Contents

1. Introduction to Living Off-Campus

03 Welcome to Life Off-Campus
04 Meet the Team
05 Off-Campus Student Council
07 Your UAB Experience
09 Off-Campus Student Lounge
10 Important Events

2. Finding Off-Campus Housing

12 Off-Campus Housing Website
13 Budgeting for Living Off-Campus
14 How to Inspect a Property
15 Understanding Your Lease

3. Living Off-Campus

17 Moving In
18 Your Rights and Responsibilities
19 Moving Out
20 Commuting Information

4. Safety Resources

22 Emergency Information
23 Home Safety
24 Personal Safety Tips
25 Resources
Introduction to Off-Campus Living
Welcome to Life Off-Campus!

This Off-Campus Student Guide outlines the steps and resources to help you have an extraordinary off-campus living experience.

MISSION
The mission of Off-Campus Student Services is to foster student learning and development through programming and initiatives designed to serve and retain off-campus students.

Even if you can’t be close to campus, schedule times to be on campus and be involved in whatever you can to stay connected to the school and other students.

Evelyn Warren
Healthcare Management
Off-Campus Student Council

Connect

@uaboffcampus
UAB Off-Campus Student Services

Contact

Off-Campus Student Services
1400 University Blvd.
Hill Student Center, Ste. 140
Birmingham, AL 35294

Phone: (205) 996-1580
Website: uab.edu/students/offcampus
Email: offcampus@uab.edu
Meet the Team

Dori Weldon
Assistant Director
Off-Campus Student Services
dweldon1@uab.edu
(205) 996-1580

Ghada Abouhaidar
Pathfinder
Student Worker
gabou@uab.edu

Our Office
Hill Student Center
Suite 140
(205) 996-1580
offcampus@uab.edu

“Stay connected to campus using the Off-Campus Student Services and all other available resources. Make sure to have fun while on campus and try to make the best out of your UAB experience. We are always here to help!”
The Off-Campus Student Council consists of 15 off-campus students who plan events, develop programming, and establish community partnerships to serve the off-campus student population at UAB.

Abby Thompson  
Business Management  
Public Health Minor  
Class of 2020  
30-45-minute commute

Cassie LeSueur  
Biomedical Sciences  
Class of 2020  
60-minute commute

Dalton Scott  
Nursing  
Class of 2020  
15-minute commute

Evelyn Warren  
Healthcare Management  
Class of 2020  
12-minute commute

Faith Turner  
Biomedical Sciences  
Class of 2019  
15-minute commute

Evelyn Warren  
Communications  
Class of 2020  
15-minute commute

Kaitlyn Farley  
Early Childhood and Elementary Education  
Class of 2020  
15-minute commute

Kaitlyn Willis  
Kinesiology  
Class of 2021  
15-minute commute

Look for helpful commuter tips from our Council throughout this guide!
Applications for the Off-Campus Student Council are available on Engage each spring semester.
Your UAB Experience

UAB’s involvement platform, Engage, is your way to connect to campus. Engage offers a search engine for events, organizations, and news articles tailored to your interests. By participating in events and organizations through Engage, you can create an involvement resume that demonstrates your engagement at UAB outside of the classroom. Log into Engage with your BlazerID and password to start building your involvement resume.

uab.edu/uabengage

“Force yourself out of your comfort zone and get involved. Take the initiative to join different clubs to make UAB your home away from home.”

Wynter Burlock
Biology
Off-Campus Student Council

UAB has over 250 Registered Student Organizations within the office of Student Involvement and Leadership, so you are likely to find one that fits your interests! Once you find an organization you would like to join, you can click "Join" or "Contact", on the organization's page in Engage. Some organizations have a formal recruitment, interview, or election process, so contacting them to show interest is a great first step in gaining membership.

Starting a new organization is also an option! Engage will provide you with a step-by-step video explanation on how to create your own Registered Student Organization.

“UAB has so many clubs and organizations to fit every type of person. Don't let your commute get in the way of your college experience!”

Kaitlyn Farley
Early Childhood and Elementary Education
Off-Campus Student Council
Cultivating your student experience begins with engagement outside of the classroom, and joining organizations is not the only way to get involved. Utilizing the “Events” tab on Engage is an easy way to narrow down events that interest you. You can indicate your preferred dates, themes, categories and perks! This feature also allows you to choose cultural, social, educational, entertainment-based and team building events.

