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in the City



YOUR GUIDE TO
TALLAHASSEE AND
OFF-CAMPUS LIVING.



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- No more heading to the laundry mat when you run out of clothes!
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- No more washer & dryer rental payments!

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What you will get

- Clean, fresh laundry, done exactly how you want it!
- Hours of FREE TIME every week! Stay focused on school, friends and fun!
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★ **FSU/TCC/Westside**
2256 W. Pensacola St.
(Next to Vinyl Fever)
575-4278

★ **Lake Ella/N. Monroe**
220 W. Tharpe St.
(Just West of N. Monroe, between Burger King & San Miguel)
597-9006

★ **FAMU/FSU/Downtown**
1338 Lake Bradford Rd.
(3 Blocks south of FSU Stadium)
576-4557

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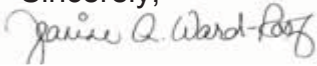
Dear Students,

It is with great pleasure we present the *Seminoles in the City: Your Guide to Tallahassee and Off Campus Living*. The Dean of Students Department staff and specifically staff from the Office of New Student and Family Programs believe this guide will provide you with the tools you need to live successfully in Tallahassee. The Seminole Creed is on the inside back cover of this guide and we encourage you to embrace the ideals of the creed as you move into the greater Tallahassee community; by doing so you will be able to be a productive student not only on campus but in your local community.

I encourage you to review the contents to obtain more information about money management and budgeting for all of the sometimes unanticipated costs of apartment life, information about how to find and maintain the right roommate relationship, how to find the perfect place to live, how to secure utilities, information about renters insurance, ways to secure your security deposit, how to best communicate with your landlord, what types of rights you have as a tenant, how to be a good neighbor, safety and fire protection tips, hurricane preparedness, social networking tips, transportation advice, staying healthy and eating right, how to stay involved, URL addresses for more information about Tallahassee, helpful numbers, and how to successfully move out of your apartment at the end of the lease. All of this information was gathered and is available to help you be a successful student and resident of the community.

We hope you find the materials helpful as you begin or continue your off-campus living experience. If you have any suggestions for future editions, contact us at 850-644-2428.

Sincerely,



Jeanine Ward-Roof
Dean of Students.



Renting

Why a budget? You can't find the right place to live until you know how much you are able to spend. The budget spreadsheet is a good reference. Keep in mind all extra expenses that go hand in hand with paying rent like utilities, transportation, and insurance.

Using a credit card monthly to pay your electric bill is not debt management; it is simply building debt.

Budget

Monthly Income \$ _____
 Scholarships \$ _____
 Loans \$ _____

Monthly Expenses

Tuition \$ _____
 Books/Supplies \$ _____
 Rent \$ _____

Utilities

Electric \$ _____
 Gas \$ _____
 Water \$ _____
 Waste Management/Recycling \$ _____
 Telephone \$ _____
 Cable/Internet \$ _____

Food \$ _____
 Groceries \$ _____
 Dining Out \$ _____

Transportation

Car Payment \$ _____
 Gas \$ _____
 Car Maintenance \$ _____

Insurance

Car \$ _____
 Renter's \$ _____
 Health \$ _____
 Life \$ _____

Personal Maintenance

Clothing \$ _____
 Laundry/Dry Cleaning \$ _____
 Haircut/Manicure, etc. \$ _____

Debt/Savings

Credit card payments \$ _____
 Loans \$ _____
 Savings \$ _____

Entertainment

Vacations \$ _____
 Pets/Pet Care \$ _____
 Books, CDs, DVDs, Games \$ _____
 Gym Membership \$ _____

Other \$ _____
 Other \$ _____
 Other \$ _____
 Other \$ _____
 Other \$ _____
 Other \$ _____

Total Monthly Expenses

\$ _____

Moving

Keep in mind that it costs money before you can even move in. This includes security deposit, redecoration fee, pet deposit, sometimes two month's rent, and moving expenses...you didn't think you could fit that big screen TV in the back of a Honda did you? Check out the moving budget so you know how much money you will need before you begin your big move.

Moving Expenses

First Month's Rent \$ _____
 Security Deposit \$ _____
 Pet Deposit \$ _____
 Painting/Redecorating Deposit \$ _____
 Last Month's Rent \$ _____
 Application Fee \$ _____
 Utilities Deposit (Water, Electric, etc) \$ _____
 Phone/Cable Deposit \$ _____
 Movers \$ _____
 Truck Rental \$ _____
 Gas for Rental \$ _____
 Boxes/Moving materials \$ _____
 Storage \$ _____
 Shipping \$ _____
 Pet Travel/Boarding Fees \$ _____
 Furniture \$ _____
 Other \$ _____
 Othe \$ _____

Total

\$ _____

Have you thought about other costs? Do you need to buy furniture, TV, bedding, kitchen utensils, a shower curtain, or food for your new apartment? These are items we often forget about.

Finding the RIGHT apartment



Don't just sign the lease at the first apartment you tour. Shop around, get the best value for your rent, find a landlord/management that you like and trust, find a place that is safe, and try to find a place where you will want to live for the duration of your college career. For your convenience, use the apartment comparison sheet found on page 4.

TIPS

1. For crime information in specific areas visit Talgov.com, the Tallahassee Police Department and statistical information site.
2. Know your budget - live within your means.
3. Location - on a bus route or close to FSU. Drive around Tallahassee to get a feel for the city.
4. Create a list of wants/needs before you start your search - pool, gym, roommate matching, close to local businesses, etc.

Things to consider & Questions to Asking when searching for housing

1. Is the rental unit in a location I would feel comfortable living in?
Make sure you visit the place during the day, at night, in the rain and on the weekend to get a full perspective.
2. Does the rental unit contain most, if not all, of the amenities I desire?
Make a list of all the amenities you would like to have before going to look at rental properties
3. Would I feel comfortable renting from this landlord?
Talk with current tenants to discover what their experience with the landlord was like.
4. Is the unit in a condition you are willing to live in?
If any promises are made about repairing any part of the rental property, make sure you get that promise in writing.

Choosing the right lease:

Individual Lease vs. Joint Lease

Once you've made the decision to move off-campus, you'll have to sign a lease for an apartment or house. Signing a lease may be one of the most important things you do when moving off-campus. Make sure you read and understand ALL leases before signing. Remember leases are a binding legal contract.

1. A lease is a contract between you and your landlord that spells out specific details of your living arrangement. Leases often involve policies about pets, deposits, legal entry and other important information. These are two major types of leases: Joint Leases and Individual Leases.
2. A joint lease means a landlord will hold all roommates responsible for the lease. If one person breaks the lease, the other roommates are held responsible for paying the total rent. A joint lease is most common when renting a house.
3. In an individual lease, a landlord holds each person responsible for his or her own actions. For instance, if one roommate breaks the lease, that person is still responsible for paying his or her own rent.
4. For most college students, individual leases are the best choice. Each person in the lease is responsible for his or her own actions and not the actions of a roommate.
5. Most landlords or apartment managers have the option of providing you with a joint or individual lease. Be prepared to pay more for an individual lease.

Apartment Comparison

There are many apartment complexes within the Tallahassee community and it is easy to lose track of the benefits and drawbacks of each one. When you begin your search bring this worksheet with you. It will help you keep track of the questions you need to ask and all the answers you will be given. It is a great way to compare the rent payments, what you get for that rent, and what you can afford. Make additional copies, and take notes if viewing more than three different apartments.

	Apt. 1	Apt. 2	Apt. 3
Apartment Name			
Address			
Date of tour			
Manager/landlord name			
Phone Number			
Email Address			
Rent			
Deposit/decorating Fee			
Application Fee			
Lease Type			
Lease Length			
Number of bedrooms			
Number of bathrooms			
Security system			
Bus stop			
Parking			
Utilities included			
Water			
Electric			
Gas			
Phone			
Cable			
Garbage/Recycling			
Internet			
Pets allowed			
Pet deposit			
Furnished			
Laundry			
Pool			
Gym			
Close to shopping			
Distance to FSU			
Maintainence			
Can I sublease			
Roommate placement			
Storage			
Safety			
Misc.			

