read your lease carefully, and prepare a list of things you'd like to understand better.
- Compare your lease to [Chicago](#) or [Evanston's](#) landlord-tenant ordinance summary, which puts the law in plain language.
- Want to learn more about your lease? View [OCL's lease review document](#).

AS A TENANT

- Make a plan for paying utility bills and other shared costs
- Establish ground rules with your roommates regarding guests, cleaning, and sharing items.

MOVE IN & STAY INVOLVED

- Check Northwestern calendar of events: planitpurple.northwestern.edu
- Follow [@northwestern_loc](#) on Instagram
- Don't miss events for off-campus students on northwestern.edu/offcampus

Off-Campus Life
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