Graduate and Professional Student Living Guide
Roadmap: Graduate and Professional Student Living Guide

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SECTION 1

Introduction
OFF-CAMPUS AND COMMUTER STUDENT SERVICES

Off-Campus and Commuter Student Services is a resource center for all things off-campus living and commuting at The Ohio State University. Whether you’re not sure where to start looking for housing, want a free home walk-through, or need free safety devices for your home, we are here to support you.

Our mission is to serve off-campus and commuter students by collaborating with stakeholders and providing opportunities to foster involvement, civic engagement and student success to enhance the extraordinary student experience.

Stop By Our Office:
Off-Campus and Commuter Student Services
3106 Ohio Union
1739 N. High Street
Columbus, OH 43210

Hours: Monday–Friday | 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Phone: 614-292-0100
Email: offcampus@osu.edu
Website: offcampus.osu.edu

Find us on social media!

Off-Campus and Commuter Student Services
offcampus_osu
offcampus_osu
OUR RESOURCES

The best place to start your rental search is right here at Off-Campus and Commuter Student Services!

HOUSING SEARCH
A tool to explore a wide variety of housing options

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING EXCELLENCE PROGRAM
A safety and sustainability program for off-campus housing

ROOMMATE AND SUBLET SEARCH
Ads to match compatible roommates

COMMUTER RESOURCES
Refrigerators, microwaves, cabinets and space to store belongings in the Ohio Union

USG RENTER'S GUIDE
Student feedback on area property managers
SECTION 2

Columbus Neighborhoods
Neighborhood Traits

The following icons represent traits of each neighborhood featured in this guide. Where you see these icons, please take note of the categories below. For even more information on the neighborhoods of Columbus, visit Experience Columbus.

University District

Neighborhood
Young, vibrant community which surrounds the Ohio State campus area. Many Ohio State students choose to live 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
**ARENA DISTRICT**

**NEIGHBORHOOD**
Lively sports culture, home to the Columbus Blue Jackets and Columbus Clippers 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 bus/COTA

**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 Audobon Metro Park with hiking, fishing, and dog parks.

**COMMUTE**
12-minute drive
35-minute commute by bus/COTA
STUDIO, ONE, TWO, AND THREE BEDROOM APARTMENTS

Five minutes from OSU, Wexner, and Nationwide, 2 swimming pools, 2 clubhouses, 2 fitness centers, 2 bark parks for your furry friends, basketball and volleyball courts.

2550 QUARRY LAKE DRIVE
COLUMBUS, OH 43204
QUARRYCOLUMBUS.COM
614-486-7600

LIVE. RELAX.
ENJOY.

STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

for Ohio State Students

off-campus housing
criminal misdemeanors
credit & debt issues
contract review
consumer transactions
contract drafting
immigration & naturalization
traffic offenses
victim assistance
name change
dissolutions
power of attorney
wills, notary
& much more

5614/hyphen.case486/hyphen.case76002550 QUARRY LAKE DRIVE
COLUMBUS, OH 43204

Live Your Best Life at OV!
1.1 Miles from OSU’s Campus
On COTA #2 Bus Line
FREE PARKING
Studios, 1, 2 and 3 Bedrooms

CALL NOW
(614) 261-0202

Stay in touch!

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OLENTANGY VILLAGE

Live Your Best Life at OV!
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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
Family-owned grocery markets; a monthly celebration of arts, science and community.

COMMUTE
9-minute drive
17-minute commute by bus/COTA

CLINTONVILLE

NEIGHBORHOOD
Tightknit 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 bus/COTA
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 bus/COTA

**THE QUARRY**
thequarryapts.com
2550 Quarry Lake Drive
Columbus, OH 43204

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 in the heart of downtown Columbus.

**COMMUTE**
13-minute drive
33-minute by bus/COTA
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-min by bus/COTA

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 bus/COTA
**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 bus/COTA

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**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 bus/COTA
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 bus/COTA

VILLAGE WEST APARTMENTS
villagewestaptsoh.com
884 Thurber Drive West
Columbus, OH 43215

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 bus/COTA
SECTION 3

Safety Resources
SAFETY RESOURCES

As you are researching your next apartment or home, we encourage students to check out the Community Crime Map to make an informed decision about the neighborhoods that make up Columbus.

Check out crime statistics at communitycrimemap.com.