Roommates

Finding a Roommate

Suggestions: Look outside and inside of your social circle to find a roommate, also some apartment complexes offer roommate matching and roommate placement. In these two situations make sure you can make a switch if the complex places you with roommates that you are not compatible with.

Roommate matching means you fill out a form of preferences like when you study, cleanliness, favorite music, etc. Complex management attempts to match you with like roommates based on this form.

Roommate placement means the apartment management will place you in any open space with no considerations to your study, sleep, or social habits.

Things to discuss with your potential roommate/s

1. Study habits and the expected study environment.
2. Friends/family visiting and staying overnight.
3. Cleaning the common spaces (e.g., bathroom, kitchen), including sweeping, dusting, etc.
4. Will you share food and shopping responsibilities?
5. What are the expectations in a roommate relationship? Are you looking for a friend, someone to do things with, or just someone to share your space and expenses? How similar or different are your roommate's expectations?
6. Is your roommate financially secure? Ask to see a credit report if you are not sure.
7. Is it possible to sign separate leases? This way, each roommate is responsible for his or her share of the rent.

Staying "Perfect Roommates"

1. Communication is key! If problems arise, talk about them. Sometimes it takes a while to talk calmly, but make sure the situation is resolved within a timely manner.
2. Set up a schedule for taking out the trash, doing the dishes, and cleaning.
3. Complete the roommate agreement right away! See Page 5.
4. Get a furnished apartment to avoid furniture confusion.

What to do when you can't resolve issues that arise...

1. You have signed a lease and that is a binding contract – you can't just move out.
2. Try mediation first. Contact the Dean of Students Department (850/644-2428) for help mediating roommate issues.
3. Talk with your apartment management or landlord to see if a transfer is possible.
4. Tough it out – sometimes this is the only option – if so, act maturely.
5. Finding someone to sublease your apartment is an option but make sure that your lease allows you to sublet.

Roommate Agreement

A Roommate Agreement is a great way to facilitate that first community conversation. See the agreement below for things to talk about with your roommate(s) the first week that you begin living together. It is good to discuss the standards below so that issues do not arise later because you have not set forth honest and clear expectations and guidelines.

This agreement, made on _____, is an agreement between: _____, _____, _____, _____ roommates at (address) _____, Tallahassee, Florida.

I understand that I, as an individual, and we, as a group, are responsible to the manager/landlord, the utility companies, and each other. This agreement can be changed only with the agreements of all parties.

PERIOD OF AGREEMENT

This agreement begins on _____ and ends on _____. I fully understand and accept the written responsibilities of this agreement.

SECURITY DEPOSIT

The security deposit for the apartment/house is \$_____. My share amounts to \$_____. I understand that this amount will be returned to me less the amount deducted by the manager/landlord for unpaid rent and/or damages. I accept the responsibility for damages which, I, my pet, or a friend of mine causes, and I will reimburse my roommate(s) for the part of their security deposit withheld for those damages.

RENT

The total rent according to the terms of our lease agreement with our manager is \$_____ per month. I agree to pay 1/____ of the monthly rent. This amounts to \$_____. The total amount my roommate(s) and I are liable for over the period of the lease is \$_____, of which my share is \$_____. I understand that we, as a group, and I, as an individual, am responsible to the manager/landlord for the total rent for the term of the agreement.

UTILITIES

I agree to pay 1/____ of the deposits and/or hook-up charges for all utilities.

I agree to pay 1/____ of the monthly utilities bills except telephone.

I agree to pay 1/____ of the monthly phone service charge, plus all long distance call which I make, including the tax on those calls.

I agree to pay as follows for any additional utilities:

MOVING OUT

If for anyreason I move out of the dwelling, I realize it is my responsibility to find a replacement. I agree to look for a replacement who is acceptable to my present roommate(s). If I move out of the dwelling and a replacement roommate has not been found, I realize that I am legally responsible to my roommate(s) for paying my share of the rent and utility bills.

I understand that I, as an individual, can be held responsible to the apartment manager/landlord or the utility companies for up to the entire rent and/or utility bills, if my roommate(s) fail(s) to fulfill their part of the agreement.

I agree to the following arrangements regarding:

FOOD/SHOPPING:

CLEANING RESPONSIBILITIES:

PRIVACY:

SHARING OF PERSONAL ITEMS:

SMOKING/DRINKING/DRUGS:

PARTIES/ENTERTAINING:

OVERNIGHT GUESTS:

PETS:

ADDITIONAL (i.e. security, furniture, appliances) attach additional sheets if necessary:

As a party of this agreement, I realize that I, as well as each of my roommate(s), have equal right to the use of the space and facilities in the dwelling with the exceptions of the areas we have designated as each one's private space. This agreement is intended to promote positive communication, mutual expectations, and respect for one another.

*It is not necessary to witness or notarize this agreement. Each roommate should sign below and receive an original copy.

Resident signature Date

Resident signature Date

Resident signature Date

Resident signature Date

The Florida State University takes no responsibility for roommates not following the guidelines of this agreement of any liability that might result regarding this agreement

Utilities

Now that you have chosen your roommate and found the perfect apartment you may have to set up all your utilities depending on the arrangement you set with your landlord. Utilities include everything from electricity, water & waste management, to phone and cable.

Garbage Disposal & Recycling

- Most apartment complexes will provide garbage and recycling services. Check with management for details.
- If you plan to rent, sublease, or buy a house in the city of Tallahassee, then you will need to sign up for garbage and recycling.
- For questions regarding your collection day and other services, contact Tallahassee Solid Waste Department at (850) 891-4968 or go to www.talgov.com.

Talgov.com

One-stop utilities set up, transfer, and disconnection! This is the city of Tallahassee's information page for electricity, water, natural gas, and solid waste. Below are the deposit and connection fees as explained by the Utility Customer Service Center. Monthly charges will depend on the size of your apartment and the amount of usage. More usage during warmer and colder months and a larger apartment will equal a larger bill. Be sure to have the following information to start your application for service: Address of location to start services, social security number, driver's license, services start date, and bank account number.

Question, problem reporting, and comments can be sent to:
Utility Customer Service
Renaissance Center
435 N. Macomb St. Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 891-4986

<i>Services</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Connection</i>
Electric Only	\$160.00	\$18.50
Water Only	\$50.00	\$18.50
Gas Only	\$60.00	\$18.50

*(All information from Utility Customer Service)

Cable/Satellite

Prices vary depending on plan. Contact Comcast Cable Service at www.comcast.com or call 1-800-COMCAST for more information. There is also satellite service available in the Tallahassee/Leon area through Dish Network and DirecTV. Visit their websites www.dishnetwork.com or www.directv.com.

Internet

Internet is available from Comcast Cable or through Century Link <http://www.centurylink.com>. Check out their website for more information on services and prices.

Tips to help keep electric costs down

- In the summer set A/C temperatures at 78 degrees or higher and in the winter set heat temperature at 68 degrees or lower.
- Be sure to keep your air conditioning filters clean, as this will lessen the workload on your A/C unit.
- Have your A/C unit serviced each spring. Follow up with your landlord or management if your unit has not been serviced or if it is not functioning properly.
- Use ceiling fans, box fans or oscillating fans. They are much more cost efficient than A/C.
- Utilize window shades, curtains, or blinds to screen sunlight during the warm months and open window coverings during the cool months.
- Open your windows instead of using the A/C during the spring and fall seasons. For safety reasons, sleeping with windows open is not always the best option.
- Make sure that windows and doors have proper seals to prevent air from leaking in or out.
- When you are not in a room turn the lights off. Don't leave the TV or stereo on when you are not home. Unplug appliances that you are not using.
- Run clothing in washing machines using the cold cycle instead of warm or hot.
- Run the washing machine and/or dishwasher only when you have a full load.
- Clean dryer filters after each use.

Budget Billing- Tallahassee City Utilities

Budget billing is another option to paying your utility bills. Total your past twelve (12) months of utility usage (billed amounts) and divide by twelve (12) to find your average monthly bill. To this average, 20% is added to arrive at a figure that you will be billed throughout the next year. The 20% addition protects you from significantly underpaying bills if your usage increases during colder winter or warmer summer weather. Every twelve months, the city will automatically review your account to determine the difference between your actual utility bills and your budget billed amounts. This difference will then be used to compute next year's bill. Any amount of underpayment or overpayment is rolled into the new budget billing amount.