Engage can lead you to events such as:

- Volunteering Opportunities, like Into the Streets!
- UAB Sporting Events
- Involvement and Career Fairs
- Lecture Series
- Theatre Performances
- Resume Building Workshops
- Multicultural and Diversity-based Events

The Pathfinders are a diverse group of student leaders that can help you find the resources and organizations that best suit your interests. Pathfinders offer peer-to-peer advising by appointment via the Engage form “Pathfinder Meeting Request” as well as walk-in visits in the Off-Campus Student Lounge. Meeting with a Pathfinder is a great way to find engagement opportunities at UAB!
The Off-Campus Student Lounge is designed for off-campus students to use for attending events and workshops, studying, eating meals, and lounging in between classes. Come visit us in the Hill Student Center, Suite 140!

“Utilize time well. Breaks between classes are the perfect time to study and review lecture material.”

“Find your place on campus; the more you stay on campus and focus on studies, the more likely you are to excel in the classroom.”
Important Events

Off-Campus Student Week
Join us every spring and fall for a week of exploring engagement opportunities and celebrating off-campus students.

Wake Up Wednesday
Join us every Wednesday morning at 8:30 A.M. during the fall and spring semesters for free coffee and doughnuts in the lounge!

PRO TIP
The lounge is open later during the fall and spring semesters. Check our social media for updates on evening events including workshops and guest presenters from various departments around campus.

Housing Fair
Every spring, come learn about different housing options and network with local apartments at our Off-Campus Housing Fair.

"Make friends with people who live on-campus. They help you stay motivated and connected with opportunities available to you on-campus."
Finding Off-Campus Housing
Off-Campus Housing Website

This website holds an online search with various rental listings, along with roommate profiles. It can be used to explore and compare apartments by zip code, budget, size, and amenities.

offcampushousing.uab.edu

You can also search for roommates based on budget, interests, and preferences! To get started, create your active profile. After this, you can search potential roommates' profiles.

Visit uab.edu/students/offcampus for a full video tutorial on how to navigate the off-campus housing site.

Roommate Tips

Don’t forget to ask these questions:
- Who will be paying for various utilities?
- Have you discussed habits and preferences?
- Are you confident that they are financially responsible?

Create a clear roommate agreement. A sample roommate agreement can be found at uab.edu/students/offcampus.

If you are experiencing roommate conflict and need assistance, contact offcampus@uab.edu, and we will put you in touch with appropriate resources.

The listing of rental units on this site is a service to local rental property owners and University of Alabama at Birmingham students, faculty, and staff. Rental property owners are responsible for reporting information fairly and accurately, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Off Campus Partners cannot guarantee the completeness or accuracy of such information. Notwithstanding any language to the contrary, nothing contained herein constitutes, nor is intended to constitute, an offer, inducement, promise, or contract of any kind. The data contained herein are for informational purposes only and are not represented to be error free. Any links to non-UAB information are provided as a courtesy. They are not intended to constitute, nor do they constitute, an endorsement of the linked materials by the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The University of Alabama at Birmingham and Off Campus Partners expressly disclaim any and all responsibility for any problems that may arise with regard to such property or rental units or with regard to disputes between landlords and tenants concerning such property or rental units. All prospective tenants are encouraged to exercise their own good judgment when evaluating a prospective rental unit or landlord.
Budgeting for Living Off Campus

A necessary first step in finding your perfect off-campus housing situation is determining your budget.

**Budget**

**Income:**
- Monthly Income (paycheck, allowance, stipend, scholarships, gifts, etc.) $_________

**Expenses:**

**One-Time Expenses**
- School (tuition, fees, parking permit, books) $_________
- Housing (security deposit, move-in fees, utility installation, furnishings, etc.) $_________

**Monthly Expenses**
- Housing (rent, utilities, internet, etc.) $_________
- Insurance $_________
- Transportation (gas, vehicle maintenance, etc.) $_________
- Household (food, toiletries, laundry, other) $_________
- Recreation (eating out, entertainment, trips) $_________
- Financial Commitments (credit card payments, car payments, gifts) $_________

**Total Income-Total Expenses:** $_________

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“Pack a quick kit in your car that consists of snacks, waters, and extra necessities so that you don’t have to buy more than you have to on campus.”

