

Off-Campus Life



Off-Campus Life at JMU

Where you live and who you live with has a major impact on your academic success and overall happiness. While JMU is not affiliated with off-campus complexes, 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

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. To search for off-campus housing listings, visit offcampushousing.jmu.edu.

Leases

Some leases are very restrictive. Read it carefully! Ask questions when you don't understand terms or clauses. You are responsible for knowing exactly what the lease says and means. If you have questions, consult with someone at Off-Campus Life.

Visit jmu.edu/ocl for more info about Off-Campus Life.

Utilities

Understand what utilities you need. Unless your monthly rent includes utilities, you will be responsible for them. Consider taking advantage of JMU's Utility Deposit Assistance Program (UDAP) which waives deposit fees for partnered utility providers.

Roommates

When choosing roommates, decide whether your lifestyles are compatible. Consider the individual's living and study habits, and attitudes toward parties, overnights guests, etc. Having roommates is a good way to cut personal expenses.

Food

Make sure you know how and where you will be able to get food. Students may choose to dine from the many off-campus options available in the local area. JMU also offers several different commuter meal plans for individuals who would like to dine on-campus. To learn more, visit campusdish.jmu.edu.

Students looking to pickup shelf-stable goods and fresh produce should consider using The Pantry, a local food bank that provides quality, nutritious food options for the community.

Transportation

When looking for off-campus housing, consider how you will get around the area. Commuting to campus can be a challenge at first. It's possible to drive to campus; however, the availability of spaces is dependent on the time and day. Each student's car must be registered to park at JMU. Vehicle registration costs can be found at jmu.edu/parking.

The Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT) provides a complimentary daily bus service within campus and the city of Harrisonburg. To look at current Inner Campus Shuttle (ICS) bus schedules, check out Harrisonburg Transit's website at hdpt.com.

Some students may choose to use Brite Bus, a commuter bus service that runs weekdays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. JMU is on the BRCC North route, servicing Bridgewater, Staunton, and Blue Ridge Community College. Brite Bus is open to the general public with an on-campus stop located at JMU's Godwin Transit Center.

For more information, contact
The Office for Off-Campus Life
The Union (Taylor Hall), Room 205
540-568-6071 • jmu.edu/ocl

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