

Workshops for Students Planning to Move Off-Campus

Workshop Title: *The 6 "R's" to being a Successful Renter*:

- 1 Roommates
- 2 Researching
- 3 Reviewing your options
- 4 Renting the Place
- 5 Relocating your stuff
- 6 Realities of being a renter

1) Roommates

- Who will you live with? How do you determine if someone is compatible with you and would make a good roommate? List of Questions to ask a potential roommate.
- How many people do you want in your group?
- Budgeting issues for the group members.
- Pets?
- What will be the basic rules of your rental unit? Friends, social gatherings, study hours, cleaning, etc. Sample Roommate Rental Agreements.

2) Research

- When should you start looking?
- Where to look
- What features are very important for the rental unit to have? Then what features would it be nice to have?
- Document information – Use a chart to keep track of information about places that interest you.
- What is the application process?
- Gather your personal information before you start – have names, phone numbers of past rentals, jobs, other references, and have your important numbers with you, which might be Drivers License, Social Security number, Student ID number, car license, bank account number.

3) Review

- Review your chart and make appointments to see the places that most interest you.
- Fill in your chart with additional information as you are looking at the unit. Write down its best features. Take pictures to remind you later.
 - ✓ Does it meet your needs?
 - ✓ Does it fit into the budget?
 - ✓ Will things be upgraded at the changeover, or will it be in the same condition as you see it during the viewing?
 - ✓ Take a bus schedule around with you to check on bus availability.
 - ✓ Make sure all roommates see the place before choosing it as the one. And make sure all roommates are happy with the bedroom choices.

4) Renting the Place – the process of leasing

- Read the entire lease and all attachments; ask questions.
 - ✓ Don't sign the lease if things seem wrong or you don't understand something.
 - ✓ Is the lease one lease for all roommates (Joint and Several Liability), or is each roommate signing a separate lease?
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