Students can contact the Regions Institute for Financial Education for free, confidential financial counseling and financial education workshops. They are located on the first floor of the new Collat School of Business and can be reached via email at rife@uab.edu or by visiting www.uab.edu/rife.

Kaitlyn Willis
Kinesiology
Off-Campus Student Council
How to Inspect a Property

Before signing a lease, thoroughly inspect the entire property. Below is a checklist to guide your inspection.

**Step 1:**
Turn on all faucets/showerheads to make sure the hot/cold water works, and that there are no worrisome drips.

**Step 2:**
Check for smoke detectors! There should be at least one per floor, especially near or in the bedroom.

**Step 3:**
Check the thermostat to make sure the heat and air conditioning work correctly.

**Step 4:**
Make sure there is adequate outdoor lighting for your safety.

**Step 5:**
Make sure windows are not painted shut, and make sure bedroom windows are large enough to crawl through in case of emergency.

**Step 6:**
Check walls and floors for moisture damage or mold.

**Step 7:**
Make sure exterior doors have functioning locks.

**Step 8:**
Check all appliances to make sure they work.

**Step 9:**
Speak to the current tenants to see what type of issues they encountered.

**PRO TIP**
If you notice any issues, discuss each item with the landlord or property manager. If they agree to fix these items, be sure to put it in writing in the lease. You can also ask for a sample lease to examine prior to signing.
Understanding Your Lease

Although not all landlords have the same policies, renting requirements in the Birmingham area are typically consistent.

- Be aware that an application fee may be applicable. This tends to range from $30-$75 per person.
- Be aware that your landlord will most likely check your credit report.
- Confirm the length of your lease. Apartments that offer short-term leases can be found on our off-campus housing website.
- It is not uncommon for landlords to require a co-signer.
- Make sure all of the tenants and co-signers sign the lease at the same time.
- Keep a personal copy of the signed lease.

For more information on understanding your lease, a copy of the Alabama Tenants' Handbook can be found at www.uab.edu/students/offcampus.

Definitions

**Co-signer (n.)**
A person who signs an official document (such as a loan, contract, or law) with another person.

**Security Deposit (n.)**
A required, yet refundable, payment to a landlord in order to ensure that the rental property is not damaged and that all rent is paid during the lease term. A security deposit is typically equivalent to one month's rent.

**Sublet (n.)**
A vacant apartment or house where a renter has already signed a lease and is now renting to another individual.

**Lease (n.)**
A legally binding contract by which one party (typically the landlord) provides property to another (typically the tenant) for a specified term, in return for a periodic payment (usually monthly).
Living Off Campus
Moving In

Schedule

Schedule a date to meet with your landlord prior to move-in. This is the perfect time to have a final walk-through of the property and pick up your keys.

Plan for Move-In Day

Arrange move-in day plans. This could be reserving a moving truck or enlisting friends and family to help you move boxes. Maybe even establish a system to help you keep up with your packing (like labeling boxes with a description of the items inside).

Plan for Parking

Buy parking permit(s). Check with your landlord about on-site parking passes. Many larger apartment complexes require passes to access resident lots and decks. If you plan to park in UAB’s on-campus commuter lots or decks, you will need to purchase a parking permit at uab.edu/transportation.

Set Up Utilities

Set up utilities. This step helps ensure that your home will have running water, heat and air conditioning, internet, and other necessities before your first night.

Buy Insurance

Buy renters insurance. While this is a step that many college students skip, it is definitely a must-have before move-in day. It is typically very inexpensive with the benefits outweighing the cost.

“Always get to campus at least 15 minutes earlier on Tuesdays and Thursdays since it’s harder to find parking, and try to get involved around campus to stay connected.”

