

# LIVING OFF-CAMPUS

A GUIDE FOR TCU STUDENTS



STUDENT AFFAIRS

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A MESSAGE FROM THE

## VICE-CHANCELLOR

**P**reparing to move off-campus can be an exciting time for TCU students. The freedoms that come with being an upper-division student also bring responsibilities. By now, you should have some good habits developed for academic success, personal well-being and communication with roommates. Moving off-campus may present some new challenges, such as budgeting, leasing, home security, roommate relationships, housekeeping, city codes and being a good neighbor. This guide will help you as you prepare to make the transition to your next home. However, the most important thing I want you to know is just because you move off-campus does not mean that you are moving away from campus. We're here to help you when you need us. Stay involved on campus and utilize the resources that are here for you. Enjoy this next step but stay close to get the most out of your TCU experience.

**Go Frogs!**

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR LIVING OFF-CAMPUS

*TCU students must live on campus for their first two years. However, students who live with a parent or legal guardian within a 30-mile radius of TCU are eligible to commute. Please see the [Commuter Exemption Request Form](#), if you plan to commute.*

*As a third or fourth year student, you have the option to live off-campus. Though exciting, living off-campus comes with a number of responsibilities to consider. Before choosing to move off-campus ask yourself these questions:*



#### Do I still need to follow TCU's rules if I don't live on campus?

Keep in mind that as a TCU student you always represent the university. The TCU Code of Conduct applies to all TCU students, whether they live on or off campus. Please familiarize yourself with policies in the Student Handbook.

#### Will I be safe off-campus?

Did you know Fort Worth is the 12th largest city in the nation? With just under one million residents, the City of Fort Worth has a higher crime rate than the campus itself. If interested, you can find local crime

reports [here](#). When considering a move to an off-campus home or apartment, students should decide whether their new home should offer such safety feature as gated or garaged parking, automatic locking exterior doors, security systems or guards, and a well-lit exterior.

#### Who should I live with?

Choosing to live with someone is a commitment. Look inside and outside of your social circle to find a roommate. A great friend does not always equal a perfect roommate and sometimes great roommates develop into amazing friends.

Check TCU Announce or apartment leasing offices for roommate matching services and opportunities. See [page 13](#) for tips on healthy roommate relationships.

Considering living alone? Determine the pros and cons of living alone. While living by yourself offers more freedom, it may increase your living expenses. Examine your likes and dislikes when deciding to live alone or with a roommate. Do you enjoy your alone time or would you rather have frequent companionship? Does your budget allow for living alone or does sharing expenses sound more enticing? Do you enjoy having help with chores or would you rather take care of the space by yourself?

#### How far away from campus do I want to be?

Consider your transportation before finding your ideal off-campus residence. Apartments and other rental properties in close proximity to TCU give you the option to take a quick walk to campus for classes, meetings, and other events. A location further away from campus may require a commute by bus, a driving service like Uber or Lyft, carpooling with a friend, or driving (and parking) your own vehicle. Perhaps you want to live in a neighborhood with easy access to your favorite stores and restaurants. If you are working during the semester, you may want to weigh options of living closer to work or closer to school.

#### How long do I plan on living there?

A typical apartment or rental property requires a 12-month lease. However, some rental properties will offer longer or shorter leases. The length of the lease agreement can affect the monthly rent price. Be aware that a lease is a legally binding agreement, and breaking it has financial consequences. If you know you plan to study abroad next year, or have other plans to move in with friends or family, make sure to consider these factors before signing on that dotted line.

#### What are my must haves?

Be honest with yourself, what amenities or features do you need to feel comfortable and secure in your living environment? Which features are just perks?

- Furnished or not furnished
- Pet-friendly
- Parking options

- Pool
- Gym
- On-site laundry
- Common space/business center
- Walking distance to restaurants or grocery stores

#### Does TCU offer resources to assist me with finding my next rental property?

Finding the perfect rental property can be overwhelming so consider checking in with the Housing & Residence Life office, which has resources to help you identify options. Staff members can help you explore different options of homes and apartments in Fort Worth and learn more about amenities, rates, and availability. Additionally, check TCU Announce regularly. There you can find postings by current TCU students looking for a roommate, offering sub leases and advertising rooms for rent.

#### What is my budget?

This question addresses a crucial issue you should address before choosing your living arrangement. Being clear and certain on what you can afford will really narrow down the options for your search. Budgeting for living off-campus is not all-inclusive; you must factor many expenses to determine your bottom line.