You must have been a residential utility customer at the same location for at least the past 6 months. Secondly, you must have no outstanding balances. Finally, we ask that you give Budget Billing a chance by participating for at least one year.

Request Budget Billing Online by going to <http://talgov.com> or by calling Utility Customer Service at 891-4YOU (4968).

Renter's Insurance

If you live in an apartment or a rented house, renter's insurance provides important coverage for both you and your possessions

A standard renter's policy contains four separate sections:

1. Protection of your personal property in case of theft or damage.
2. Shields you from personal liability.
3. Loss of apartment usage due to damages.
4. Medical payments of others.

Your personal property is not the responsibility of your apartment management or landlord unless you can prove negligence. Proving negligence in court may be extremely difficult. That is why it is VERY important to have renter's insurance.

There are several types of residential insurance policies. Read your policy information carefully and ensure you have full coverage. Policies should include the following items:

Policies should cover the following events/conditions:

- Fire or lightning
- Windstorm or hail
- Explosion
- Riot or civil commotion
- Aircraft
- Vehicles
- Smoke
- Vandalism or malicious mischief
- Theft
- Damage by glass or safety-glazing material that is part of a building
- Falling objects

As you can see, floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes are not on the list. If you live in an area prone to one or more of the three, you'll need to buy a separate policy or a rider. Ask your insurance provider for specific coverage and insurance discounts.

Let your agent know about any particularly valuable items you have. Jewelry or electronics might be covered up to a certain amount. If you have some items that are unusually expensive, such as a computer, you'll probably want to purchase a separate rider or floater. If you don't talk to your agent about an expensive item when you buy the policy, you probably won't be able to recover the loss.

Make sure you read ALL the literature provided by an insurance agency and ask LOTS of questions before agreeing to any policy. Shop around! Premiums are different from company to company, but make sure your policy covers your needs.

Some students can be covered under their parents/guardians' insurance policy for a small additional fee. Talk about whether this is an option for you. If not, check into a policy of your own. A small monthly fee can protect you and your belongings in case the unspeakable happens.

Don't forget to speak with your insurance agent to see if there are any discounts available to you for protective devices (smoke alarms, security systems, fire extinguishers) or multi-policy discounts.

Before You Move In

OK, you have found the right place to live, you've signed your lease, and paid a hefty deposit...how do you move in and make sure you get your deposit back?

First thing to do is make an appointment with management/landlord for a date and time to pick up your keys. This is very important because you don't want to show up and no one is available to issue you keys.

Once you've gotten your keys, follow the checklist below. It will help you to have a smooth move in and help you when it's time to move out to get your deposit back.

Move- in Checklist

- Take pictures of the apartment before you move in. This will verify any damages present upon moving in.
- Complete a thorough written inventory of the apartment's condition and have the landlord sign the inventory. This helps protect you from the landlord claiming you caused pre-existing damage.
- Try to figure out a time that you and your roommates can move in together. This helps when making decisions about furniture or storage.
- Don't leave your doors unlocked in your car or apartment. This is prime time for theft.
- Take your time and remember to stay hydrated – especially in the summer months.
- Be careful – don't put the table leg through the wall. Damages cost you money.
- Enlist the help of friends or family.
- Bring some cleaning products with you to clean the kitchen or bathroom before putting your belongings away.
- Find out from your landlord or management the proper place to dispose of boxes.
- Don't forget to return that rental truck on time or you could have to pay for another day.
- Make sure you park legally when moving in and out to avoid tickets or towing
- You don't have to unpack in one day.
- Unpack one room at a time to avoid confusion and clutter.
- Introduce yourself to your neighbors.
- Get to know the area. This is the best way to help you become aware of your surroundings.
- Find out where the closest supermarket, gas station, or bus stop is located – these are great questions to ask your new neighbors.
- Have fun getting to know your community and the people who are living next door.

Apartment/House Inventory

Resident(s): _____

Address: _____

Complex Manager/Landlord: _____

Move in date: _____ Move out date: _____

	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	#	Comments
Bedroom						
Walls						
Floor/Carpet						
Ceiling						
Ceiling Light						
Matress/Frame						
Dresser						
Lamps						
Table/Chairs						
Bathroom						
Walls						
Floor/Tile						
Ceiling						
Ceiling Light						
Sink/Faucet						
Toilet						
Tub/Shower head						
Towel Racks						
Medicine Cabinet						
Living Room						
Walls						
Floor/Carpet						
Ceiling						
Ceiling Light						
Couch/Chairs						
Tables/Lamps						
Dining Room						
Walls						
Floor/Carpet						
Ceiling						
Table/Chairs						
Kitchen						
Walls						
Floor/Tile						
Ceiling						
Ceiling Light						
Counter						
Cabinets						
Stove/Oven						
Microwave						
Refrigerator						
Dishwasher						
Garbage Disposal						

	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	#	Comments
Other						
Drapes/Curtains						
Blinds						
Window/Locks						
Doors/Locks						
Window Screens						
Screened Door						
Exterior Entrance						
A/C Heat Unit						
Water Heater						
Smoke Detector						
Alarm System						
Garbage Bin						
Garage Door						
Keys						

Resident Signatures:

Name _____

Date _____

Name _____

Date _____

Name _____

Date _____

Name _____

Date _____

Manager/Landlord _____

Date _____

_____ Additional documentation attached i.e. photos, video, repair bills/modifications.

Landlord and Tenant Communication

Another part of your community is your relationship with your landlord or apartment management, just like it is important to communicate with your roommate, it is equally as important to talk with whomever you are renting your apartment or home from. Tell your landlord if something is broken that needs repair, you have damaged something, you are not getting along with your roommate, or are having trouble paying your rent. These are all good things to discuss in a timely manner with the management.

What Are My Duties as a Tenant?

1. Pay Rent!
2. Comply with all zoning restrictions.
3. Keep the premises clean and sanitary.
4. Keep plumbing fixtures sanitary.
5. Comply with all other lease terms.
6. Comply with all rules and regulations.
7. Comply with house and health codes.

Tips for Positive Interactions:

- Do a thorough search when looking for an apartment. If you take the time you will be happier with the place you choose.
- Come prepared with the necessary information when going to sign a lease. (ID, social security card, proof of being a Florida State student, references ,etc; call and ask what you will need).
- Read the lease or rental agreement- know what will be expected of you as a tenant. Make sure you get a copy of your signed lease.
- Get it in writing! If your landlord has told you verbally that they will have an exterminator spray monthly make sure it is in the lease. If it isn't make sure this or any agreement is placed in writing, dated and signed by both parties.
- Pay your rent on time!
- For maintenance issues- follow up with management or landlord quickly.
- If you damage any part of your rental unit including rugs, walls, furniture or yard, notify your landlord/management immediately.
- Maintain the rental unit and any exterior grounds according to your lease.
- Remember to dispose of your garbage properly; don't let it pile up.
- You are responsible for guests and any damages they might cause.
- Party responsibly; this includes not having open parties with people you don't know, serving alcohol to minors, allowing guest noise or music to disturb neighbors.
- Follow your lease guidelines or apartment complex standards.
- If you have questions, ask. The management would rather you be informed about their policies.

What happens if my landlord refuses to make repairs?

1. DO NOT do them yourself. The law does not guarantee you will be able to recover cost for repairs you do yourself.
2. You CANNOT just move out during your lease and forfeit your security deposit. In Tallahassee's current rental market, the odds are that you will be sued unless you supply acceptable replacement tenants. Your losses in court will not be limited to your security deposit, but will include rent for each month the apartment remains vacant during the term of your lease, plus court costs and the landlord's attorney's fees.
3. You CANNOT use your security deposit as your last month's rent. Landlords can legally evict you for non-payment of rent even when your "security deposit" is equal to your last month's rent. The purpose of the security deposit is to protect the landlord against damages to the apartment.

Tenant's Rights

You have rights as a tenant. See below for detailed information that is provided by Student Legal Services about your rights.

