



Graduate and Professional Student Living Guide



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE

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A group of four diverse students are sitting around a wooden picnic table outdoors, likely on a college campus. They are engaged in a study session, looking at books and papers. The students are smiling and appear to be in a positive, collaborative environment. There are coffee cups and a backpack on the table. The background shows green trees and a building. Red wavy lines are drawn around the students' heads, and a red underline is under the text.

Who is Off-Campus and Commuter Student Engagement?

Off-Campus and Commuter Student Engagement

Whether you're looking for housing, want to explore **in-network** properties or need free personal or home safety devices, Off-Campus and Commuter Student Engagement (OCCSE) is here to support you. All OCCSE resources are free for all The Ohio State University Students.

The purpose of OCCSE is to foster the iconic off-campus residential experience through education, advocacy and engagement. By collaborating with stakeholders across The Ohio State University and our community, OCCSE empowers students to engage, learn and thrive.

STOP BY OCCSE:

Willie J. Young, Sr. Off-Campus and
Commuter Student Engagement
3106 Ohio Union, 1739 N. High Street,
Columbus, OH 43210

Hours: Monday–Friday 8 a.m.– 5 p.m.

(subject to change during breaks)

Phone: 614-292-0100

Email: offcampus@osu.edu

Website: offcampus.osu.edu

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

 [offcampus_osu](https://www.instagram.com/offcampus_osu)



Our Resources

The best place to start your housing search is right here at Off-Campus and Commuter Student Engagement! Click on the links below to learn more



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING NETWORK

A tool to explore housing options and to help students make informed decisions about who to rent from and where to live off campus.



HOUSING CONSULTATIONS

Personal advising sessions to help students navigate the Off-Campus Housing Network



ROOMMATE AND SUBLET ADS

Resources to help you find roommates and search for or list sublets.



COMMUTER RESOURCES

Visit the Commuter Hub on the 3rd floor of the Ohio Union



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT (USG) RENTER'S GUIDE

Student feedback on area property companies



BUCKEYES LIVING OFF CAMPUS (BLOC) NEWSLETTER

A bi-weekly email newsletter which keeps you up-to-date with different campus events, shares valuable resources and connects you with everything off-campus.



OFF-CAMPUS LIVING SESSIONS

The sessions are designed for students, parents, guardians and other college student supporters who are looking for more information on the off-campus housing process!



Columbus Neighborhoods

Neighborhood Traits

The following icons represent features of neighborhoods in this guide. For even more information on the Columbus neighborhoods, visit [the University District Organization](#).



NEIGHBORHOOD



LOCAL CULTURE



COMMUTE



University District



NEIGHBORHOOD

Young, vibrant community surrounding the Ohio State campus area. Many Ohio State students choose to live in and enjoy in the University District, Columbus' most densely populated neighborhood.



LOCAL CULTURE

Gateway Film Center, Newport Music Hall, Wexner Center for the Arts and a plethora of restaurant options are available within close distance of the Ohio Union.



COMMUTE

Only a 5-minute walk from campus.



STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

Non-profit legal resource and representation for Ohio State students. Campus Commute: 4-minute walk.

SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT



studentlegal.osu.edu



STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

QUESTIONS?

call
or text



614.247.5853

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING



CRIMINAL & TRAFFIC DEFENSE



DEBT
CREDIT
NOTARY
CONSUMER
CONTRACTS
EMPLOYMENT
IMMIGRATION
IDENTITY THEFT
VICTIM ASSISTANCE
POWER OF ATTORNEY
& MUCH MORE



APPOINTMENTS

by phone
video or
in person



CONFIDENTIAL

SLS is not a University department. Our services are confidential and covered by attorney-client privilege.



follow us!



@ohiostatelawyers

Arena District



NEIGHBORHOOD

Named after Nationwide Arena this neighborhood has a lively sports culture, home to the Columbus Blue Jackets, Columbus Clippers and Columbus Crew with abundant nightlife and social hotspots in close proximity to downtown Columbus.



LOCAL CULTURE

Lively sports culture with various hockey and baseball-themed social scenes, nightlife and the North Market, Central Ohio's historic public market since 1876, with unique gifts, fresh prepared foods and regional produce.