Below are the monthly rent estimates for housing around TCU. These monthly estimates are per household, not per person. Generally, the further from campus you get, the less expensive your options will be.

The average rent for a one-bedroom apartment/house/duplex is **\$1300**

The average rent for a two-bedroom apartment/house/duplex is **\$1800**

The average rent for a three-bedroom apartment/house/duplex is **\$2900**

The average rent for a four-bedroom apartment/house/duplex is **\$3400**

The average rent for a five-bedroom apartment/house/duplex is **\$4300**

**KNOW YOUR EXPENSES**

# RENTAL BUDGET

***Why Budget?** You can't find the right place to live until you know how much you are able to spend. Keep in mind all of the extra expenses that go hand in hand with paying rent, such as utilities, transportation, and insurance.*

**BUDGET**

Monthly Income	\$ _____
Scholarships	\$ _____
Loans	\$ _____

**MONTHLY EXPENSES**

Tuition	\$ _____
Books/Supplies	\$ _____
Rent	\$ _____

**UTILITIES**

Electric	\$ _____
Gas/Oil	\$ _____
Water	\$ _____
Waste Management/Recycling	\$ _____
Telephone	\$ _____
Cable/Internet	\$ _____

**FOOD**

Groceries	\$ _____
Dining Out	\$ _____

**TRANSPORTATION**

Car Payment	\$ _____
Gas	\$ _____
Car Maintenance	\$ _____

**INSURANCE**

Car	\$ _____
Renter's	\$ _____
Health	\$ _____
Life	\$ _____

**PERSONAL MAINTENANCE**

Clothing	\$ _____
Laundry/Dry Cleaning	\$ _____
Haircut/Manicure/etc.	\$ _____

**DEBT/SAVINGS**

Credit Card Payments	\$ _____
Loans	\$ _____
Savings	\$ _____

**ENTERTAINMENT**

Vacations	\$ _____
Pets/Pet Care	\$ _____
Books,DVDs, Games	\$ _____
Gym Membership	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Keep in mind that it costs money before you even move in. This includes a security deposit, redecoration fee, pet deposit, sometimes two months' rent, and moving expenses. Create your moving budget so you know how much money you will need before you begin your big move.

**MOVING EXPENSES**

First Month's Rent	\$ _____
Security Deposit	\$ _____
Pet Deposit	\$ _____
Painting/Redecorating Deposit	\$ _____
Last Month's Rent	\$ _____
Application Fee	\$ _____
Utilities Deposit(Water/Electric/etc.)	\$ _____
Phone/Cable Deposit	\$ _____
Movers	\$ _____
Truck Rental	\$ _____
Gas for Rental Truck	\$ _____
Storage	\$ _____
Shipping	\$ _____
Pet Travel/Boarding Fees	\$ _____
Furniture	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____

**TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Have you thought about other costs?** Do you need to buy furniture, TV, bedding, kitchen utensils, a shower curtain, or food for your new apartment? These are often forgotten expenses.

Other	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____

**TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**NOTES**

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## UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU SIGN

# CHOOSING THE RIGHT LEASE

*After finding your ideal off-campus living space, roommate, and budget, the next step is to sign a lease agreement between you and the property manager. Before signing, you need to thoroughly read and understand the terms of your lease and abide by them.*

## What is a lease?

A lease is a contract between you and your property manager indicating the rules and responsibilities of the tenant and property manager. Most leases will include the lease time frame, payment requirements, payment collection options, penalties for missing payments, the obligations of the lessee while leasing the property, the obligations of the lessor for maintaining the property, actions that break the lease, and the signatures of everyone involved.

## What are the property manager's responsibilities?

Before you choose a place to rent, find out what it's like to work with the property manager and their property responsibilities. Just like the property manager has the right to research potential tenants, you have the right to do your own detailed investigation on the property manager and property before moving forward with the lease agreement. Talk with current tenants, search online for rental property ratings, and talk with your potential property manager about expectations before renting.

Questions to ask a property manager:

- What is my deposit amount?
- How can I ensure that I get my security deposit back?
- What are your lease terms?