Introduction

Florida's Residential Landlord and Tenant Act Section 83.40 to 83.682, Florida Statutes (2005), is referred to as "the Act" in this publication. Most libraries have copies of Florida Statutes if more specific information is needed. If you have a problem in this area, you should contact an attorney. Florida Statutes are available online through the Florida Legislature's Homepage, www.leg.state.fl.us. Explanations of the Act have statewide applicability, but any specific reference to Tallahassee or Leon County applies only to those areas. The rental of mobile homes or mobile home lots is not covered in the act.

Complaints about your Landlord

You have the right to complain if you have concerns or are being treated unfairly. Some examples of unfair treatment or abuse include:

- Business fraud or unethical actions.
- Scams of any kind.
- Violations of any landlord/tenant laws.
- Identity theft.

You can file a complaint with the Florida Division of Consumer Services at 800/435-7352 or with the Better Business Bureau of Northeast Florida at 904/721-2288. You may also want to contact an attorney. A list of attorney's in the Tallahassee area can be found at www.sga.fsu.edu.

What Exactly Is an Eviction?

- An eviction is the formal end to your right to occupy the premises. It does not end your duty to pay rent.
- An eviction starts with a Summons. You must file an Answer within five days. Contact an attorney immediately.
- If the court rules against you, a judgment for possession of the premises, unpaid rent, late fees, interest, court costs and attorney's fees will be entered for the landlord. The sheriff will post a notice on the premises that requires you to vacate in 24 hours. If you do not vacate at this time, the sheriff will remove you and your personal property

What Can Happen If I Don't Pay Rent?

Failure to pay rent is the quickest way to be evicted. The landlord will serve a notice demanding payment of rent or possession of the premises. If you fail to comply with the demand in three days, excluding weekends and holidays, eviction proceedings may be started. Neither surrender of the premises nor eviction end your liability for rent.

Can I Be Evicted for Any Other Reason?

Yes. Your lease can be terminated if you violate any lease terms, rule and regulations of the Act. Termination begins with a 7-day notice and does not end your liability for rent. Your options depend on whether the violations are classified as "curable" or "noncurable." If you receive either type of notice, you must act immediately; either negotiate a settlement with the landlord or contact an attorney.

Curable Violations

You will be given seven days to correct a curable violation. Examples include unauthorized pets, guests or parking, or the failure to keep the premises clean and sanitary. If you repeat the violation in 12 months, you will not be given a second chance.

Non-curable Violations

The landlord may terminate your lease with a 7-day notice without giving you a chance to correct a non-curable violation. Examples include deliberate destruction or misuse of the landlord's property or a continued, unreasonable disturbance.

Can I Be Evicted If I Pay "My" Rent but My Roommates Don't?

- Usually. Most leases provide that the tenants are jointly liable for the entire rent.
- This means the landlord can evict you unless the full rent is paid.
- It is possible for you to sue your roommates in a small claims court to collect their share of the rent and utilities. A written roommate agreement will be helpful in proving your case in court.
- Given the difficulty of collecting money on a judgment quickly, the best thing you can do is obtain new roommates.

So What If I Get Sued? I Have No Money!

Any judgment for money damages is enforceable for at least 20 years and earns 12 percent simple annual interest. A judgment may be enforced by seizing your wages, bank accounts, or your personal property. A judgment will also adversely affect your credit rating.

Terminating the Lease

- Most landlords require a 30-day notice of your intent to vacate the unit. If you don't give them the required notice, they may withhold some or all of your security deposit. Check your rental agreement to find out when your landlord requires you to submit your notice.
- If you want your deposit back, make sure you leave the premises in a clean condition for the next occupant. Be sure to vacuum, sweep, clean all rooms, cabinets and appliances, as well as other areas specified in the terms and conditions of the rental agreement. Take a last walk-through with the landlord. Note any damages in writing and reach a final agreement.
- When you move out, the landlord must either return your deposit within 15 days of termination of the rental agreement, or justify in writing why they are keeping some or all of the deposit. This notice should be sent to you within 3- days.

Moving Out

You think moving out is easy...well there is a lot to think about. First if you are planning on moving out of your apartment make sure you give reasonable notice to your apartment manager or landlord. See below for other tips on how to move out AND get your deposit back.

Moving out checklist:

- Make sure you know when your lease ends and what date you must move out or what date you must renew your lease if you decide to stay. If you do not renew your lease by the landlord's "deadline," the landlord may rent out your apartment to someone else.
- Ask what is required of you up on leaving the apartment. Do you need to have the carpet cleaned?
- Begin preparing to move 30 days before you need to vacate.
- Items you will need:
 - o Boxes
 - o Packing material (newspaper or plastic wrap)
 - o Tape
 - o Twine
 - o Blankets
 - o Plastic bins
 - o Dolly
 - o Cleaning supplies
 - o And vacuum, steam cleaner, and spackle
- Can you move all of your belongings yourself or do you need to rent a truck? If you are renting a van/truck, make sure you call ahead and reserve the vehicle. Lots of people are moving all at the same time!
- If you want to hire a mover, make sure you check around for the best price, ask friends, or family, and check references and the Better Business Bureau visit their website www.bbb.org.
- Pick a day to move and ask friends or family to help. Free lunch is a great incentive!!
- Take pictures or a video of your empty apartment when you have moved all your belongings out.
- Ask your landlord or apartment manager to complete a walkthrough with you. Discuss any damages or issues they might have with returning your deposit. Try to plan this walkthrough for a day or two before you are expected to vacate the apartment. This gives you time to fix damages or clean carpets.
- When you move out, completely and thoroughly clean the apartment. Some landlords provide a checklist outlining the cleaning they expect you to do. Keep all receipts for cleaning supplies and steam cleaner rentals as evidence.
- Complete a move-out checklist and make sure the landlord signs and dates it. Use an impartial witness if the landlord is not available or refuses your request for a walkthrough.
- Ask your landlord/apartment manager for the specific date you will receive your deposit.
- Make sure your landlord/apartment manager has your new mailing address and phone number in case they have questions.
- A landlord has 15 days after termination of the lease to return the security deposit or send a notice by certified mail stating how much is going to be deducted from the deposit and why. You must object to the deduction in writing within 15 days of your receipt of the notice or the deductions are authorized. If the notice is not postmarked within 15 days, the landlord forfeits the security deposit.
- However, if you damaged the premises, the landlord can sue you even when the 15-day notice is not given. Because the landlord can also get court costs and attorney's fees, you should consult an attorney before filing any lawsuits.

Community



Now that you are officially a part of the Florida State and Tallahassee community it is a good idea to familiarize yourself with the City of Tallahassee ordinances and codes. Also to ensure that you have a good relationship with those around you you may want to follow some of the good neighbor tips that will make your time here in Tallahassee more enjoyable.

Good Neighbor Tips

- When you move in, introduce yourself to your neighbors (at least the ones on either side and across the street).
- Learn your neighbors' names and wave or say hello to them when you see them. If your neighbor has a problem, see if you can help.
- Keep your yard neat and picked up. Mow your grass often, or if the landlord is responsible, make sure he or she gets it done,
- Exchange phone numbers with your neighbors. Encourage them to call you first if there are any problems at your house such as loud music, litter, etc. Be respectful and responsive to their concerns.
- Attend neighborhood association meetings and get involved with neighborhood activities.
- Don't allow your pets to run at large.
- Learn the acceptable and legal places for parking at your house or apartment.

Occupancy

The Tallahassee Code of Ordinances restricts the number of unrelated people living in a residence to no more than three unless the address is specifically grandfathered by the city to allow more than three unrelated occupants. This requirement applies to zoning areas designated as single family. When you plan to share housing with roommates, you are required to either restrict the number of occupants to three or seek appropriate housing in a multi-family district.

Parking on the Street

In many areas, residents and guests park on the street as necessary to accommodate overflow from the driveway. Make sure you are not parked in a "no parking" zone, blocking driveways, parking on sidewalks, in drainage ditches or easements, or on adjacent private properties. The towing laws will be strictly enforced. Before you and your roommates rent a home or apartment, make sure there is enough parking available to accommodate each resident's vehicle as well as those of any guests.

