Off-Campus Student Guide

Your guide to living and thriving off campus
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.

Off-Campus Student Services Mission

To foster student learning and development through programming and initiatives designed to serve and retain off-campus students.
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.

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.

**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!

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

“Seek out and reach out! Seek out options regarding academics and involvement to make the best of your UAB experience. Never be afraid to reach out to people and seek help for people might be the doorway to your success. Also, be sure to stay involved to feel connected to the campus.”

**Tehreem Khan**
Sophomore, Communication Studies | Off-Campus Student Council

“Why don’t we make the trek all the way to the library with your heavy backpack (because we have to carry literally everything in there)? Come sit in the lounge! It’s a quiet place to relax and study, eat lunch, and ask any questions you need to. The Student Assistants and Pathfinders are always so helpful and do what they can to answer any questions you have.”

**Linsey Griffin**
Junior, Communication Studies | Off-Campus Student Council

**OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT WEEK**
Join us every spring and fall for a week of exploring engagement opportunities and celebrating off-campus students.

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**CONNECT WITH US!**

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

phone (205) 996.1580 | email offcampus@uab.edu

@ UAB.EDU/STUDENTS/OFFCAMPUS
@ uaboffcampus
@ UABOffCampus

**Dori Weldon**
Assistant Director, Off-Campus Student Services
dweldon1@uab.edu | 205.996.1580

**Wynter Burlock**
Pathfinder, Student Worker
wburlock@uab.edu

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Junior, Communication Studies | Off-Campus Student Council
The Off-Campus Student Council consists of 25 off-campus students who plan events, develop programming, and establish community partnerships to serve the off-campus student population at UAB.

Applications for the Off-Campus Student Council are available on Engage each spring semester.

Look for tips from our Off-Campus Student Council throughout this guide!
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 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.

**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

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.

Whether you are interested in joining a student organization, finding volunteer opportunities, starting a new student organization, or need general involvement information, the pathfinders are here to help. 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!

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**The Pathfinders are a diverse group of student leaders that can help you find the resources and organizations that best suit your interests.**

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Finding Off-Campus Housing

When looking for apartments, don’t be afraid to ask for UAB student/employer discounts and use your resources like the Off-Campus Housing Website!

Kierra Reed | Junior, Pre-Nursing | Off-Campus Student Council

Finding Off-Campus Housing

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

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.

Disclaimer: 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 is for informational purposes only and is 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.

“When looking for apartments, don’t be afraid to ask for UAB student/employer discounts and use your resources like the Off-Campus Housing Website!”

Kierra Reed | Junior, Pre-Nursing | Off-Campus Student Council
Budgeting for Living Off Campus

How to Inspect a Property

Budget

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<th>INCOME</th>
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<td>Monthly Income</td>
<td>paycheck, allowance, stipend, scholarships, gifts, etc.</td>
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| NET (TOTAL INCOME MINUS TOTAL EXPENSES): | $ |

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

Use the above chart to determine what you can reasonably afford.

Students can contact the Regions Institute for Financial Education for free, confidential financial counseling and financial education workshops.

Regions Institute for Financial Education
UAB.EDU/RIFE | rife@uab.edu
710 13th Street S.
1st floor, Collat School of Business
Birmingham, AL 35233

Below is a checklist...

Before signing a lease, thoroughly inspect the entire property.

- **Does the water work?**
  - Turn on all faucets/showerheads to make sure the hot/cold water works, and that there are no worrisome drips.

- **Safety First.**
  - Make sure there is adequate outdoor lighting for your safety.

- **Security**
  - Make sure exterior doors have functioning locks.

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

- **In Case of Emergency**
  - Make sure windows are not painted shut, and make sure bedroom windows are large enough to crawl through in case of emergency.

- **Check the thermostat.**
  - Make sure the heat and air conditioning work correctly.

- **Room Conditions**
  - Check walls and floors for moisture damage or mold.

- **Tenant Opinions**
  - Speak to the current tenants to see what type of issues they encountered.

"If you know that you have a busy schedule, buy an extra charger for each device so you never have to worry about your device dying. Bringing a few extra snacks to keep in your car or backpack also helps to prevent spending any extra money on campus as that money adds up."

Kaitlyn Willis | Sophomore, Kinesiology | Off-Campus Student Council
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.

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).
Pick a day of the week to get gas, and stick to it (as much as possible) for the semester. Even if your tank isn’t empty, if you constantly fill it up on the same day, it’ll prevent you from waking up one morning late for your 8 a.m. class, and realizing you have no gas.

Nour Moughnyeh | Junior, Immunology | Off-Campus Student Council

Moving In Your Rights and Responsibilities

Here are some of your rights and responsibilities from the Alabama Tenants’ 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

**A copy of the Alabama Tenants’ Handbook can be found at uab.edu/students/offcampus.**

Schedule

Schedule a date to meet with your landlord prior to move-in. This is the perfect time to have a final walkthrough 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).

Buy Parking Permit(s)

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.

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.

Buy 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.

“Pick a day of the week to get gas, and stick to it (as much as possible) for the semester. Even if your tank isn’t empty, if you constantly fill it up on the same day, it’ll prevent you from waking up one morning late for your 8 a.m. class, and realizing you have no gas.”

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Moving Out

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

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.

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 applicances, and replace burned out light bulbs.

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.