Saif Alam
Computer Science
Off-Campus Student Council
Your Rights and Responsibilities

A copy of the Alabama Tenants’ Handbook can be found at uab.edu/students/offcampus. Here are some of your rights and responsibilities from the handbook:

Landlord Obligations:
- Comply with all applicable building, housing, and health and safety codes
- Provide 2 days' notice prior to entering the unit (unless there is an emergency)
- Allow tenant to file complaints about unsafe living conditions, without retaliation
- Keep common areas safe and clean
- Make repairs to keep your place safe and livable
- Cannot enforce new rules that affect the current term of your lease

Tenant Obligations:
- Pay rent on time, with late fee applicable
- Dispose of garbage correctly
- Tell your landlord if you plan to be gone for 2 weeks or longer
- Do not disturb your neighbors
- Be respectful of the landlord’s property
- Be aware that unlawful actions of your guests can reflect on you to your landlord

Protecting your security deposit...
- Take pictures and videos of the entire property prior to moving in furniture
- Document everything from floor to ceiling
- Make a list of all repairs in writing and keep a copy for your records

Your security deposit is refundable within 35 days of the end of your lease, as long as:
- You are up-to-date on rent
- The property is returned in the same condition as it was received
- You have provided a forwarding address
Moving Out

Make sure you don't forget to do these important things before moving out:

- Re-read your lease. Check for the deadline of when you need to notify your landlord, in writing, of your intent to renew the lease or move out. You must provide your forwarding address to your landlord for the security deposit to be returned.

- Make sure you pay last month's rent. You cannot substitute last month's rent with the already-paid security deposit.

- Clean thoroughly: remove nails, tacks and tape, clean out appliances, and replace burned out light bulbs.

- Document the condition of the property. Once your move out process has been completed, take pictures and videos of all the areas. This is also a good time to schedule a walk through with your landlord.

- Arrange garbage or donation pick-up for large items. Local thrift stores offer free donation pick-up for large items.

- Cancel or transfer your utility accounts. Call your utility providers directly to schedule a day to discontinue your services. Remember that your account must be paid in full before you can cancel.

“Always keep a rain jacket and phone charger in your car to avoid getting soaked and driving home without your favorite playlist.”

Dalton Scott
Nursing
Off-Campus Student Council
If you plan to park a car on campus, UAB requires the purchase of a Lot 15 or a zone parking pass. A Lot 15 pass gives you access to various commuter lots and a zone parking pass gives you access to specific on-campus zone parking. Visit uab.edu/transportation for a detailed list of parking options and to purchase permits. Your parking pass comes with a detailed parking map.

Taking the Blazer Express from various lots can also be a quick and easy way to find parking. Download the Transloc app to track the Blazer Express in real time.

Students receive a free helmet and U-lock with bike registration, available for pickup at the UAB Transportation office. Registration can be completed online (permit stickers will be mailed), in person at UAB Transportation, or at one of the many tabling events throughout the year. While UAB doesn’t have a bike permitting requirement, registration is easy and free! Registering and personalizing your bike also connects you as the owner of your bike, which is important in case of theft or if your bike is deemed abandoned.

CommuteSmart: Did you know you can get paid for carpooling, walking, or biking to campus? Read more about getting paid for sustainable commuting options through CommuteSmart at uab.edu/sustainability.

For more information about commuting to campus, contact UAB Transportation at (205) 934-3513.
Safety Resources
Emergency Information

In any situation, it is important to assess before you react. These tips and numbers can help, but always call 911 in an emergency.

When to call 911:
- In case of fire
- When in immediate danger
- When the transport of someone could cause their health to rapidly decline
- Unconsciousness or major injury

When to not call 911:
- Minor injuries or ailments
- Noise complaints or minor disagreements
- To ask a question of the police or fire department
- A power outage

If you do call 911 or an emergency number, be prepared to answer the following questions:
- What is your location?
- What is the problem or incident?
- What is the state of the victim?
- If you are calling on a cellphone, be prepared to give your phone number as a call-back number.

UAB Police (Emergency) (205) 934-3535 or 911
UAB Police (Non-Emergency) (205) 934-4434
UAB Student Health and Wellness (205) 934-3580
UAB Student Outreach (205) 975-9509
Birmingham Police (Non-Emergency) (205) 328-9311
Birmingham Fire (Non-Emergency) (205) 250-7540
Crisis Line Text START to 741-741
 Call: 1-800-273-8255

Additional information can be found at http://www.uab.edu/safety.
Home Safety

Leaving for a Break

- Keep your heat at 65° F or above to prevent your pipes from freezing during cold months.
- Contact the post office to hold/forward your mail.
- Lock your doors and windows.
- Secure your valuables, including TVs.
- Unplug electrical extensions, including small kitchen appliances, like toasters.
- Ask a friend or neighbor to keep an eye on your home.
- Wait until after you return from vacation to post photos to social media. You don’t want people to know your home is vacant.