- Are utilities my responsibility?
- Will lawn care be the tenant's responsibility?
- What am I allowed to have on my patio/porch?
- Will pest control be my responsibility?
- What is the process for and turnaround time on maintenance requests?
- What do I do if I lock myself out after hours?
- What is security like on the property? Is this a safe area?
- What appliances are included with the property?
- How will I be required to make my monthly payments? In check, cash, or Venmo?
- What are your subleasing terms?
- Do you allow pets?
- Where do I park? Where can my guests park?
- Who can I call in an emergency? (power outage, flooding, etc.)
- When is trash/recycle pick up?

## What is the difference between an individual lease and a joint lease?

If you are renting a property with one or more persons, you will need to determine if an individual lease or joint lease suits you best. As an individual lessee, you are responsible for only your portion of the rent and any other expenses associated with your section. Your section includes your bedroom, bathroom, and the general upkeep of shared areas.

A joint lease places financial responsibility for the apartment on the tenants. If one tenant refuses to pay for their portion of the rent, the property manager can take legal action against all the tenants who signed the lease agreement.

## What does it mean to break a lease?

Breaking a lease means that you want to relinquish your rental responsibilities before your lease term is over. No one plans to relinquish their responsibilities early, but sometimes life happens. Perhaps you don't get along with your roommate, you decide to move back home, or you don't feel safe in your new home. If you find yourself wanting to get out of your rental responsibilities before the end of the leasing term, you should prepare yourself for potential penalties that may follow.

Read your lease agreement to determine your best option for getting out of the lease agreement. Some properties give you the option to find a new tenant to replace you on the leasing agreement, subletting the fees to another person, or requiring you to pay the remainder of the rent for the lease term.

## What is Renter's Insurance?

Usually, lessors require tenants to purchase renter's insurance when leasing a property. Renter's insurance protects your belongings in case of damage caused by fire, theft, or other causes, and it covers you if someone suffers an injury at your residence or attempts to sue you for negligence. Renter's insurance doesn't cover the actual structure you live in — that's your property manager's responsibility.



## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

BEING A GOOD  
TENANT

*Living off-campus comes with a new set of responsibilities. Keep in mind, that as a TCU student, you still represent your school even if you live off-campus. Respecting your landlord, neighbors and local community will make living off-campus an enjoyable experience for everyone.*

**What are city codes or compliances?**

City codes or compliances are a set of rules set by the city council to ensure that property within a city's limits is maintained properly, and that the property does not detract from the aesthetics or comfort of the neighborhoods or commercial districts.

**What is the City of Fort Worth's Noise Ordinance?**

Unreasonable or excessive noise, like rowdy, outdoor conversation and loud music, can disrupt the peace of your neighborhood, especially if the noise occurs during late-night hours.

The City of Fort Worth sets the following sound levels for all residential properties within city limits:

Daytime, 7 a.m.-10 p.m.: 70 decibels (equivalent to a running vacuum cleaner).

Nighttime, 10 p.m.-7 a.m.: 60 decibels (equivalent to a normal conversation).

**Do I have the right to store anything in my front lawn?**

To eliminate and reduce unsightly and potentially dangerous front yard storage, the City of Fort Worth has city codes that prohibit garbage, tires, furniture, appliances, and motor vehicles from being stored in front lawns. This code includes tables and set ups for party or drinking games such as beer pong.

**How is Trash and Recycle handled in Fort Worth?**

All residents are responsible for the upkeep and cleanliness of their property. Residents must secure trash and debris in the proper city-issued receptacles. Residents must place household waste in plastic bags and place bags in the assigned garbage cart. Recyclable items should be clean and dry before being placed in the blue recycle cart. [Learn how to recycle correctly.](#)

The city requires residents to place carts at the curb after 6 p.m. and retrieve them by midnight on your pickup day. [Find your pick up day.](#)

To find more about Fort Worth Code & Compliance follow here Code Compliance: 817-392-1234.

**As a resident of the neighborhood, am I allowed to go to the neighborhood association?**

Neighborhood associations will welcome your participation at meetings. To learn more about Fort Worth neighborhood associations follow this link: [Find your neighborhood association.](#)

Another great resource to check out is [Neighbor to Neighbor: TCU Edition.](#)

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

BEING A GOOD  
ROOMMATE

*A drama-free living space is essential to your health and wellbeing, especially after a long day on campus. A successful roommate relationship, like any other, is the result of frequent communication, established boundaries, and considerate treatment of others. Sharing living spaces can be difficult, but it can be a rewarding experience when all roommates respect one another's boundaries.*

**Should I live with my best friend?**

A good friend doesn't always make a good roommate. It is okay if you are not best friends with your roommate as long as you both are tolerant of each other and communicate effectively.