COMMUTE

9-minute drive

17-minute commute by **Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA)** bus



LOCATION

The Arena District is located downtown and southwest of the Ohio State campus. It is easily accessible by COTA buses to and from campus.

Brewery District



NEIGHBORHOOD

Historic neighborhood featuring restored architecture with German and Italian styling. Located just south of downtown Columbus, this neighborhood has experienced development of local businesses in a renewed effort to foster community.



LOCAL CULTURE

Theater and arts, immersive wineries, local artist showcases and the expansive Scioto Audubon Metro Park with hiking, fishing and dog parks.



COMMUTE

12-minute drive

35-minute commute by **Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA)** bus



LOCATION

The Brewery District is located west of the Ohio State campus. It is easily accessible by COTA buses to and from campus.

Clintonville



NEIGHBORHOOD

Tight-knit neighborhood with a family friendly atmosphere and regular community events. Clintonville is located directly north of Ohio State's campus and is home to a wide variety of living options.



LOCAL CULTURE

Regular farmers' markets are organized with neighborhood vendors in this area which emphasizes local business through cozy restaurants and shops.



COMMUTE

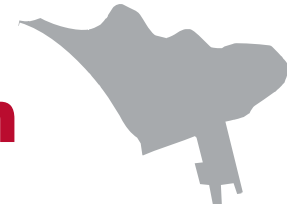
13-minute drive
20-minute by **Central Ohio Transit Authority** (COTA) bus



LOCATION

Clintonville is located just north of the Ohio State campus. Is is easily accessible by COTA buses to and from campus.

Franklinton



NEIGHBORHOOD

Strong sense of community with a focus on inclusive events, locally-owned establishments to dine and study and an increasingly pedestrian-friendly landscape featuring gorgeous displays of nature and arts.



LOCAL CULTURE

Located just south of downtown Columbus, Franklinton is a historic, resilient neighborhood known for its diverse, creative community and affordable living. The area boasts a range of attractions, including Makers Social, COSI, galleries, public art, and unique experiences for all ages and interests.



COMMUTE

9-minute drive
17-minute commute by **Central Ohio Transit Authority** (COTA) bus



LOCATION

Franklinton is located southwest of the Ohio State campus and is easily accessible by COTA buses to and from campus.

German Village



NEIGHBORHOOD

Comfortable neighborhood known for charming brick homes, German culture and architecture, and eccentric local businesses and galleries.



LOCAL CULTURE

Coffee shops, public parks, dining and entertainment venues in a walkable setting just south of downtown Columbus.



COMMUTE

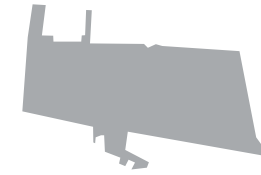
13-minute drive
33-minute by **Central Ohio Transit** Authority (COTA) bus



LOCATION

German Village is located south of downtown Columbus. It is easily accessible by COTA buses to and from campus.

Grandview



NEIGHBORHOOD

Suburb popular with families and young professionals, located southwest of Ohio State's campus near the Wexner Medical Center.



LOCAL CULTURE

Home to family-friendly community events, popular restaurants, boutiques and a walkable downtown area.



COMMUTE

11-minute drive
22-minute by **Central Ohio Transit** Authority (COTA) bus



LOCATION

Grandview is located west of the Ohio State campus. It is closest to the OSU Veterinary Medical Center and is easily accessible by COTA buses to and from campus.

King-Lincoln



NEIGHBORHOOD

A creative neighborhood with a variety of restaurants and entertainment, notable for its community efforts to preserve and celebrate African American history and culture.



LOCAL CULTURE

King Arts Complex, public libraries, parks and the beautifully restored King-Lincoln Theatre.



COMMUTE

10-minute drive
27-minute by **Central Ohio Transit** Authority (COTA) bus



LOCATION

King-Lincoln is located southeast of the Ohio State campus. It is easily accessible by COTA buses to and from campus.

Linden



NEIGHBORHOOD

Located northeast of The Ohio State University, Linden offers both mainstream and local options for entertainment and dining.