Pets

All dogs must be kept in an enclosed area or on a leash. The leash must be long enough to allow the dog sufficient freedom to gain access to food and water and to gain protection from the weather. Constant and loud barking, leaving pets with no food or water, cruelty to animals and abandonment are all prohibited. All of these actions are subject to escalating fines, and/or arrests.

Garbage

Garbage and recyclables in Tallahassee are collected at the curb once a week. Make sure your containers are at the curb by 6:30 AM on the scheduled day. The containers used for garbage and recycling collection tend to clutter the right of way and are not aesthetically pleasing. Please remember to pull yours back from the street the evening of your service day.

You can find this and more information about city codes at www.tal.gov.com.

Voter Registration

Since you now live in the city of Tallahassee, it is a good idea to vote while you live in Tallahassee. Help local politicians make decisions about where your tax money should go. To learn more about voting in Tallahassee, including how to register, where to vote, and upcoming elections, visit the Leon County Supervisor of Elections website at <http://www.leoncountyfl.gov/elect/>.

Know Your Responsibilities



Noise and Party Limits – Party Control

The city of Tallahassee does not prohibit parties, but it does have a responsibility to protect the rights of those who are adversely affected by parties. City code prohibits obscene, profane, or indecent language as well as drunken, noisy, or disorderly conduct on a city street or other public place within the city limits that disturbs public tranquility. This includes the use of amplifying devices such as home stereos, car stereos, televisions, etc. Any of these turned up to the point of disturbing the peace or annoying any person who owns or occupies property in the neighborhood is in violation of the law.

Noise complaints are often the result of loud or overcrowded parties. If you have a party, remember it is your responsibility to keep the event under control. The following tips are useful guidelines when hosting an off-campus party:

- Inform your neighbors that a party is going to take place.
- Create a guest list. Things can get out of hand if you have an open-door policy. Be responsible for all guests on the premises.
- Avoid parking problems and consider the parking needs of your neighbors.
- Monitor the level of noise coming from your party.
- Clean your house and yard properly after the party.
- Do not sell alcohol or require a cover charge for your party.
- Do not serve alcohol to guests under the legal drinking age of 21.
- Call the Tallahassee Police Department to report problems at (850) 891-4200.

Party Smart!

- Remember don't let your social obligations get in the way of your academic success. Remember why you are here at FSU!
- Let your neighbors know in advance if you're planning a large social gathering or party. Tell them when it will start and when it will end. Give them your name and phone number so they can call you if there is a problem.
- Limit the number of people you invite, and only invite people you know. Large crowds can become unruly and hard to manage or control.
- Be familiar with the state and local laws regarding alcohol consumption and supplying alcohol to others.
- Read your lease carefully so you will be familiar with its requirements. Check with your landlord about policies regarding parties or gatherings. Know your rights and responsibilities.
- Establish a reasonable ending time for your event and have everyone leave at that time. Remember your neighbors may have to work, get up early the next morning, or have young children at home.
- Have plenty of trash cans and recycling bins available to dispose of cups, cans, and bottles. Place a trash can by the front door or at the sidewalk so guests can discard their litter as they leave. The morning after a party, clean up any trash left outside your apartment or house and in neighboring yards.
- Tell your guests not to park on neighbors' lawns. Make sure your friends don't block driveways and roads with their vehicles. Roadways need to be kept open for emergency vehicles should someone need an ambulance or fire truck.

- Periodically, walk outside to check out the noise level and adjust it accordingly. Remember that voices carry and by moving the party indoors you can better avoid disturbing your neighbors.
- Limit the number of drinks served per person (one per hour is the safest pace, should you decide to drink)
- Know the signs of alcohol poisoning and what to do to keep friends safe.
- Don't drink too much yourself. You should be able to stay in control of your party; otherwise designate a sober party host.
- If you receive calls from neighbors or the police come to your party because of problems cooperate with their requests.
- Do not allow drinking contests or drinking games that encourage the over-consumption of alcohol.
- Keep guests off all roofs and balconies that are crowded.
- Help people find rides home from a sober driver who has not consumed any alcohol.

Florida Alcohol Laws

1. Possession of alcoholic beverages by persons under age 21 is prohibited (FS 562.111).
2. Selling, giving, or serving alcoholic beverages to persons under 21 is prohibited (562.11).
3. If you are arrested it is illegal to give a false name or other false information to the police (FS 901.36).
4. It is unlawful for a person under the age of 21 who has a blood-alcohol or breath-alcohol level of 0.02 or higher to drive or be in actual physical control of a motor vehicle (FS 322.2616).
5. A law enforcement officer can suspend the driving privilege of a person who has been arrested for a violation relating to unlawful blood-alcohol level or breath-alcohol level, or of a person who has refused to submit to a breath, urine, or blood test (FS 322.2615).
6. It is unlawful to disturb or endanger the welfare of others while intoxicated and to drink in a public place (856.011).

The Florida State University Student Code of Conduct

The following offenses, or the aiding, abetting, or inciting of, or attempting to commit these offenses, constitute violations of the Student Conduct Code.

1. Possession or consumption of alcohol when under the age of 21 as specified by the State of Florida.
2. Providing alcoholic beverages to an individual who is under the age of 21 as specified by the State of Florida.
3. Driving while under the influence of alcohol or any illegal substances.
4. Intoxicated behavior.
5. Any other violation of the FSU Alcohol Policy, Rule 6C2-6.012, F.A.C.

*Remember: Even if you are arrested off-campus for violating a Florida alcohol law, you are still subject to Florida State University sanctions. <http://srr.fsu.edu>
To find out greater details visit www.alcohol.fsu.edu*

Fun times in Tallahassee

Tallahassee is a great city! See below for a list of links for local attractions including movie theatres, bowling, parks, and much more. Some of the local businesses may provide student discounts.....just ask!

Museums

- Antique Car Museum.....
www.tacm.org
- Challenger Learning Center & Imax.....
www.challengertlh.com
- Florida Governor's Mansion.....
www.floridagovernorsmansion.com
- Knott House Museum.....
www.museumoffloridahistory.org
- Mary Brogan Museum of the Arts
www.thebrogan.org
- Mildred & Claude Pepper Center.....
www.claudepeppercenter.fsu.edu
- Mission St. Luis.....
www.missionstluis.org
- Museum of Florida History.....
www.museumoffloridahistory.org
- Tallahassee Museum.....
www.tallahasseeemuseum.org
- Pebble Hill Plantation.....
www.pebblehill.com
- Riley Museum Center of African American History & Culture.....
www.rileymuseum.org

Movies and Shopping

- AMC 20 Movie Theatre.....
www.shoptallahassee.com
- Governor's Square Mall.....
www.governorssquare.com
- Student Life Cinema.....
<http://movies.fsu.edu/>
- Tallahassee Mall.....
www.shoptallahassee.com

Forests, Parks & Gardens

- Apalachicola National Forest.....
www.wakullacounty.org/wakulla-6.htm
- FSU Reservation.....
<http://fsu.campusrec.com/reservation>
- Goodwood Museum & Gardens.....
www.goodwoodmuseum.org

- Leon County Recreation & Parks.....
www.leoncountyfl.gov/parks
- Maclay State Gardens.....
www.floridastateparks.org/maclaygardens
- St. George Island.....
www.apalachicolabay.org
- St. Marks Island.....
www.fws.gov/saintmarks
- Tom Brown Park
www.tal.gov.com/parks/tombrownpk.cfm
- Wakulla Springs.....
www.floridastateparks.org/wakullaspring

Amusement

- Fun Station.....
www.manuscriptmd.com/funstation
- Wild Adventures Theme Park.....
www.wildadventures.net

City of Tallahassee

- City of Tallahassee.....
www.tal.gov.com
- Leon County Library.....
www.leoncountyfl.gov/library
- Chamber of Commerce.....
Tallahassee www.talchamber.com
- Tallahassee Democrat.....
www.ttallahassee.com
- Visitor's Bureau.....
www.visittallahassee.com

Day Trips

- Havana, FL.....
www.townofhavana.com
- Monticello, FL.....
www.co.jefferson.fl.us
- Thomasville, GA.....
www.thomasvillega.com
- Quincy, FL.....
www.myquincy.net

Performing Arts

- Broadway Series.....
www.tlccc.org
- Tallahassee Ballet.....
www.tallaballet.com
- Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra.....
www.tsolive.org
- Theatre A La Carte.....
www.theatrealacarte.com

Safety



Taking safety precautions is an important part of living on your own. Below you will find organizations that support Tallahassee residents with safety needs, as well as, suggestions for keeping yourself safe in severe weather and unexpected events.