Before you make the decision to become roommates with your friend, ask yourself if your friend and you will be compatible based on both of your lifestyles. Also, consider the impact on your friendship of a living arrangement that is less than ideal for both of you.

**What things should I discuss with my roommate before moving in together?**

Choosing a roommate with whom you share values could result in a happier home. Be honest about your lifestyle and any expectations you have for your roommate. Creating a written roommate agreement together to define the rules and responsibilities of the home keep both parties accountable. Consider discussing the below in the agreement:

- Study habits and schedule
- Food/groceries
- Cleanliness
- Privacy
- Guests/overnight guests
- Hosting gatherings/parties

- Sleeping and work schedules
- Alcohol and other drugs
- Parking
- Utilities/bills
- Pets
- Sharing food and personal items
- Furnishings
- Other (security deposit and other miscellaneous expenses)

**How can I resolve conflict with my roommates?**

When sharing a living space with another person, you will naturally experience some conflict. The simplest way to resolve that conflict is to respectfully and assertively talk to your roommate as they arise. Communicate clearly and listen to their point of view. Try starting statements with "I" instead of "you" to avoid blaming or shaming.

## A QUIZ TO KNOW YOURSELF

ARE YOU A GOOD NEIGHBOR  
AND ROOMMATE?

**Every time you get pizza, your roommate takes a few pieces, without asking, which leaves no leftovers for you. What do you do?**

- A. Avoid the conflict altogether and only order pizza when your roommate is out of town.
- B. Duct-tape the box shut and add a note that says, "Don't touch my food!"
- C. Before ordering pizza, ask your roommate if they would like to order anything for themselves. If they decline, verbalize your expectations that you are planning to eat all the leftovers tomorrow.

**Your time management was a mess this week, so you'll be up late working on your assignment. How can you avoid disturbing your sleeping roommate?**

- A. Don't work on the assignment at all that night. Wait until the morning and cram before class.
- B. Work on your assignment until 3 in the morning, while blasting your study jams and keeping all the lights on.
- C. Communicate with your roommate that you will be doing homework in the living room until midnight. Ask your roommate to either come out or text you if you are being too loud.

**Your roommate has spontaneously cleaned up their dishes a grand total of once. You're uneasy about all those moldy plates. What do you do?**

- A. Ignore it completely and let the resentment build up until you explode.
- B. Dump the dishes on their bed, ketchup and everything. Then send a picture to all of your mutual friends with the message, "Living in a disaster zone. #nightmareroommate #gross #cleanupafteryourself"
- C. Remind yourself that someone else's mess is always more irritating than your own. You aren't perfect: You've left your workout gear on the bathroom floor before. Calmly and directly ask them to wash the dishes by the end of the day.

**Your roommate is overwhelmed with assignments, chores, and a family emergency. They are very irritable and have snapped at you multiple times this week. How would you respond?**

- A. Say nothing. Be a doormat and let them walk all over you.
- B. Let them know you've had it way harder than them and they should stop complaining and being rude.
- C. Tell your roommate that you understand they are under a lot of stress and their harsh comments toward you aren't acceptable. Ask if there is any healthy way you can assist them.



**Your roommate has been making some decisions that concern you. You are worried about their health and safety. What steps do you take?**

- A. Do nothing, it's their life to live.
- B. Gossip about their decisions to everyone you know.
- C. Communicate your concerns objectively with your roommate. If that doesn't help, you talk to the TCU Dean of Students office because you know they're there to help.

**Your roommate wants to hang out all the time, but you aren't feeling it. What do you do?**

- A. Agree to hang out anytime they want to and stop hanging out with your other friends.
- B. Ignore their phone calls and texts and sneak in and out the house so they never see you in person.
- C. Be honest with them. Let them know you can't hang out all the time because you already have other plans. Suggest some alternative ways they can have fun and meet other people.

**Your roommate wants to throw a party but you are concerned about how large it will get after the last one. What do you do?**

- A. You pretend you're initially happy to host, but you know you will end up staying in your room dreading the time it will take to clean up after the party.
- B. Refuse the party and start a malicious rumor about your roommate to deter people from going to the party.
- C. Directly express your concern about the size of the party, giving your roommate specific examples about what bothered you the last time. Discuss clear expectations on how the gathering can go this time; after all this is your home too.