LOCAL CULTURE

Community recreation centers, public parks and a variety of residential options for Columbus community members.



COMMUTE

12-minute drive
27-minute by **Central Ohio Transit** Authority (COTA) bus



LOCATION

Linden is located north of campus and next to Clintonville. It is easily accessible by COTA buses to and from campus.

Olde Towne East



NEIGHBORHOOD

Historic neighborhood with Italian, Victorian and Queen Anne style homes southeast of downtown Columbus in proximity to Nationwide Children's Hospital.



LOCAL CULTURE

Home to Olde Towne East Art District, local taverns, community recreations centers and parks.



COMMUTE

10-minute drive
30-minute by **Central Ohio Transit** Authority (COTA) bus



LOCATION

Olde Towne East is located east of downtown Columbus. It is easily accessible by COTA buses to and from campus.

Short North



NEIGHBORHOOD

A popular neighborhood for upscale dining, shopping and art, frequented by young professionals and tourists alike, located just south of The Ohio State University.



LOCAL CULTURE

Home to many of Columbus' most popular restaurants, galleries, cafes and a lively nightlife.



COMMUTE

26-minute walk
7-minute drive
12-minute by **Central Ohio Transit** Authority (COTA) bus



LOCATION

Short North is located south of campus. Some areas are walking or biking distance from the Ohio State campus. The neighborhood is closest to the Moritz College of Law.

Victorian Village



NEIGHBORHOOD

Victorian-style neighborhood built with an appealingly urban and historic culture.



LOCAL CULTURE

The landmark Goodale and Thompson parks, local dining options and the Columbus Aquatic Center.



COMMUTE

28-minute walk
8-minute drive
10-minute by **Central Ohio Transit** Authority (COTA) bus



LOCATION

Victorian Village is located southeast of the Ohio State campus. Portions of Victorian Village are within walking and biking distance to campus. This area is south of the Wexner Medical Center.

Weinland Park



NEIGHBORHOOD

Modern neighborhood full of urban entertainment, local business and culture.



LOCAL CULTURE

Weinland Park, Schoenbaum Family Center, book shops and large amounts of dining options all within close proximity of campus.



COMMUTE

16-minute walk
3-minute drive
10-minute by **Central Ohio Transit** Authority (COTA) bus



LOCATION

Weinland Park is located southeast of the Ohio State campus. It is a short walk to the Moritz College of Law and the Ohio Union.



Safety Resources

Safety Resources

The OSU Department of Public Safety has many programs to keep you safe. The [Lyft Ride Smart program](#) offers discounted rides inside university-designated service area.

The [Rave Guardian app](#) uses GPS tracking to help keep you safe and informed.

You can also stop by 3106 Ohio Union year round to pick up free personal and home **safety devices!**



- Personal Safety Device: hook to your backpack or keys; when you pull, it makes a loud siren noise with a flashing light.
- Window and Door Alarms: adhere to the opening of your window or door; when armed, emit a loud noise if either were to open.
- For additional safety resources for students visit the [OSU Department of Public Safety](#) website.





Rental Timeline and Tips

Action Steps for Your Housing Search

As a graduate or professional student, not only are you taking an important step in your career, but you are also becoming a part of a new community. Creating a personal timeline and checklist of important tasks will support you as you choose the best home and neighborhood for you.

FEBRUARY – JULY

Congratulations! You have accepted the offer to attend The Ohio State University.



UTILIZE THE OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING NETWORK BY SEARCHING FOR OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING AT OFFCAMPUS.OSU.EDU.

- Create a list of your wants and needs in a home and neighborhood.
- Browse The Off-Campus Housing Network **Housing Search.**
- Search for potential roommates and attend an upcoming **Roommate Fair.**
- Ask current graduate students about their process – their neighborhood, their property company and their overall experience.
- Research Columbus neighborhoods to find a neighborhood that fits your needs.
- Prepare a list of questions to ask property companies when visiting properties.
- Schedule a **housing consultation** to receive 1:1 advising for your housing search.
- Contact property companies directly to schedule tour. If you are not in the area, ask property company for a virtual tour or video.
- Search the **sublet ads** if you need short term housing before your lease begins.