"Always be prepared. I have all my class materials with me in my car at all times, as well as a change of clothes and a spare set of makeup to use. No matter what happens – you’re always prepared for anything!"

Abby Thompson
Business Management
Off-Campus Student Council

Fire Safety

- If fire breaks out, get out and stay out-Call 911!
- Maintain at least one smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector on each floor of your home. Test them once a month!
- Always pre-plan at least 2 ways out of a room.
- Keep items at least three feet from heat sources.
- Don’t grill on a porch or within 20 feet of a building.
- Keep a working fire extinguisher near your kitchen and know how to use it.
- Do not overload electrical outlets.
Personal Safety Tips

- Do not open your doors to strangers—if you have scheduled a utility company appointment, ask to see ID badges before entry.
- Always keep doors and windows locked, even when you are home.
- UAB also has both the CARE team and the Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Team. If you think someone you know is in need of help, you do not have to handle it alone. Visit uab.edu/students/outreach for more information.

UAB offers That Don't Fly bystander intervention training on campus. This training is one of the most effective strategies to prevent interpersonal violence on campus. They are designed to empower participants to safely intervene in risky situations and say that interpersonal violence doesn't fly here at UAB!

- Walk in well-lit areas, avoid alleys, and travel in groups.
- Locate the green HELP call boxes on your route.
- Never leave valuables in your car.
- Register for B-Alert to stay updated on emergencies that affect campus at uab.edu/balert.
- Utilize UAB’s Safety Escort Services; request a safe ride by calling (205) 934-8772.
- Utilize the Rave Guardian Campus Safety app. This free app is used to indicate your location, your destination, and your estimated arrival time to your personally selected safety network as well as UAB Police in case of emergency.
Student Affairs Resources

Campus Dining
(205) 996-6565
uabdining@uab.edu
uab.edu/students/dining

Campus Recreation
(205) 934-8224
recreation@uab.edu
uab.edu/campusrecreation

Career Center
(205) 934-4324
HSC 307
careerservices@uab.edu
uab.edu/students/cpd

Disability Support Services
(205) 934-4205 (voice)
(205) 934-4248 (TDD)
HSC 409
dss@uab.edu
uab.edu/students/disability

Fraternity and Sorority Life
(205) 934-8020
HSC 230
greeks@uab.edu
uab.edu/students/involvement

Hill Student Center
(205) 934-8000
hsc@uab.edu
uab.edu/students/studentcenter

Marketing & Communications
(205) 934-8377
HSC 407
samarmarketing@uab.edu
uab.edu/studentaffairs/marketing

Off-Campus Student Services
(205) 996-1580
HSC 140
offcampus@uab.edu
uab.edu/students/offcampus

Parent & Family Services
(205) 975-0684
HSC 140
families@uab.edu
uab.edu/studentaffairs/families

Student Conduct
(205) 996-1512
HSC 303
studentconduct@uab.edu
uab.edu/students/conduct

Student Counseling Services
(205) 934-5816
counseling@uab.edu
uab.edu/students/counseling

Student Health Services
(205) 934-3580
studenthealth@uab.edu
uab.edu/students/health

Student Housing & Residence Life
(205) 996-0400
studenthousing@uab.edu
uab.edu/students/housing

Student Involvement and Leadership
(205) 934-8020
HSC 230
getinvolved@uab.edu
uab.edu/students/involvement

Student Media
(205) 934-3354
HSC 130
info@insideuab.com
uab.edu/studentmedia

Student Multicultural & Diversity Programs
(205) 975-8673
HSC 311
diversity@uab.edu
uab.edu/students/diversity

Student Outreach
(205) 975-9509
HSC 303
studentoutreach@uab.edu
uab.edu/students/outreach

Title IX
(205) 996-1340
HSC 405
titleix@uab.edu
uab.edu/titleix

Veterans Services
(205) 934-8804
HSC 313
veteransaffairs@uab.edu
uab.edu/students/veterans

Wellness Promotion
(205) 996-0834
wellnesspro@uab.edu
uab.edu/students/wellness
Additional Resources

