

04.01.02 OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

How will I get from my apartment to the LCC?

You can buy a car, ride with a friend, or take a bus. Be sure to see if there is a bus stop near your apartment before you rent it.

What is a deposit and why must I make one?

A deposit is money that you must pay before you can rent an apartment. You will get the money back when you move out if you do these three things:

- Pay your rent on time every month.
- Keep the apartment clean and do not break anything.
- Tell the apartment manager when you will move out. (Your lease will show how many weeks notice you must give before moving out.)

What is a lease and why must I sign it?

A lease is a legal document. It gives information about the apartment, the rent, and how long you promise to stay. Read the lease carefully before signing it. You cannot move into an apartment until you have signed the lease.

Be sure you understand the LEASE before you sign it.

What should I do before I move in?

- Look at everything in the apartment.
- Make a written list of anything that is damaged or broken.
- Give a copy of this list to the landlord or manager and keep a copy for yourself.

The list will show that you are not responsible for any damage that was already there.

How much do apartments cost?

An unfurnished one-bedroom apartment may cost between \$700 - \$900 per month while a two bedroom apartment may cost \$800 - \$1200 per month. Costs can vary based on the area of Houston you are in. Don't forget to consider other costs like:

- Deposit (You pay this amount one time. You will get the money back when you move out, if there are no damages and you do not break the lease.)

- Utilities (electricity, gas, telephone, water, trash) = \$100 - 200 per month. Sometimes utilities are included in the rent. Always ask about this.

You can save money if you share an apartment with a roommate.

Where can I get furniture for my apartment?

Rent it. This is a good idea if you are going to stay in the USA for a short time.

Buy it.

- **New** Houston has many furniture stores from cheap to expensive.
- **Used**
 - garage sales
 - resale shops
 - newspaper ads
 - students at the LCC or the university