Off-Campus & Commuter Student Services also has FREE safety devices available year round in our office for your home. Reserve yours here today!
SECTION 3

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. You have the next few months to research your housing options.

- Create a list of your wants and needs in a home and neighborhood
- Browse Ohio State’s housing search
- Search for potential roommates from other graduate and professional programs
- Ask current graduate students about their process – their neighborhood, their property managers, and their overall experience
- Research Columbus neighborhoods to find a neighborhood that fits your needs
- Prepare a list of questions to ask property managers when visiting properties
- Contact property managers directly to set up visits. If you are not in the area, you may ask a current student to visit on your behalf.
- Finalize your lease agreement
ACTION STEPS FOR YOUR HOUSING SEARCH
(CONTINUED)

July – August: It’s time to move into your new home. Consider taking the following steps to ensure a comfortable move.

- Take detailed photos of the unit before you move in any items and send them to your property manager. You can refer to them at the end of your lease to compare charges in the security deposit.
- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Contact your property manager to replace any expired batteries or detectors.
- Schedule a lease review with Student Legal Services
- If you live in the University District, schedule a home walk-through
- Set up your utilities accounts
- 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.
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:

MyColumbus App
The MyColumbus App provides access to city resources, including COTA bus schedules, service center submissions, trash and recycling notifications, and much more.

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
The City of Columbus offers maps to help you identify where to walk in your neighborhood.

City Parking
The City of Columbus offers permit parking zones to prioritize neighborhood parking.
**TIPS FOR FIRST TIME RENTERS**

**Understanding your Lease Agreement**
The lease agreement will explain the details of your specific relationship with your property manager. Completing a lease review with Student Legal Services will outline the rights and responsibilities of a tenant and property manager.

**Tracking Damages**
The security deposit serves as your property manager’s way to pay for any damages of the property at the end of the lease term. In order to ensure that you are charged only for damages that you create, take photos of any damages that exist when you arrive to the property. Communicate those damages at the beginning of your lease term so that your property manager can resolve them.

**Paying Rent**
Property management companies will typically require you to pay your rent and fees using a check or through online payment. You should not pay your property manager in cash because there will not be appropriate record of your payment.

Property managers expect you to pay rent by the agreed upon date. Late payment will often result in additional fees or even eviction.

**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.
SECTION 4

Partnered and Family Living
CHILDCARE

The Ohio State University Child Care Program
Infants through kindergarteners

Two Locations:
• Ackerman Road (725 Ackerman Rd.)
• Buckeye Village (2724 Defiance Dr.)

Office of Diversity and Inclusion Student Parent Resources
The Office of Diversity and Inclusion provides a number of resources to ensure that students who are parents have access to an Ohio State education.

The 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 6 weeks to 12 years old.

• Provides you with priority scheduling so you can schedule classes at the times needed allowing you to take care of classes and studying during the day so you can be a full-time parent when you go home.
PARKS AND PETS

Parks
- Whetstone Park of Roses
- Scioto Audubon Metro Park
- Goodale Park
- And more!

Pets and Pet Adoption
City of Columbus provides resources for adopting and licensing pets.

Pet-Friendly Housing
Some property managers choose to allow pets, but typically require a non-refundable 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 Services
- Disability Services
- Student Legal Services
TRANSPORTATION

BUSES
Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA)
Provides bus service through the Greater Columbus area every 15 minutes, all-day, 7 days a week.

CBUS
Restaurants and shops in the hottest Columbus neighborhoods are accessible via CBUS, COTA’s free circulating service.

AIRCONNECT
John Glenn Columbus airport is easily reached by AIRCONNECT’s downtown connector, circulating every 30 minutes.

The Campus Area Bus Service (CABS)
Free transit service provided by The Ohio State University Transportation and Traffic Management.

BIKES AND SCOOTERS
COGO Bike Share
600+ bikes available 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.

CARS
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, from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m.

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.
SECTION 5

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 Experience and get a free t-shirt or mug
- Visit the Short North Arts District and explore local businesses
- Attend a festival at Bicentennial 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 Theater

Check local listings for availability and hours.

Add Your Own List Items!

☐ ____________________________
☐ ____________________________
☐ ____________________________
Student Life Off-Campus and Commuter Student Services
3106 Ohio Union
1739 N. High Street
Columbus, OH 43210

Hours: Monday–Friday | 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Phone: 614-292-0100
Email: offcampus@osu.edu
Website: offcampus.osu.edu