Parking policies at UAB have been updated recently.
It is a good idea to familiarize yourself with all of your parking options listed on UAB Transportation’s website.

If you plan to park your car on campus, UAB Transportation requires the purchase of a zoned Parking Pass to be displayed in your vehicle. Students will have the option to choose among seven zones with Zones A through G available to all students and Zone 7 reserved for students who live on campus. Permits will still be sold on a first-come, first-served basis, so students are encouraged to apply early to ensure their desired zone is still available. To assist students in determining their best parking option, UAB Transportation has provided a table of estimated walking distances from each zone to a list of the most popular academic buildings. To access this table, please visit UAB.EDU/TRANSPORTATION.

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

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.

Register your bicycle.
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.

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

Commuting

“Always make sure to know a few parking lots that you are able to park in, just in case your usual lot happens to be full one day. Also, always come prepared with snacks and drinks to make sure you have an energy boost when necessary!”

Wynter Burlock | Senior, Psychology | Off-Campus Student Council

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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 cell phone, be prepared to give your phone number for a way to call back.

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 1.800.273.8255 or text START to 741-741

For more information, visit uab.edu/safety.
UAB offers many safety resources for commuter students including the Blazer Express Safety Escort, which is a service that will pick you up at night for free if you feel unsafe or parked far away. UAB also offers another service called MARS which is a roadside assistance program on campus if you are experiencing car troubles.

Kendra Tamburelli | Junior, Healthcare Management | Off-Campus Student Council

Get certified in bystander intervention. 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!

For more information, visit UAB.EDU/STUDENTS/WELLNESS/THAT-DONT-FLY.

Register for B-Alert. Stay updated on emergencies that affect campus and register for B-Alert to 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 only to find everything is closed.

Register for B-Alert: UAB.EDU/BALERT.
UAB Severe Weather & Emergency Hotline: (205) 934-2165

Utilize UAB’s Safety Escort Services. Call (205) 934-8772 to request a safe ride.

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.

Be proactive with your safety.
• Do not open your doors to strangers.
• Always keep doors and windows locked, even when you are home.
• If you have scheduled a utility company appointment, ask to see ID badges before entry.
• Never leave valuables in your car.
• Walk in well-lit areas, avoid alleys, and travel in groups.
• Locate the green HELP call boxes on your route.

For more information on the locations of the on-campus HELP call boxes, visit UAB.EDU/POLICE/PROGRAMS-AND-SERVICES/HELP-PHONES.

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

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.

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.

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Kendra Tamburelli | Junior, Healthcare Management | Off-Campus Student Council
“Make friends with people who live on campus. They help you stay motivated and connected with opportunities available to you on campus.”

Scott Nguyen | Junior, Chemistry | Off-Campus Student Council

“If it takes you more than 20 minutes to get to campus, leave early for 8 a.m. classes because morning traffic can add over 10 minutes to your trip on a bad day.”

Praise Daramola | Senior, Electrical Engineering | Off-Campus Student Council
LIVE
20 MIDTOWN

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

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
- 24 HOUR STAFF
- OUTDOOR POOL
- QUEEN-SIZED SOFA BEDS

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!
ATTENTION STUDENTS, FACULTY & STAFF

CORT MAKES FURNISHING YOUR APARTMENT EASY!

**THE LOFT PACKAGE**
Includes a Bedroom Set and TV.
Queen Bed with Headboard, Chest, Mattress Set, Table Lamp, Nightstand, 32” TV

**THE STUDIO PACKAGE**
For Smaller Spaces.
LIVING ROOM: Sofa, Cocktail Table, Floor Lamp
BEDROOM: Headboard, Mattress Set, Chest, Nightstand, Table Lamp
OTHER: 2 Bar Stools

**THE URBAN PACKAGE**
For Smaller Spaces with a Dining Set.
The same furniture as the Studio Package with a dining room table and two chairs instead of two bar stools.

**PRICING***
- $99/month for 12-month lease
- $129/month for 9-month lease
- $199/month for 6-month lease

**THE NECESSITIES PACKAGE**
For Larger Spaces with a Dining Set.
Three coordinated rooms, providing all the furniture you need to be comfortable in your new place.
LIVING ROOM: Sofa, Chair, Cocktail Table, End Table, Table Lamp
DINING ROOM: Dining Table, 4 Dining Chairs
BEDROOM: Headboard, Mattress Set, Dresser & Mirror, Nightstand, Table Lamp

**THE ACADeMIC PACKAGE**
For Larger Spaces with a Study Area.
The same furniture as the Necessities Package with a desk, chair and lamp instead of a dining room table and chairs.

**PRICING***
- $119/month for 12-month lease
- $159/month for 9-month lease
- $239/month for 6-month lease

- Add an Extra Bedroom Set for just $64/month with a 12 month lease* (Pricing slightly higher for shorter lease length).
  (Includes a Headboard, Mattress Set, Chest, Nightstand and Table Lamp.)
- Add a Study Package for just $29/month with a 12 month lease* (Pricing slightly higher for shorter lease length).
  (Includes a Desk, Chair and Lamp.)

* Pricing is per month. No other discounts apply. Must present a valid student ID. Furniture in Manager’s Exhibit package. Initial payment will include first month’s rent and applicable fees. White supplies tax, sales tax, mover and transportation fees not included. Packaging pricing subject to change with out notice.

Order your furniture today!
855.435.9133
cort.com/student

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