*Add up the number of times you answered A, B, or C. If you chose **mostly A's**, you may need to develop effective communication strategies. Holding in your frustrations may be causing more harm than you think. When something bothers you, handle conflict by immediately and directly talking with your roommate; **mostly B's**, you may be labeled as inconsiderate. Practice showing kindness by considering the other person's feelings and needs; **mostly C's**, you're a great communicator! A good roommate communicates effectively, is considerate, and handles conflict directly and appropriately.*



## PROTECT YOURSELF &amp; YOUR SPACE

## HOME SAFETY AND SECURITY

*It's important to feel safe in your Fort Worth home. You can take various precautions to protect yourself and the property, thus ensuring that the home is a safe place for all residents. Here you can find practical safety tips to adopt in your home.*

**What tips can I use to protect my property?****Preventing Burglary**

- Always keep doors and windows locked, even if you are only leaving for a short time.
- If you have a spare key, hide it well.
- Keep porch lights on at night.
- Be mindful of location settings on mobile devices and apps.
- Consider installing a doorbell camera.
- To prevent car burglaries, lock car doors and don't leave valuable items in plain sight.

**Preventing Fires**

- Regularly test your smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector.
- Keep fire extinguishers in accessible places, like the kitchen and laundry room.
- Never leave your kitchen unattended, while cooking.
- Immediately turn off your oven after use.
- Don't put water on a grease fire - use flour or a pot/pan lid to put it out.
- Be careful to avoid inserting multiple plugs in one outlet. Multiple plugs tend to run the risk of overheating.
- If your home or apartment has a fireplace - ask your landlord how to use it properly beforehand.

**What tips can I use to protect myself?**

Keep a first aid kit stocked and in an accessible place in your home or apartment. A first aid kit will include bandages of various sizes, rubbing alcohol, gauze pads, scissors, Tylenol or ibuprofen, antibiotic ointment, flashlight, and latex gloves.

**Limit Walking or Jogging Alone.** You can significantly reduce the chance of becoming a victim of crime by using the buddy system. Walking with at least another person at night or when in unfamiliar areas makes you less of a target for criminals.

The campus community is encouraged to remain vigilant and immediately report any suspicious activity to the police. The best way to increase the safety and security of any community is to report suspicious activity before a crime is committed.

The TCU FrogShield safety mobile app works off-campus. The Fort Worth Police will be contacted by the app if there is an emergency outside the campus geo-fence. TCU PD will receive the alert notification and may respond if close to the campus.

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR WEATHER

# PREPARING FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER IN NORTH TEXAS

*The Dallas/Fort Worth area is susceptible to inclement weather, especially during the spring and summer semesters. However severe weather can occur at any time during the year, so it's good to always be prepared. Set up a time to plan and gather valuable items needed before inclement weather occurs. During inclement weather, stay alert and listen to the weather forecast in case of any rapid changes in your area.*



## How can I prepare for freezing weather conditions?

**Be Proactive:** Stock up on water and non-perishable food items during the winter months. Keep flashlights and candles in a handy place for power outages. Keep spare batteries of various sizes in stock. Purchase ice melting products for driveway and sidewalks and a shovel to clear up icy or snowy sidewalks and driveways. Purchase an AM/FM radio for your home.

**During a freeze:** Keep your phone charged, conserve energy to prevent a power outage, drip water to avoid pipes freezing/bursting, cover outdoor faucets, bundle up with layers of clothing and blankets, keep doors closed and blinds shut to keep heat in (in case of power outage), don't drive anywhere unless absolutely necessary, and bring pets inside. After the power company restores electricity, clean out the fridge and freezer if food has gone bad.

## How can I prepare for hailstorms?

A hailstorm produces hail, usually ranging from pea size to softball size. The larger the hailstone the more likely it can cause property damage, and severe injuries. A hailstorm can occur suddenly, so during these conditions you need to act fast to minimize harm. Follow the tips below:

- Park your car in a garage or covered parking if accessible; if not, you may place blankets/towels over the car windows or check TCU's website for access to TCU parking garages.
- Immediately bring any pets inside.
- While inside, keep blinds and drapes closed.
- Stay indoors until the weather clears; do not drive or walk outside.

