



THE RENTER'S CHECKLIST

Choosing to live off campus is a decision that will have an impact on your college experience. The appeal of living on your own is enhanced by the opportunities it presents for more privacy and more personal space as well as a greater sense of freedom. However, it is important to identify and understand the responsibilities of living off campus and to be prepared to handle a range of added tasks, such as cooking, cleaning, and budgeting. Some of things you may want to think about before moving off campus and when looking for apartments are listed below.

DETERMINE YOUR NEEDS

- How close to campus and other conveniences do you want to be?
- What type of housing are you looking for: apartment complex, house, studio or shared rental?
- How much can you afford for rent and utilities?
- Do you need parking? What is available?
- How long of a lease do you need?
- How many roommates will you have?
- Will you have pets?
- Do you want a furnished or unfurnished apartment?

SEARCH FOR AVAILABLE RENTALS

- The Tahlequah Daily Press.
- Ask friends and classmates.
- Apartment Finder, apartmentfinder.com.
- Online sites such as craigslist.com

CALL ABOUT POTENTIAL RENTALS

- Find two or more rentals that fit within your needs.
- Set up a time to view each rental with the landlord/manager.

VIEW RENTALS

(Take notes and ask questions.)

- Document the condition of the apartment: interior and exterior.
- Check for safety concerns: working locks on doors and windows, ample exterior lighting, solid exterior doors, working smoke detectors, adequate emergency escape routes and well-maintained building and grounds.
- Note utilities that are included with rent.
- Note repairs that are needed.
- Note distance to nearest bus stop.
- Make sure there is ample space for all occupants and for studying.
- Ask who is responsible for yard work and snow removal.

SEEK OUT FIRSTHAND INFORMATION ABOUT THE APARTMENT AND LANDLORD

- Speak with current tenants and neighbors.
- Ask for references.
- Check crime information for the area.

REVIEW THE LEASE

- Review the lease with a trusted adult.
- Become familiar with common lease terms.