

# Off-Campus Life



## Office of Off-Campus Life

Where you live and who you live with has a major impact on your academic success and overall happiness while at JMU. While JMU is not affiliated with off-campus complexes, the office for Off-Campus Life is here to help you with this important step as well as offer assistance and support while you live off campus. This office:

- Encourages responsible life off campus
- Provides informational resources about living off campus
- Aids in finding off-campus housing
- Assists conflict resolution between roommates and landlords
- Coordinates the Utilities Deposit Assistance Program and answers questions
- Teaches budgeting, cooking and interpersonal skills that will enable students to be successful off campus

## Getting started

When looking for off-campus housing, location should be a major consideration. Ask yourself the following questions: What type of lease am I looking for—individual or joint? Do I have roommates in mind that haven't signed a lease yet? How will I be able to commute to campus or the grocery store? By car, bus, bike, or by foot? Will I need a furnished unit? What amenities are important?

## Leases

Some leases are very restrictive. Be aware. You are responsible for knowing exactly what the lease says and means. Read your lease carefully! Do not hesitate to ask the landlord about clauses and terms you do not understand. You can also consult with someone at Off-Campus Life.

## Utilities

The Utility Deposit Assistance Program.(UDAP) is a contract between JMU and local utility companies. This \$35 non-refundable contract waives the requirement of paying large utility deposits. If you do not pay your bills, it becomes a JMU matter, rather than a city matter. Therefore, your credit will not be affected, but a hold will be placed on your student records until payment is made.

## Leasing agents

Off-Campus Life can provide you with the phone numbers for all the leasing agents in the Harrisonburg area.

## Roommates

When choosing roommates, decide whether your lifestyles are compatible. Consider the individual's living and study habits, and attitudes toward parties, overnight guests, etc. Having roommates is a good way to cut personal expenses, but you must agree on certain responsibilities ahead of time.

## Availability

Because the availability of on-campus housing is limited, you may want to begin looking into the off-campus housing options early. We recommend you plan to spend time to pursue off-campus housing and not be rushed to sign a lease prematurely.

## Transportation

Commuting to campus can be a challenge until you figure out the traffic patterns. It is possible to drive to campus every day; however, the availability of spaces is dependent on the time and day of the week. Each student's car must be registered to park at JMU. The cost of a registration sticker is \$300 per year. For more details, contact the Parking Office (540) 568-3300.

To ease the on-campus parking demand, Harrisonburg and JMU work cooperatively to bring an efficient transit system to the JMU community. The bus system provides pickups at on-campus and off-campus locations regularly throughout the day. To obtain current bus schedules, check out Harrisonburg Transit's web site at [hdpt.com](http://hdpt.com).

## Housing listing website

There is a database full of housing listings for you to browse through if you are looking for a place to live. If you need to rent out your place, you can submit your information to our database. [offcampushousing.jmu.edu](http://offcampushousing.jmu.edu)

**For more information, contact:  
The Office for Off-Campus Life  
Festival & Student Conference Center, Room 1130  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday  
540-568-6071 ■ [jmu.edu/ocl](http://jmu.edu/ocl)**