## How can I prepare for tornado season?

Tornadoes can be destructive. Texas is subject to tornadoes, particularly (though not exclusively) from March through September. Even if your area is not directly in the path of a tornado, you can still be impacted by the strong winds and hail. Follow these tips below:

- Stay indoors in a room or closet in the innermost part of your home with no windows; do not drive or walk outside.
- If you live on a second, third, or higher floor, experts recommend that you go to a first floor if possible.
- Immediately bring any pets inside.
- Keep an AM/FM radio close by.

Know the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning. A tornado watch means that conditions are favorable for a potential tornado. A tornado warning means that a tornado is currently occurring and you need to take action immediately.

## You may hear sirens from the city. When the tornado alert signal sounds, you should do the following:

1. Move quickly and quietly to the designated shelter area in your building.
2. Keep calm and listen for instructions.
3. Take one of the following positions: 1. sitting with head between knees and hands covering head, or kneeling with hands covering head and eyes.
4. Stay in the designated area until authorities give the official 'all clear' signal.

**BE A RESPONSIBLE HOST**

# HOSTING A PARTY/ GATHERING AT YOUR HOUSE OR APARTMENT

*Be sure to have in-person and open conversations with roommates when verbalizing expectations for hosting events at your residence. If you agree to host gatherings, set expectations for who will be “in charge” and sober during the evening, should any issues arise.*

*Be aware that not all guests will consume alcohol or other substances. Make sure to provide non-alcoholic beverages and food for guests to enjoy, and for those who are consuming alcohol, to encourage spacing and pacing drink consumption.*

*Consider “standard servings” if you are serving alcohol. If you provide enough alcohol for 10+ drinks per person, guests will consume more than intended. The National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism defines ‘lower risk drinking’ as less than 5 standard drinks (for males) and less than 4 standard drinks (for females) in one sitting.*

**What are the signs of Alcohol Poisoning?**

Alcohol poisoning occurs when a person’s bloodstream contains excessive levels of alcohol. Oftentimes a person may exhibit the following symptoms: vomiting, unconsciousness, slow or irregular breathing, seizures, and a low body temperature. Alcohol poisoning is serious and can be deadly if not attended to by medical professionals. If you see someone exhibiting the signs of alcohol poisoning, know it is a medical emergency. **Call 911.**

**What is TCU’s Medical Amnesty policy and does it apply to me off-campus?**

Medical Amnesty exempts students from formal University discipline (alcohol violations, fines, and other disciplinary actions) for those receiving emergency medical attention, as well as the individual(s) who contact TCU staff for assistance (Good Samaritan). To obtain Medical Amnesty, the affected student must have received emergency medical attention and followed the advice of the emergency responder.



**How can I be a good neighbor and let my neighbors know I am having friends over?**

If you haven’t done so already, introduce yourself to your surrounding neighbors. They will appreciate the kind gesture to give them the opportunity to know you a little, and vice versa.

Usually, the most frequent complaint from neighbors after a social gathering is noise levels. If you are planning to have a social gathering, be sure to give your neighbors a heads up earlier in the day or week. It is your responsibility to know your local laws and community standards regarding noise. Even if you reached out to your neighbor about your social gathering, your noise level should not reach beyond 60 dBA between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

At your actual gathering, be sure to pick up and dispose of any trash left in front or back yard as soon as possible and make sure your guests’ cars don’t block the neighbors’ driveway.

**How can I be an Active Bystander, if I see something that isn’t right?**

You have the power to intervene when you witness something harmful or something that feels unsafe. First, you can create a distraction to divert attention elsewhere and give others the opportunity to safely exit the harmful situation. Second, if it is safe, you can directly say something to the individuals involved and offer your help. Third, you can rally others to help you intervene. Deciding to be an Active Bystander when something does not feel right, may prevent a bad situation from becoming worse.



## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

## MOVING OUT

*Moving out of your rental property can be a stressful process, but preparing for the move ahead of time can help with the transition process. When planning to move always give yourself enough time to find a new place to live, to pack and store your items, and to thoroughly clean your current rental.*

**Where should I store my items?**

Once your lease ends, remove all personal belonging from the rental property. If you plan on returning to school in the fall, but need a place to store your items during the summer months. Consider looking for storage units in the area. For a monthly fee, you can store your items for a short or longer period of time.