**Academic Advising**
uabadvising@uab.edu  
uab.edu/advising

**Birmingham Police and Fire Rescue**
Emergency: 911  
Non-Emergency: (205) 328-9311  
Fire Prevention: (205) 250-7540  
police.birminghamal.gov

**One Stop Student Services**
(205) 934-4300  
HSC 103  
onestop@uab.edu  
uab.edu/students/onestop

**UAB Libraries**
(205) 975-4821 (Lister Hill)  
(205) 934-6364 (Mervyn Sterne)  
library.uab.edu

**UAB Police**
Emergency Line: (205) 934-3535  
Non-emergency: (205) 934-4434  
1117 14th Street South  
uab.edu/police

**UAB Transportation**
(205) 934-3513 (Main Office)  
(205) 934-8772 (Safety Escort)  
uab.edu/transportation

**Vulcan Materials Academic Success Center (VMASC)**
(205) 934-8184  
Education Building 240  
VMASC@uab.edu  
uab.edu/students/academics/student-success

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**B-Alert**

Registering for B-Alert will make sure you get a text, call, and/or email during emergencies—including severe weather. B-Alert or the severe weather hotline can help you avoid getting to campus and realizing everything is closed.

Register for B-Alert at uab.edu/balert  
UAB Severe Weather & Emergency Hotline: (205) 934-2165
20 Midtown is Birmingham’s newest urban living experience! Enjoy Starbucks, Chipotle and Publix as your neighbors. Our community offers you spacious studios, one, two, and three-bedroom apartments in an unbeatable location.

20 Midtown is conveniently located a short walk to UAB and downtown's top attractions. Each of our luxury apartment homes offers a spacious living area, balcony, and the latest security features. Contact us to schedule a tour to see why 20 Midtown should be your home in the Magic City!

304 20th St S, Birmingham, AL | (205)552-3600 | 20midtown.com
We have 1, 2, & 3-bedroom apartments as well as 1 & 2-bedroom townhomes. Our properties are located minutes from campus in Homewood, Riverchase, and Inverness. Student Discounts are available with your current UAB ID!

LIFE...THE WAY IT WAS MEANT TO BE!
IT'S ALL HERE. IT'S ALL YOURS.

- All amenity spaces conveniently located within one building
- Luxury resort saltwater pool
- Two outdoor kitchens for gourmet entertaining poolside
- Fire pit & outdoor televisions
- State-of-the-art fitness center with on-demand video access
- Bike storage & maintenance shop
- Conditioned storage available & rentable office space
- Complimentary latte lounge
- Dog park & pet spa with deluxe grooming stations
- AT&T U-verse high speed internet & Wi-Fi in all community areas
- Package delivery & storage system
- Access controlled garage
- Tree-lined streets, lush courtyards, & generous balconies
- Guest apartment available for nightly rentals

FLOORPLANS PERFECT FOR ROOMMATES

FOREST PARK
2 bed | 2 bath
1,086 sq ft

SUMMIT
3 bed | 2 bath
1,410-1,459 sq ft
HILTON GARDEN INN / HOME2 SUITES DOWNTOWN

ASK US TODAY ABOUT EXTENDED STAY RATES FOR UAB STUDENTS!

WE HAVE SO MUCH TO OFFER OUR RESIDENTS!

- RESTAURANT OPEN FOR BREAKFAST AND DINNER
- FULL KITCHENETTE with DISHWASHER AT HOME2 SUITES
- LAUNDRY FACILITY
- BUSINESS CENTER
- OUTDOOR POOL
- FITNESS CENTER
- 24 HOUR STAFF
- QUEEN-SIZED SOFABEDS

THERE’S SO MUCH TO DO NEARBY!

- WALK TO RAILROAD PARK OR REGIONS FIELD!
- ENJOY MANY RESTAURANTS IN WALKING DISTANCE
- RENT A ZYP BIKE OR ENJOY SAFE WALKING TRAILS
- MULTIPLE OPTIONS FOR NIGHTLIFE / FUN
- UBER TO THE BARTOW ARENA / LEGION FIELD
- VISIT THE CIVIL RIGHTS INSTITUTE & MUCH MORE!

Hilton Garden Inn / Home2 Suites by Hilton
250 18th St S | Birmingham, AL 35233
205.322.7933 | 205.322.7937

MAKE US YOUR NEW HOME AWAY FROM HOME!