

LIVING OFF CAMPUS: GUIDE TO RENTING AND LEASING

STEP 1:

KNOW YOUR BUDGET

Before you begin your search process, do some research and create a budget for yourself. Costs to consider include:

- **Rent:** A good rule of thumb is to put no more than 30 percent of your monthly income toward rent.
- **Security deposit and move-in fees:** Some apartments will require these fees. As you begin your search, seek out what these fees look like at various properties.
- **Utilities:** Your monthly rent might not include utilities. If utilities are not included in rent, you will need to budget for Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) and Metropolitan Utilities District (MUD).
- **Laundry:** Learn how much laundry costs and whether the machines are in your unit, within the property, or not on the property at all.
- **Parking:** If you own a vehicle, check to see if the property charges for a parking spot.
- **Food and groceries:** If you have had a meal plan for the past two years and do not plan on purchasing one while living off campus, be sure to budget for grocery money.

STEP 3:

SELECT YOUR LIVING SPACE

Use your budget to narrow your property search. Once you select a few properties that you are interested in, consider:

- How much space will you need?
- What amenities do you want?
- How close to campus do you want to be?

STEP 2:

ESTABLISH YOUR TIMELINE

If you're looking to live in a house with other people, note that:

- Creighton students typically begin searching for housing in October
- Students typically sign leases in December
- Leases often begin on June 1, but before you sign the lease, talk with the property manager/landlord about when you can move in

If you're looking to live in an apartment:

- Begin your research between October-December
- Take apartment tours in January-February
- Communicate early and often with the apartment manager about your intended move-in date

STEP 4:

REVIEW YOUR LEASE

Complete a walkthrough and review the details of the lease. Make sure that all occupants sign the lease. Be sure to look for things like:

- Lease commitment and number of occupants
- Rent amount and security deposit
- Utilities
- Repairs
- Pets
- Extended leave
- Furnishings and appliances

FURNISHING YOUR NEW HOME: A CHECKLIST

For the kitchen:

- Pots and pans
- Cooking knives
- Utensils
- Bowls, cups, and plates
- Small appliances
- Oven mitt
- Sponges and dish soap
- Spatulas, wooden spoons, and ladle
- Strainer
- Microwave

For the dining area:

- Table and chairs
- Trivets
- Salt and pepper shakers
- Decor

For the living room:

- Couch and pillows
- Chairs
- Blankets
- Coffee table
- Pictures, paintings, decor
- Television
- Amazon Fire TV, Apple TV, or whatever you use to binge-watch your favorite shows
- TV Stand
- Plants
- Bookshelf

For the bathroom:

- Trash can
- Toothbrush holder
- Towels (hand and bath)
- Bath mat/rug
- Cleaning supplies
- Plunger and toilet bowl brush

For the entryway:

- Welcome mat
- Area rug/mat for wet rain boots, snow boots, and other dirty shoes
- Coat rack (to hand cold-weather coats to dry)
- Umbrella holder

Miscellaneous:

- Toolbox (including nails and hammer to hang your new decor)
- Snow shovel
- Ice scraper (for your car windows, if you drive to school)
- Flashlights, emergency kit
- Batteries
- Light bulbs
- First aid kit
- Vacuum cleaner
- Broom and dustpan
- Mop