

Living in D.C. and Surrounding Communities

Apartment Searching

When looking for a new home in the D.C.-metropolitan area, there are several factors that you should consider in your decision-making process:

- Price:** As a general rule, the farther away from the city, the less expensive the cost of housing will be. There are also trade-offs when deciding whether to live closer or further away from a metro stop, because proximity to a metro stop may impact the cost of housing. Other factors such as the condition and age of the building, as well as available amenities may impact rental prices.
- Area:** Consider the neighborhood you're evaluating based on your lifestyle and the kind of community in which you want to live. Do you want to live near outdoor spaces, shopping centers, or around city nightlife?
- Safety:** Visit the areas you are looking to rent in during the day and night to gauge your comfort level. You may want to check out <http://crimemap.dc.gov> or CrimeDC.com for additional information regarding a particular area.
- Commute Time:** Consider the cost, time and convenience of whether or not you need to use public transportation to get to work and campus.
- Parking:** If you own a car, consider the cost of parking the car in a daily garage or the challenge of finding street parking in a city. Oftentimes you will need to pay extra per month for a parking spot in your apartment building or residential area.

Begin Your Search

The Office of Off-Campus Student Affairs website (<http://offcampus.students.gwu.edu/>) is an excellent first step to finding housing options. The majority of students who live off-campus find their apartment or home through online resources or by using a local realtor to help them find housing. Our website lists a variety of rental search engines, leasing companies, and options for temporary housing, as well as other resources for renters.

GW Off-Campus Housing

(<https://gwoffcampus.com/>)

You can find listings for both undergraduate and graduate students, create and search roommate profiles, and use message boards and other resources to assist your search. Creating an account is free.

Rental Rates in DC and Surrounding Areas

Washington DC Apartment Rental Rates*

Neighborhood	Efficiency	One Bedroom	Two Bedroom
Adams Morgan	\$1300-1840	\$1550-2250	\$1800-3700
Cleveland Park	\$1250-1900	\$1650-2400	\$1730-3200
Columbia Heights	\$1175-2050	\$1575-2200	\$1875-3100
Dupont Circle	\$1600-2100	\$2400-2900	\$3800
Foggy Bottom	\$1550-1725	\$2200-2400	\$3000-4150
Glover Park	\$1130-1250	\$1455-1821	\$1940-2680
Mount Vernon Square	\$1380-1985	\$1400-2475	\$1800-3220
Tenleytown	\$1250-1730	\$1550-2350	\$2250-4400

Suburban Communities			
Alexandria	\$1140-2020	\$1000-1790	\$1200-2620
Arlington	\$1300-1765	\$1350-2140	\$1905-3395
Bethesda/Chevy Chase	\$1280-2065	\$1305-2570	\$1360-3295
Rockville	\$1070-1220	\$1160-1650	\$1205-2150
Silver Spring	\$900-1525	\$955-1690	\$1250-2220

*Based on 2015 rental rates:
<http://dc.about.com/od/rentals/a/Washington-Dc-Apartment-Rental-Rates.htm>

Getting Around the District

Living in an urban setting affords you with several ways to travel across the city and into southern Maryland and Northern Virginia. One of the primary methods of public transportation is the Metrorail, which consists of six different colored lines (Red, Blue, Orange, Silver, Green and Yellow) serving distinct areas of the D.C.-metropolitan area. In addition to Metrorail, Metrobus is another method of transportation across the District. Bus stops are

located throughout the district and routes and schedules can be found online at <http://www.wmata.com/bus/>. Finally, another means of public transportation is the D.C. Circulator which operates routes that provide access to Georgetown, Woodley Park-Adams Morgan, and Navy Yard. More information about the Circulator is available at <http://www.DCcirculator.com/>

In addition to public transportation, many GW students choose to bring their own bicycles or invest in a Capital Bikeshare membership, which allows students to rent bikes and use them at stations located throughout the D.C. area. More information on Capital Bikeshare can be found here: <http://www.capitalbikeshare.com/>

Getting to Know the District & Surrounding Areas

The District consists of many neighborhoods that range in history, culture and modernization across the city. A rule of thumb when traveling the District is to remember that the numbered streets go from north to south, lettered streets go east to west and diagonal streets are states. The District is divided up into four quadrants: Southwest, Southeast, Northwest, and Northeast.

- **Northwest D.C.**

Where The George Washington University and the Foggy Bottom-area are located is in the Northwest quadrant. Other major features to Northwest include Georgetown, Dupont Circle, the U Street corridor, and the Woodley Park and Adams Morgan neighborhoods. As the largest quadrant, all Metro lines serve various parts of the Northwest quadrant except notably Georgetown, which is primarily accessible via the Circulator or Metrobus.

- **Northeast D.C.**

This area is home to many students due to the proximity of Catholic University, Howard University, and Gallaudet University all within this quadrant. Generally, housing options are less expensive and the area is very public transit accessible. Better known features of Northeast D.C. include Union Station and the rapidly developing area known as “NoMa,” which includes residential, commercial and retail spaces. The Metro Red line primarily serves Northeast D.C.

- **Southwest D.C.**

Otherwise known as the Capitol Waterfront, this area of D.C. includes residential areas as well as many federal office buildings. Some better known attractions of this area are the National Mall grounds, Maine Avenue Fish Market, and Hains Point. Metro Blue and Orange lines primarily serve Southwest D.C.

- **Southeast D.C.**

Southeast D.C., which has a mixed population of politicians, professionals, and students, is the area known as “Capitol Hill.” Other prominent features of this quadrant are RFK Stadium, Nationals Stadium Ballpark, and Eastern Market. The Metro Green, Orange and Blue lines primarily serve the Southeast area.

- **Northern Arlington, Virginia**

Accessible via the Metro Orange Line, Northern Arlington has a number of neighborhoods that attract students and young professionals, including Court House, Clarendon, and Ballston. Housing ranges widely from high-rises to more residential properties. Being in the less urban setting allows for immediate access to grocery, home improvement and other chain retail stores.

- **Southern Arlington, Virginia**

Accessible via the Metro Blue Line, Southern Arlington also has a number of neighborhoods that attract a variety of people living in areas such as Crystal City or Pentagon City. Housing tends to be of the high-rise and apartment variety, although more residential properties do exist. Features of this area include the Pentagon, Pentagon City Mall, and the Crystal City Shops.

- **Alexandria, Virginia**

Alexandria, a historic city, offers a wide price range in housing and a wide variety in types of housing. Many students, young adults, and families live in Alexandria. Alexandria’s better known area is Old Town, a restored colonial area with shops and restaurants. Alexandria is metro accessible serving both the Metro Blue and Yellow lines making it easy to commute in and out of the District.

- **Silver Spring, Maryland**

Silver Spring serves as the primary urban area in Montgomery County and its revitalization has ushered in a diverse mix of people. It contains many reasonably priced apartments. In recent years the Downtown area has been revitalized with an eclectic mix of entertainment, restaurants, and shopping centers. Silver Spring is located on the Red Line of the Metrorail.

- **Bethesda, Maryland**

Just north of the District, Bethesda is home to the National Institute of Health, National Naval Medical Center. Bethesda is best known for its large number of restaurants. There are many apartment buildings and condominiums in downtown Bethesda. This lively urban community is located near two metro stops on the Red line (Bethesda and Medical Center).