If you are a victim of a crime while a student at Florida State University regardless of location, FSU and the Tallahassee Community are here to support you.

University Resources

Victim Advocate Program

850/ 644-9555 (day),
850/644-1234 (FSUPD, evenings/weekends)

If you or someone you care about has been the victim of a crime...

...you may need to talk with someone about your options. It is not uncommon to experience a broad range of emotions including fear, confusion, anger, guilt, frustration, and tremendous sense of loss. These are all NORMAL reactions to what has happened.

You do not have to go through this alone...

The Victim Advocate Program provides advocacy to victims of crime. An advocate is on call twenty-four hours a day to respond to FSU students who are victimized, or any other person who is victimized on our campus, by an FSU student. Services offered include emotional support, instructor notification, referrals, and educational programming for our campus community.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

850/644-2288

- Assistance for faculty and staff for personal and professional difficulties

FSU Crisis Management Unit (CMU)/ Florida State University Police Department (FSUPD)

850/644-1234 (FSU Police Dispatcher)

- 24-Hour Service. Handles public safety, security, emergency/crisis support, medical and mental health emergencies for FSU students and staff.

Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC)

850/644-9566 (voice) / 850/644-8504 (TDD)

- Support services for students with disabilities

Thagard Student Health Center

850/644-6230

- Medical care, psychiatric services, and nutrition counseling.

University Counseling Center

850/644-2003; Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

- Psychological and mental health counseling; No charge for enrolled FSU students.

Community Resources

Refuge House

850/681-2111 or 800/500-1119 (toll-free)

- Services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence and 24-hour hotline and shelter for battered women and children

Big Bend

211 or 850/224-6333 (local)/ 877/211-7005 (toll-free)

- 24-hour crisis help line and referral services for the Tallahassee Community

Law Enforcement Agencies

The Florida State University is proud to have three law enforcement agencies to protect the students in Tallahassee; Florida State University Police Department (FSUPD), Tallahassee Police Department (TPD), and the Leon County Sheriff's Office (LCSO).

FSU Police Department Programs

In addition to keeping constant watch over the campus, FSUPD also provides several comprehensive programs to the student body. Programs include bicycle engraving, Citizen's Police Academy, Rape Aggression Defense Class, SAFE Connection, and operation of the Blue Light Trail. 850/644-1234, <http://police.fsu.edu>

- **RAD: Rape Aggression Defense**

RAD is a program of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques for women. The RAD system is a comprehensive, women-only course of instruction that begins with awareness, prevention, risk, and risk avoidance. It then progresses to teaching hands-on self-defense training, but it is not a martial arts program. The program is free and is open to all female students.

- **Blue Light Trail**

The Blue Light Trail consists of over 317 strategically placed light poles equipped with emergency speaker phones and topped with strobe lights. If you are threatened, see anything suspicious or require any type of police assistance quickly, just push the emergency button to be connected with the FSU Police dispatcher.

- **SAFE Connection**

The SAFE connection is a free student transportation systems which runs every night. Students who do not feel safe, or would like to a ride from one point on campus to another can call 644-SAFE and be picked up for transportation.

- **Night 'Nole**

During the fall and spring semesters, Night Nole provides students with a safe ride home from Tennessee Street and other late-night venues. The SGA funds this no-fare transit service through a contract with Tallahassee. The route is within a short walking distance of many apartment complexes where students live. For more information to find the stops and routes of night nole visit <http://sga.fsu.edu>.

Stay Safe Tips

- Lock all doors and windows before you leaves and at night while you're sleeping. Keep doors locked during the day, whether you're at home or not. Most break-ins occur because of unlocked doors and windows!
- Leave an outside light on at night. Make sure the light is turned off during the daytime.
- Don't hide keys to your home outside.
- Get together with some neighbors and agree to keep an eye on each other's homes. If you see something suspicious, call the police.
- When you get home, check for signs of forced entry before going in. If there are signs of entry, don't go inside. Call the police immediately.
- To keep your car safe, park in a garage or parking lot where there is an attendant or park in a well-lit area away from alleys and bushes. Close your windows and lock your doors. Never hide a key anywhere on your car and take your valuables with you when you leave your car or lock them in your trunk

Fire Safety and Protection

For many students moving to college means living independently for the first time. Fire safety is often the last thing students think about. See below for helpful tips on fire safety and protection.

1. Don't tamper with smoke alarms
2. Know how many doors there are from your bedroom to an exit, know alternate exits and keep exit routes clear
3. Sleep with your bedroom door closed...this helps to hold back heat and smoke
4. Do not smoke in bed and be careful using portable heaters
5. Take out the garbage or recycle those old newspapers as they burn quickly
6. Does the same fuse blow all the time? Call an electrician and remove items from that outlet till you know it is safe.
7. Do not store flammable liquids (i.e. propane gas, lighter fluid, etc.) in the home
8. Check with apartment management or landlord before using a gas or charcoal grill on your patio or balcony.
9. Remember to respond to all alarms even if it is 4:00 in the morning. Get out of your bed and evacuate...it might mean your life.
10. Designate a meeting place outside so you will know if anyone is still in the house or apartment...if you are missing a roommate, let police or fire rescue know...do not go back into a burning building.
11. Plan a drill and see how long it takes you and your roommate to evacuate safely

10 Steps to Prepare for a Hurricane

1. Prepare a Disaster Supplies Kit: 3-7 day supply.

Essential items to Include:

Food: Non perishable items for you and your pet

Water: 3 gallons per person and 1 gallon per pet

Medications: for you and your pet

Protective clothing: Rainwear, sleeping bag, pillow, shoes

Flashlight and batteries

Cell phone charger

Documents: insurance card, birth certificate, ID, Cash (use a water proof container)

Misc: disposable silverware, plates, plastic bags.

2. Prepare a Personal Evacuation Plan:

3. Make a communication plan with parents/guardians/family/friends

4. Secure your personal items

5. Listen to the radio or watch TV for evacuation instructions and updates on the storm path.

6. Fill your car's gas tank.

7. Money – make sure you have cash.

8. When a Hurricane arrives, listen to the advice of local officials.

9. Listen to local authorities, inspect your home for damage, & contact family,

10. For more information, visit the following websites or call the following hotlines:

Florida Division of
Emergency Management
(850) 413-9969
www.FloridaDisaster.org

Leon County
Emergency Management
(850) 488-5921
<http://lcs.leonfl.org/em.htm>

National Weather Service
No number provided
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov>

Transportation

How to Get Around

Getting around in Tallahassee is pretty easy. There are only about 7 major roads in the city.

1. Tennessee St East (of capital) and West (of capital) through city
2. Tharpe St East and West cross North Monroe
3. Monroe St North (of capital) and South (of capital) through city
4. Ocala Rd North and South across West Tennessee and runs into Tharpe St.
5. Apalachee Pkwy South East of Capital and runs into Capital Circle
6. Thomasville Rd North East off of Monroe
7. Capital Circle Circles the perimeter of Tallahassee

The city of Tallahassee is divided into four major quadrants Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, and Southwest. Not sure about the location, then ask whether it is Northwest or Northeast. Drive around. Get used to the city and traffic patterns. No car? Take the bus.

Transportation on campus and around town

As a Florida State University student you have a variety of FREE options available to you for getting around campus and Tallahassee.

1. The FSU bus system actually leaves campus and travels to several apartment complexes picking up students and returning them to campus, allowing them to not have to worry about parking on campus; to see which apartments the bus systems travels to as well as the routes around campus visit <http://parking.fsu.edu>.
2. Ride the StarMetro bus (the Tallahassee public transportation system) for free! All you need is your valid student id. StarMetro travels all around the city of Tallahassee, to see the routes around town or find the stop nearest you visit www.talgov.com/starmetro.

