

Off-Campus Housing Resource List:

Searching for Apartments:

Talk to Juniors and Seniors that might be moving. Ask if their place is already rented, but also make sure they like their landlord and their neighbors liked them.

The **Off-Campus Housing Listings** on the Macalester website. This is where a lot of local landlords who traditionally rent to students will post their houses or apartments or duplexes for rent. This site also includes helpful information on what to think about when renting an apartment off campus <https://www.macalester.edu/offcampus/listings/>

The Villager is the local newspaper that has some listings in the classifieds. You may also find apartments **posted on bulletin boards** in the local grocery store, coffee shop or library. **Apartment available or For Rent signs** on the properties or in the yards is another great way to find a place – take a walk or a bike ride around the neighborhood!

Nextdoor or other neighborhood list serves are great places to find postings or post what you are looking for. The Mac Groveland Community Council runs a Facebook page as does Union Park District Council. Those are your two neighborhood organizing groups.

<https://nextdoor.com>

<https://macgrove.org/>

<https://www.unionparkdc.org/>

Large listing services. There are many online listing companies with great search features. Often times there are larger properties listed even if they don't have vacancies yet. Call and introduce yourself or get on a waiting list. Here are just a few that any search engine will bring up...

Apartments.com, Hotpads.com, Apartmentfinder.com, Zillow, Trulia, Forrent.com, rentcafe.com apartmentlist.com, Apartmentguide.com

Local companies that manage multiple properties or large apartment buildings in the neighborhood (these companies are **not affiliated with Macalester at all**, so we are not recommending them in particular just providing you with their information):

At Home Apartments – <https://athomeapartments.com/>

Union Park Management – <https://www.unionparkmgmt.com/contact-us>

The Grove (St. Clair and Snelling) – <https://thegrovestpaul.com>

Harper Apartments (Selby and Snelling) – <https://www.harper-sp.com/>

The Vintage on Selby (Selby and Snelling) - <https://www.vintageonselbyapts.com>

Searching for Furnishings:

- Ask if previous tenants want to leave any furniture behind and then make sure it would be ok with the landlord to do so!
- Goodwill and other thrift stores are great places to find dishes, silverware and sometimes furniture.
- The neighborhood list serves, listed above are places that people in the neighborhood will post an alert and put stuff out on the curb for free.
- Garage sales.
- Vintage stores on Selby have a variety of furnishings. You might find something you have always wanted!

General Notes:

- **Start your search soon!** Student rentals often advertise in January or February for the Fall and become available for move-in either June 1st, August 1st or September 1st. Many are already listed, but not all.
- **Get your information organized.** You will most likely need to fill out an application for each person that will be living in the apartment and you will also need a guarantor for each student. It will be an advantage if you can provide this information to the landlord quickly when you find the right place.
- **Pick your roommates wisely.** You have to respect each other but don't have to be best friends. Set up a meeting time every week to talk about dividing up responsibilities and clear up any issues.
- The City ordinance is St. Paul allows a **maximum of 4 adults per rental unit.**
- How long will you all need the place and will you try to **sublet**? Many landlords do not allow subletting, but better to ask first than find out if it will work later.
- What **transportation** will you use to get to class? Walk? Bike? Bus?
- Which **utilities** are included in the rent? You will almost always pay your own electric and cooking gas as well as your own cable or internet. Heat can add up to \$150 to \$400 to your costs in the winter months for an apartment or an older house. Try to get an estimate from the landlord on what the average bills have been or how well the place is insulated.
- Is **shoveling and mowing** included in the rent? If not, is one of your roommates staying over break to take care of these things?
- **Take photos** of the place when you move in and move out, especially if there are stains in the carpet or things that are broken. Video is harder to use in court. This will help you get your **full security deposit** back when you leave.
- **Meet your neighbors!** You will be part of a neighborhood when you move off campus. Introduce yourself to your neighbors and trade contact information. If there are any problems in the future or you need help, it will be easier if you know their phone number.
- **Communicate with your landlord.** If something breaks, tell them right away so they can address it.
- Do your homework! Putting in a little extra effort to find the right place will save you from problems in the future. If you have any questions or issues about renting, **Homeline.org** is a tenant advocacy group that will help you with just about anything except finding a place.