**Do I need to notify my property manager that I am moving out?**

Check your lease agreement. The lease agreement may require you to give your property manager a 30- or 60-day notice to vacate property letter when moving out. When the time comes, notify the property manager in an email and retain proof that you notified the property manager.

**How do I get my security deposit back?**

If you have inflicted no damage on the property, state law requires the property manager to refund your full security deposit. Be sure to provide your property manager with a forwarding address in order to receive your security deposit back. However, if you have damaged the property, the property manager may deduct a portion of the deposit to repair the

damage. To ensure that you receive the full deposit amount back thoroughly clean the property, check for faded paint, fix holes or dents in the wall, and replace any broken appliances. In case you may have to dispute charges with your property manager, be sure to take pictures of the property when moving out.

**What should I do with my unwanted home items?**

Never leave unwanted items in the rental property after your move-out date. You have many options to dispose of unwanted item. The best option will depend on what the items are, the condition of items, and the time you set ahead to plan. You can utilize the [City of Fort Worth's Bulk Waste Collection option](#), but be sure to plan the pick up early enough before your move out date.

A more sustainable option is to donate. Donating your unwanted items in good condition is a great way to support the local community. Try donating the items to a homeless shelter, non-profit organization, or a classmate in need. Some donation centers even offer to pick up the items for you.

## NUMBERS TO KNOW

## RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO TCU STUDENTS LIVING OFF-CAMPUS

**Academic Advising**

Phone: 817-257-7486  
Email: [academic\\_advising@tcu.edu](mailto:academic_advising@tcu.edu)

**Brown-Lupton Health Center**

Phone: 817-257-7940

**Campus Recreation & Wellness Promotion**

Phone: 817-257-7529  
Email: [campusrec@tcu.edu](mailto:campusrec@tcu.edu)

**Center for Career & Professional Development**

Phone: 817-257-2222  
Email: [careers@tcu.edu](mailto:careers@tcu.edu)

**Counseling & Mental Health Center**

Phone: 817-257-7863  
**24/7 Phone Counseling Helpline**  
817-257-SAFE (7233)

**Dean of Students**

Phone: 817-257-7926  
Email: [deanofstudents@tcu.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@tcu.edu)

**Emergency Management**

Phone: 817-257-7000  
Email: [tcu.dps@tcu.edu](mailto:tcu.dps@tcu.edu)

**Froggie Five-O Student Escort Service**

Phone: 817-257-5856

**Mary Coats Burnett Library**

Phone: 817-257-7117

**Scholarships and Financial Aid**

Phone: 817-257-7858  
Email: [finaid@tcu.edu](mailto:finaid@tcu.edu)

**Student Access & Accommodation**

Phone: 817-257-6567  
Email: [studentaccommodation@tcu.edu](mailto:studentaccommodation@tcu.edu)

**Student Activities**

Email: [studentactivities@tcu.edu](mailto:studentactivities@tcu.edu)

**Substance Use & Recovery Services**

Phone: 817-257-7100

**TCU Information Technology**

Phone: 817-257-5855

**TCU Parking & Transportation**

Parking: 817-257-4200  
Transportation Services: 817-257-6889  
Email: [parking@tcu.edu](mailto:parking@tcu.edu)

**TCU Police Department**

Emergency: 817-257-7777  
Non-Emergency: 817-257-8400

**William L. Adams Center for Writing**

Phone: 817-257-7221  
Email: [writingctr@tcu.edu](mailto:writingctr@tcu.edu)

PLACES AROUND TCU

# SPOTS CLOSE TO CAMPUS

*Whether you are looking for a neighborhood or a coffee shop, here are some places that TCU students recommend.*

## APARTMENTS

- The Berkeley
- GrandMarc
- Liberty Lofts
- Loft Vue
- University House
- Village East



## NEIGHBORHOODS SURROUNDING TCU

- Bellaire
- Berkeley Place
- Blue Bonnet Place
- Colonial
- Frisco Heights
- University Place
- University West



## OFF CAMPUS STUDY SPOTS

- Ampersand Coffee - University Drive
- Ascension - Westbend
- Common Ground - Greene Avenue
- OverFlow Coffee - Berry Street
- Panera Bread - University Drive
- Starbucks - University Village



# LIVING OFF-CAMPUS

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A GUIDE FOR TCU STUDENTS



STUDENT AFFAIRS

[STUDENTAFFAIRS.TCU.EDU](http://STUDENTAFFAIRS.TCU.EDU)