On- Campus Parking

If you drive and park on campus during the day, you are required to register your car and have a parking decal. All FSU students automatically pay a fee to the University allowing you to park your car and use the bus system on campus. You register your car with the University through the Parking and Transportation website <http://parking.fsu.edu>. This is a great resource to avoid the long lines that form at the beginning of each semester.

Parking is VERY limited so plan to arrive early to find a space. Parking restrictions are enforced Monday – Friday 7:30a.m. to 4:30p.m unless otherwise stated. That means after 4:30p.m., before 7:30a.m., and on weekends, you can park on campus without a decal. Please remember not to park in handicapped spots or reserved spaces unless you have the appropriate decals. Towing for these spaces is in effect 24 hours a day, seven days a week – even on game days.

Whether you are purchasing your decal online or in person, you will need the following information:

- Valid driver's license
- Valid license plate number
- FSU ID
- Be registered for classes

Even though you have a parking decal it does not guarantee that you will find a space. Plan ahead and get to campus early so that you can find a space and make it to class on time.

Getting Involved

Student Activities Center

One of the most important things you can do when moving off-campus is to stay connected to the University. A great place to start if you are thinking about getting involved is the Student Activities Center (SAC) which is located on the third floor of the Oglesby Union. The SAC offers over 500 different student organizations. Check out the website www.union.fsu.edu/sac to search for student organizations. With over 500 organizations there is a group that will interest you.

Center for Leadership and Civic Education

The Center for Leadership and Civic Education provides the structure and resources to prepare students to become productive citizens and assume roles of leadership and service in a culturally diverse and increasingly complex society. It also fosters lifelong service and civic participation by engaging the University with its greater community in action, change and learning. The keystones include leadership education and programs, community service and service learning, and community engagement. Please visit the Center for Leadership and Civic Education's website for more details on how to become involved, www.thecenter.fsu.edu.

Greek Life

Another great way to get involved on campus is through Greek Life. Since 1904 fraternities and sororities have been an integral part of The Florida State University community. These values-based organizations have more than 4600 members in more than 60 organizations. All of these organizations are based on the ideals of leadership, scholarship, service, and friendship. Many of these students are involved on campus in activities including: Student Government, honor societies, intramurals, Service Scholars, Dance Marathon, and so much more. Please visit our website at www.greeklife.fsu.edu to learn more about our organizations.

Student Government

The mission of the Student Government Association is to provide Florida State University students with representation, services and advocacy within the university structure. The SGA provides quality leadership for, and accountability to, its constituency by recognizing that strength arises from diversity, engagement and dialogue. To learn more about what SGA can do for you and way to get involved visit www.sga.fsu.edu.



OGLESBY UNION
CONCERTS  BOWLING
ART  FOOD
MOVIES  CIRCUS
STUDENT ACTIVITIES

ENHANCE YOUR FSU COLLEGE EXPERIENCE WITH
FREE/LOW COST ENTERTAINMENT EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK!

VISIT UNION.FSU.EDU FOR MORE INFO

GATHER · CREATE · INSPIRE

 FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
OGLESBY
UNION

Campus Recreation

FSU offers students a wide variety of ways to maintain their athletic ability by utilizing the many opportunities on campus. Between working out at the Leach Center, playing Intramural Sports, or even participating in Outdoor Adventure, Campus Rec has it all! For more information about Campus Recreation visit their website www.fsu.campusrec.com.

Interfaith Council

The Interfaith Council at Florida State University is an organization of individuals who have come together from a wide variety of religious traditions to share a common interest in the free expression of religious faith in the life of the University. The Association shall be a support community for the encouragement of those engaging in this ministry. To learn more about the organization connected to campus ministries visit www.interfaithcouncil.fsu.edu.

Thagard Peer Educators

Interested in becoming a Peer Health Educator, an advocate, or volunteering on the FSU Relay For Life committee? You will find a variety of ways to get involved in health issues on campus through Thagard Student Health Center.

Thagard's Life Improvement Promotion Service has seven peer health education groups, all of which focus on:

- Dispelling myths and educating students on the dangers of high risk behaviors.
- Informing students of health and wellness resources available on campus.
- Collaborating with other campus departments and community partners.
- Assisting in creating healthy learning environments.
- Participating in large national events and student-focused initiatives.
- Assisting in university, local and state policy change.
- Developing and implementing culturally competent and diverse programs.
- Acquiring special training to become knowledgeable in their health related area.
- Working under the auspices of Healthy Campus 2010.

To find out more about becoming a Health Peer Educator visit www.tshc.fsu.edu and click on the forms section.

Student Jobs

Getting a job on campus is a great way to stay connected and earn some money. Below are some on campus resources for jobs.

- FSU Career Center...www.career.fsu.edu
- Office of Financial Aide...www.finaid.fsu.edu
- FSU Human Resources.....www.hr.fsu.edu

Staying Healthy at FSU



Thagard Student Health Center

TSHC offers a wide variety of healthcare options for students including primary medical care, psychological care, health education, and other specialties and services. To learn more about the services offered, please visit the TSHC website at www.tshc.fsu.edu.

Counseling Center

The University Counseling Center is located on the 2nd Floor of the Askew Student Life Center. They provide free individual and group counseling to students. The Counseling Center is open Monday-Friday 8AM- 5PM. You can make an appointment or stop in for immediate help. For more information visit the University Counseling Center's website at www.counseling.fsu.edu.

Health/Nutrition

Are you interested in healthy eating or changing your diet? Visit with a nutritionist FREE through Thagard Student Health Center. They have some great services to offer you information about healthy living. Visit their website at www.tshc.fsu.edu/students/living-health/nutrition_services.html.

Fitness is Key at FSU

FSU provides an opportunity for every student to participate in athletic or recreational activities for FREE! All you need is your FSUCard to get started!

Check out our facilities on campus for your convenience:

- Leach Student Recreation Center
- FSU Rez
- Leach Pool
- Rec Sportsplex
- Don Veller Seminole Golf Course

Join a team! Campus Rec offers 32 different intramural sports and more than 40 Sport Clubs throughout the year. Activities range from flag football to lacrosse to mixed martial arts. This is a great way to meet new people or gather friends for some friendly competition.

Love cardio? Over 90 group fitness classes are offered. Come out and join in on some cardio kickboxing, run the Doak Campbell Stadium steps or break it down in a Hip-Hop Aerobics class.

If you are new to getting fit, take advantage of the 8 FREE personal training sessions offered to all FSU students. Also, you can have fitness assessments completed at the Leach Center.

To learn more about services or programs visit the Campus Recreation website at www.fsu.campusrec.com.

Macaroni and Cheese: Eat Well!

Cooking is not that difficult. Below you will find some recommendations for utensils and on-line sources that provide the how-to on cooking. Cooking instead of eating out is more cost effective. Cooking can also be very relaxing and is a fun thing for roommates to do together.

Cooking

Here's a list of kitchen items you may need:

The Basics:

- Cookie sheet
- Mixing bowl
- Measuring spoons
- Spatula
- Pot holders
- Cooking pot
- Mixing spoon(s)
- Sharp knife
- Tongs
- Tin foil
- Skillet
- Measuring cups (liquid ingredients)
- Measuring cups (dry ingredients)
- 9" X 13" Cooking pan (metal or glass)
- Plastic storage containers

Eating Around Campus



Meal Plans

On campus Meal plans are a great idea if you like to eat, but do not like to cook or you do not know how. There are several meal plans available, so do your research before committing to a meal plan. Meal plans allow you to eat in the two main dining facilities on campus: Fresh Food Company or Suwannee Room.

Begin your research at Seminole Dining website www.seminoledining.com for the best plan for you.

What are flex bucks?

Meal plans come with both meals, which are used at Suwannee Room and Fresh Food Company, and flexbucks. Flexbucks help add flexibility to the plans; they are accepted at all on campus dining locations. Denny's, Chili's, Papa John's and Starbucks just to name a few!

What are Garnet Bucks?

