

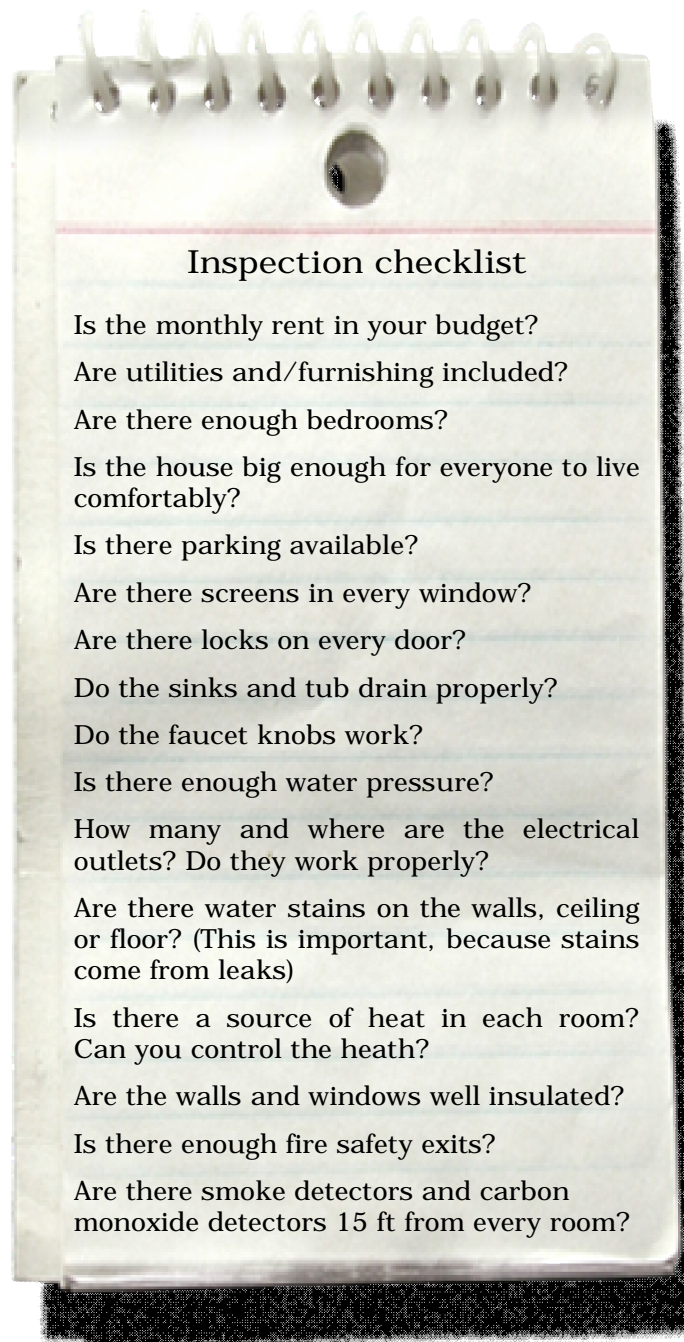
Important Things to Remember about off-campus living:

- Start looking EARLY for off-campus housing. Housing can rent FAST!
- You are legally bound to the lease, until the terms are over.
- You do not own the home/apartment, so treat it with respect.
- You live in the community, which means you are a neighbor.
- Just because you don't have an RA watching over you, doesn't mean you do not have responsibilities!
- You are responsible for all damages and your guests.
- You have regulations to follow, which could lead to an eviction.



Renting, law information, and more! Visit us online at www.eiu.edu/~goodneighbors

EIU Room and Board costs:
<http://www.eiu.edu/~admissions>



Which way do I go now?

For Students By Students

Open the
door to all
the options
with
off-campus
living!

Ready for a Change?

There comes a time when you ask yourself, "Do I want to move off campus?" Living off-campus is an excellent experience! However, there are pros and cons to living beyond the castle walls.

There are also other options of living off campus at the same cost of a Residence Hall, but adding more privacy, such as University Court, or Greek Court (if you're affiliated with the Greek community).

Let's look at the option of renting your own place. This guide was made by current EIU students to help you successfully find your version of living.

Keep in mind, there are Pros & Cons to living off campus...

PROS CONS

- The chance to take on a new level of responsibility.
- Personal privacy.
- Can shower without sandals and seven other people.
- Can choose who you are living with.
- Can still easily be involved with campus activities.
- Bed doesn't have to turn into a couch when guest are visiting.
- Can still purchase a meal plan.
- The bedroom will be totally separated from your kitchen.
- May be more expensive.
- Utilities & water bills may not be included in the rent, so there's the responsibility of paying those bills on time.
- Further walking distance to campus and classes.
- Depending on friends to pay the bills...on time.
- Washer and dryer may not be conveniently available downstairs.
- You may have to furnish the place with that couch from your grandmother's house.
- There are not the benefits of on campus housing resources such as RAs and UPD.

There are four necessary steps to take:

1. Decide whether or not living on campus is right for you
2. Organize your future living situation
3. Research different housing options and landlords
4. Find the right place and sign the lease

Is Living off Campus the Right Choice for you?

This is the first question you should ask yourself and discuss with your friends and family. Is living-off campus really less affordable than living on campus?

The answer may surprise you. Here's a look at the cost of living on campus for a whole semester!

Housing Deposit - \$50.00 (Eligible of receiving \$25 back if no damages to room)

Initial Housing Payment - \$250.00

Room and Board - \$6,852.00

Room and Board- \$7,124.00

(15+ meal plan option)

For more information on off-campus meal plan options visit <http://www.eiu.edu/~dining>

Organize Your Living Situation!

If you reach the conclusion that living off-campus is right for you, then the next step is to plan your living situation. Visit www.eiu.edu/~goodneighbors for more thoughts to consider. For now can you answer the following....

- How many roommates?
- Is anyone willing to share a room?
- What price range are you and your future roommate(s) looking in?

Research the Housing Market

The next step is to start asking around about rental housing. There are a variety of houses to rent around Charleston. Ask around; get familiar with the different landlords. It's better off to become knowledgeable about the landlords and the housing before signing, and being legally stuck with a landlord and a house that isn't right for you. So take the time to look around, and don't be afraid to ask questions. It's important to get all the information you need to make your final decision. Don't just sign a lease for the first house you see out of excitement!

How Do I find Off-Campus Housing??

There are several ways to search for off-campus housing:

Check out the classified section in the Daily Eastern News

Drive or walk around Charleston. Landlords have signs outside their houses/apartments year round

Ask around: word of mouth is the best advertisement for honest information!

Sign Here...

Once you have found the perfect rental, it's now time to sign the lease. But WAIT...do not sign yet!

You need to read **EVERYTHING**, fine print and all before you even consider signing!

Make sure the rules and regulations the landlords set, fit you and your roommates.

After you have READ and AGREED to all terms, you may sign. REMEMBER once you sign a lease you are BOUND to the contract until it ends.