



# OFF-CAMPUS LIVING

Living away from home can be exciting, but the choices can be overwhelming, especially in an urban environment like Indianapolis. If off-campus living is in your plans, the Office of Student Advocacy and Support can provide some helpful tips.

LIFE SKILL No. 5

## DEPENDABILITY



**IUPUI** OFFICE OF STUDENT ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT  
Division of Student Affairs

# Tips for Off-Campus Living

From selecting an apartment to developing a roommate contract to understanding the terms of your lease, there is a lot to consider when living off campus. The Office of Student Advocacy and Support encourages you to consider the following when selecting an off-campus property:

## 1. Budget

- How much can you afford to pay in rent and utilities each month?
- Are you willing and able to spend more money for certain amenities?

## 2. Location

- Can you afford to live downtown? If not, in what areas are you willing to live?
- What are your transportation options and expenses based on your location?

## 3. Safety and Security

- What features, such as security cameras, locked building entry, on-site security guard, fenced property, and emergency lights, are important to you?
- Check out [indy.safetown.org](http://indy.safetown.org) for crime information in Indianapolis.

## 4. Amenities

- What appliances are available, and how modern are they? Where are the laundry facilities?
- What are your must-have amenities, such as pet restrictions, and on-site fitness facilities?

## 5. Transportation

- Will you need a car? Where will you park it on and off campus?
- If you plan to walk or bike, what is the path to and from campus?
- Where is the nearest IndyGo bus stop, and how frequently does the bus run?

## 6. Roommates

- If you are planning to have a roommate, what are their sleeping, studying, and socializing habits? How do they match yours?
- If you need help finding a roommate, check out IU Classifieds at [One.iu.edu](http://One.iu.edu).

## 7. Fees

- In addition to monthly rent, what fees such as a security deposit, application and administrative fees, and prorated rent expenses does the property assess?

## 8. Lease Terms

- Is a 12-month lease required, or does the property offer shorter-term leases?
- Can you sublease your apartment during months you will not be living there?
- What are your options if you need to break your lease?

The Office of Student Advocacy and Support offers many resources to help you navigate off-campus living. Visit [offcampushousing.iupui.edu](http://offcampushousing.iupui.edu) or Campus Center 270 for sample budget sheets, damage checklists, sublease and roommate agreements, landlord-tenant information sheets, and more information to make your off-campus or commuter experience great.