JULY – AUGUST

It's time to move into your new home. Consider taking the following steps to ensure a comfortable move:

- Protect your security deposit! Document the condition of the property and take pictures. Complete a **move-in/move-out checklist**. ←
- **Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.** ☹️
Contact your property companies to replace any expired batteries or detectors.
- Schedule a lease review with **Student Legal Services**.
- Set up your utilities (electric, gas, internet, etc.).
- Introduce yourself to your neighbors.

AFTER AUGUST

You're now a member of the Columbus community! Check out the rest of the guide to learn more about how you can have a safe, positive experience as a graduate or professional student at The Ohio State University.



OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING NETWORK

Ohio State is committed to helping students make informed decisions through The Ohio State Off-Campus Housing Network. The Ohio State Off-Campus Housing Network is a collaboration among The Ohio State University, Student Legal Services, property owners and a number of City of Columbus departments, including police, fire, Public Safety and Code Enforcement.

This program is designed to support an iconic residential experience in the off-campus area.

The Ohio State Off-Campus Housing Network establishes certain criteria for property companies. Those property companies that commit to meeting these criteria will be considered “in network.” In-network status is provided to property companies who commit to and uphold specific criteria and will be the only property companies featured in our online [Off-Campus Housing Network Housing Search](#). Students and families will have access to information about in-network property companies to help them make informed decisions about off-campus living options.



Columbus Living

Being a member of the Columbus community means being engaged with not only your Ohio State network, but also with your neighborhood. Below are a few ways:

CBUS 311

The **CBUS 311 App** provides access to city resources including ParkColumbus, service center submissions, trash and recycling notifications and much more.

PICKUP CBUS ↙

The **PickUp CBUS** app provides access to the city trash, recycling and yard waste schedule as well as information on what is recyclable and how to properly dispose of different types of trash.

COTA

All Ohio State students are eligible to ride COTA using their BuckID. Download the **Transit App** for real time bus tracking.

COLUMBUS NEIGHBORHOOD WALKING MAPS ↖

Check out the many **paved paths** within parks throughout Columbus. ☺

CITY PARKING ↘

The City of Columbus offers permit **parking zones** to prioritize neighborhood parking.

CITY OF COLUMBUS UTILITIES

Information on establishing new service, bill payment, as well as resources for how to read your bill, discounts, maintenance and safety can be found through the City of Columbus **Public Utilities** office. ↖



Tips for Renters

UNDERSTANDING YOUR LEASE AGREEMENT

The lease agreement is a legal contract between the tenant and the landlord. Completing a lease review with Student Legal Services will outline the rights and responsibilities of the tenant and landlord.

TRACKING DAMAGES

Your landlord collects a security deposit to pay for any unpaid rent or damages to the property during the lease term. To ensure that you are not charged for damages you did not cause, take photos and video of the property when you move in. Complete the move-in checklist provided by Student Legal Services. Communicate damages to your property company so they can repair them.

PAYING RENT

Property companies will typically require you to pay your rent and fees using a check or through online payment. You should not pay your property company in cash because there will not be a record of your payment. You must pay your rent on time and in full each month. Late payment can result in additional fees or even eviction from the property.



Tips for Renters

ROOMMATES

Communicating expectations with your roommate(s) at the beginning of your lease term can prevent misunderstandings in the future. Check out Student Legal Services' [Roommate Agreement Template](#).

BUDGETING

When budgeting, consider costs aside from rent, such as the security deposit, parking fees, utility costs and furniture. Make a free appointment with a financial coach at [Scarlet and Gray Financial](#).

RENTER'S CHOICE

Columbus City Code allows tenants the choice of how they will pay a security deposit through [Renter's Choice](#). Tenants who are required to pay a deposit may choose one of three ways of making that payment:

- Pay security deposit in full before entering a rental agreement;
- Pay security deposit over no fewer than three monthly installments; or
- Pay security deposit over no fewer than six monthly installments.