GarnetBucks work like Flexbucks, but are not attached to a meal plan and can be purchased at any time. They can also be used at any on campus dining location.

Garnet Bucks are a great way to budget your food money while eating at any Seminole Dining location and is a convenient way to avoid carrying cash around campus.



One delicious decision.



All these choices right on campus.

Visit www.SEMINOLEDINING.com or call 644-3663 for hours of operation, meal plan and GarnetBuck information.

Helpful On-Campus Numbers

Area Code 850

Law Enforcement/Safety	Phone Number	Website
FSU Police Department	644-1234	www.police.fsu.edu
Tallahassee Police Department	891-4200	www.talgov.com
Leon County Sheriffs Department	922-3300	http://lcso.leonfl.org/
Florida Highway Patrol	617-2301	http://www.fhp.state.fl.us/
FSU Emergency Hotline	644-INFO (4636)	
Night Nole	644-1811	http://www.sga.fsu.edu
SAFE Ride	644-SAFE (7233)	www.police.fsu.edu
Victim Advocate Program	644-7161	http://victimadvocate.fsu.edu
Academic		
Dean of Graduate Studies	644-3500	http://gradstudies.fsu.edu
Dean of Undergraduate Studies	644-2451	http://undergrad.fsu.edu
College of Arts & Sciences	644-1081	www.fsu.edu/~fsuas
College of Business	644-3892	http://cob.fsu.edu
College of Communication	644-9698	www.comm.fsu.edu
College of Criminology & Criminal Justice	644-4050	http://crim.fsu.edu
College of Education	644-6885	www.coe.fsu.edu
College of Engineering (FAMU/FSU)	410-6161	http://eng.fsu.edu
College of Human Sciences	644-5054	www.chs.fsu.edu
College of Law	644-3071	www.law.fsu.edu
College of Information	644-5775	http://ci.fsu.edu
College of Medicine	644-1855	http://med.fsu.edu
College of Motion Picture, Television & Recording Arts	644-7728	http://film.fsu.edu
College of Music	644-3424	http://music.fsu.edu
College of Nursing	644-3296	http://nursing.fsu.edu
College of Social Sciences	644-6284	www.coss.fsu.edu
College of Social Work	644-4751	http://ssw.fsu.edu
College of Theatre/Visual Arts & Dance	644-6795	http://www.fsu.edu/~cvatd/
Advising First	644-3430	http://advisingfirst.fsu.edu
FSU Honors Program	644-1841	http://honors.fsu.edu
Libraries	644-5211	www.lib.fsu.edu
Registrar	644-1050	www.registrar.fsu.edu
Retention/Academic Support	644-0387	http://undergrad.fsu.edu/retent
Veteran's Affairs	644-1252	http://registrar.fsu.edu/
Withdrawal Services	644-1741	http://withdrawal.fsu.edu
Student Life		
Dean of Students	644-2428	www.deanofstudents.fsu.edu
Campus Recreation	644-0551	http://fsu.campusrec.com
Career Center	644-6431	www.career.fsu.edu
Center for Leadership & Civic Education	644-6431	http://thecenter.fsu.edu
Greek Life	644-9574	http://greeklife.fsu.edu
Health Center, Thagard	645-2540	http://tshc.fsu.edu
International Programs	644-3272	www.international.fsu.edu
International Student Center	644-1702	www.ic.fsu.edu

Intramural Sports	644-2430	http://fsu.campusrec.com/im/
Office of Multicultural Affairs	644-2450	http://oma.fsu.edu
Off-Campus	644-0089	http://www.fsu.edu/~sga/och1.html
Oglesby Student Union	644-3434	http://union.fsu.edu
Orientation	644-2785	http://orientation.fsu.edu
Parking & Transportation Services	644-5278	http://parking.fsu.edu
Seminole Dining	644-2404	www.seminoledining.com
Student Activities Center	644-4840	http://union.fsu.edu/sac
Student Disability Resource Center	644-9566	http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu
Student Government Association	644-1811	http://sga.fsu.edu
Student Rights and Responsibilities	644-5136	http://srr/fsu.edu
University Counseling Center	644-2003	http://counseling.fsu.edu
University Post Office	644-7179	
University Resources		
Computer Store	644-3702	http://www.fsucs.com
Copy Center	644-2895	
FSU Card Center	644-7777	www.fsucard.fsu.edu
SunTrust Campus Branch	644-5392	www.suntrust.com
Telecommunications & Network Services	644-4357	
University Book Store	644-2072	www.fsu.bkstr.com
University Athletics		
Seminole Student Boosters	644-0387	www.seminole-boosters.com
Athletic Ticket Office	644-1830	www.seminoles.com
Financial Services		
Financial Aid	644-5871	http://financialaid.fsu.edu/
Student Financial Services (Cashier's Office)	644-9452	www.sfs.fsu.edu
Additional University Resources		
Alumni Association	644-2761	http://alumni.fsu.edu
FSU Foundation	644-6000	http://foundation.fsu.edu
Human Resources	644-6034	http://hr.fsu.edu
Southern Scholarship Foundation	222-3833	www.southern scholarship.org

Helpful Off-Campus Numbers

City of Tallahassee	Phone #	Web Address
City of Tallahassee		www.tal.gov
City of Tallahassee Commission	(850) 891-0000	www.tal.gov
Code Enforcement Office	(850) 891-7001	www.tal.gov
Landlord/Tenant Mediation	(850) 891-8995	www.tal.gov
Tallahassee Fire/Rescue	(850) 891-6600	www.tal.gov
Tallahassee Area Chamber of Commerce	(850) 224-8116	www.talchamber.com
Florida Chamber of Commerce	(850) 521-1200	www.flchamber.com
City Public Works	(850) 891-8197	www.tal.gov/pubworks/index.cfm
Council on Culture and Arts	(850) 224-2500	http://cocanet.org/
211 Big Bend Hotline (Telephone Counseling/Referral)	211 or (850)-224-6333	http://www.211bigbend.org/

Leon County

Leon County Commission (850) 606-5303
Leon County Animal Services (850) 606-5401
Leon County Solid Waste Management (850) 606-1800
Leon County Health Department (850) 487-3155
Poison Control 1-800-222-1222
Leon County Library District (850) 606-2665
Leon County Schools (850) 487-7100
Supervisor of Elections (850) 606-8683
Leon County Visitor's Guide (850) 606-2305

www.leoncountyfl.gov
<http://www.leoncountyfl.gov/Animal>
<http://www.leoncountyfl.gov/solidwaste/>
<http://www.leoncountyfl.gov/lchd/>
www.fpicn.org
www.leoncountylibrary.org
<http://www.leon.k12.fl.us/>
<http://www.leoncountyfl.gov/elect/>
<http://www.visittallahassee.com/>

Transportation

Star Metro (850) 891-5200
FSU Bus Routes (850) 644-5278

<http://www.talgov.com/starmetro/parking.fsu.edu>

State of Florida

State of Florida
Florida Recreation and Parks (850) 245-3029
Driver's License Office (850) 488-4735
Florida Tax/Registration Office (850) 488-4735
United States Postal Service

www.myflorida.com
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/parks/>
<http://www.hsmv.state.fl.us>
<http://www.leontaxcollector.net/>
www.usps.com

Health Care

Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (850) 431-1155
Capital Regional Medical Center (850) 325-5000

www.tmh.org
<http://www.tallahasseehospital.com/>

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Seminole Creed



Values and Morals at Florida State University
The guiding ethical norm at FSU is responsible freedom. As a member of this community, I promise the following:

Truthfulness

I will be honest and truthful at all times and work for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University.

Respect

I will show respect for others, the University, and myself.

Excellence

I will pursue excellence in my learning and living in the University and beyond.

Freedom of Speech and Inquiry

I will support academic freedom, including the right of dissent and freedom of speech.

Diversity

I will learn from and about those who are different and work to make the University inclusive.

Justice

I will treat others in a fair manner and strive to make the University a community of justice.

Citizenship

I will act as a responsible citizen in the University and beyond, participating in those activities fostering Citizenship.

Discovery

I will take time for adventure, discovery, fun, excitement and friendship.

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