FURNISHED V. UNFURNISHED HOUSING

Unfurnished rentals typically only have kitchen appliances and no furniture, which means the tenants will need to supply everything they need to live comfortably. Furnished rentals can include many different things such as

- Furniture for all rooms
- Large appliances (laundry machines and kitchen appliances)
- Small appliances (toaster, microwave, coffee maker)
- Cookware and dinnerware
- Bed
- Bath and kitchen linens
- TVs
- Curtains/blinds
- Trash can(s)
- Rugs
- Desk

Ask your property company for a complete list of what is included with a furnished rental.



Partnered and Family Living

Childcare

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY CHILD CARE PROGRAM ←

Ohio State is dedicated to serving the youngest Buckeyes and their families. Child care is available for infants through kindergarten.

CHILD CARE ACCESS MEANS PARENTS IN SCHOOL (CCAMPIS) PROGRAM ←

CCAMPIS supports the participation of low-income parents in postsecondary education through the provision of quality licensed, nationally accredited campus or community childcare services for children six weeks to 12 years old.

CCAMPIS provides you with priority scheduling for childcare so you can balance classes and studying with being a full-time parent.

FRANKLIN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOBS AND FAMILY SERVICES (FCDJFS) CHILD CARE PROGRAM

FCDJFS offers a range of services and resources to support families which can cover the costs of childcare.



Parks and Pets

PARKS

Columbus Recreation and Parks offers access to over 400 beautiful parks, playgrounds and nature preserves!

PETS AND PET ADOPTION

The City of Columbus provides **resources** for adopting and **licensing** pets.

PET-FRIENDLY HOUSING

Some property companies choose to allow pets, but typically require a nonrefundable pet deposit and a monthly pet fee.

Some pet-friendly housing will have breed restrictions for certain dogs that will be stated in the lease agreement.

SERVICE AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS

For questions about living with service animals or emotional support animals in Columbus, check out the following resources:

- **Counseling and Consultation Service** ←
- **Disability Services**
- **Student Legal Services**
- **ADA Coordinator's Office** ✨



Transportation

CENTRAL OHIO TRANSIT AUTHORITY ←

COTA provides bus service through the Greater Columbus area seven days a week.

THE CAMPUS AREA BUS SERVICE (CABS) ←

Free transit service provided by The Ohio State University Transportation and Traffic Management.

COGO BIKE SHARE

600+ bikes are available across Columbus in this public transportation system featuring over 70 stations and 24-hour daily availability.

SCOOTERS

Electric scooters are available for use by pedestrians with mobile app support, providing dock-free mobility that can be found on The Ohio State University's campus or in downtown Columbus. Scooters should only be used on roadways and bikepaths. Riders should obey all traffic laws.

CAMPUSPARC

CampusParc operates The Ohio State University's parking system, including management of the permit system, parking enforcement, customer service, motorist assistance, event parking management and parking facility maintenance, including major renovations.

LYFT RIDE SMART

Lyft Ride Smart at Ohio State offers eligible students discounted rides, inside the university-designated service area.

CITY PARKING ←

Large portions of the Columbus city parking can be accessed and paid for using the ParkColumbus mobile app, available for free on all major platforms.



Graduate Student Bucket List

Get To Know Columbus

There is so much to do and explore in Columbus. Here's a bucket list of fun activities to do before you graduate:

- ☐ Attend an Ohio State athletics event. Go Buckeyes!
- ☐ Visit and eat at the North Market ←
- ☐ Complete the Columbus Coffee Trail
- ☐ Visit the Short North Arts District and explore local businesses
- ☐ Attend a festival at Bicentennial/Galbreath Park ↗
- ☐ Check out Scioto Mile on the riverfront
- ☐ Attend a film festival at Gateway Film Center ←
- ☐ See a concert at Schottenstein Center ↗
- ☐ Check out Columbus Sports: attend a Clippers, Crew or Blue Jackets game
- ☐ Visit Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens ←
- ☐ See a show at the Ohio Theatre
Check local listings for availability and hours.

- Be sure to stop by the D-Tix counter to pick up discounted tickets for concerts and other exciting events happening in Columbus! Visit their Twitter page @DTixOSU to keep an eye out for these opportunities.
- Add your own list items!





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UNIVERSITY**

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Off-Campus and Commuter
Student Engagement