

Off-Campus Housing
Frequently Asked Questions

Off-Campus Housing

1. When is the off-campus housing/application process?
 - a. February 6 – Application opens
 - b. February 12 – Application closes
 - c. February 16 – Students notified of decisions
 - d. February 28 – Deadline to decline off-campus housing
2. Who is allowed to apply for off-campus housing?
 - a. All upper-class VU students.
3. How many students will be approved for off-campus?
 - a. OHARE expects to approve approximately 1,050 students for off-campus living.
4. Is there waitlist?
 - a. Yes. OHARE will make an initial round of offers and keep a list of students in case others decline their offers.
5. How does the authorization process work?
 - a. Students register for housing, submitting both on- and off-campus housing applications. OHARE will then sort the applications by seniority, with those students already living off-campus being approved first.
6. How does seniority apply to the off-campus process?
 - a. The order of approval will go as follows: (1) students already living off-campus, (2) rising 4th-year students, (3) rising 3rd-year students, then (4) rising 2nd-year students.
7. How many students can be on a ballot?
 - a. From 1 to 3 students may appear on a ballot.
8. Does applying on a group-ballot improve my chances of being approved for off-campus housing?
 - a. No. Each ballot, regardless of size, is given equal priority in the approval process.
9. What happens if my “group” does not get authorized for off-campus housing?
 - a. Students who consider themselves as “groups” but did not apply on a single ballot will not be considered a “group” in the approval process. We encourage all students hoping to live together off-campus to appear on the same ballot.
10. Will I be forced to live off-campus?
 - a. No. Every student who wishes to remain on campus may do so.
11. Can first-year students live off-campus?
 - a. No. All unmarried first-year students at Vanderbilt University reside in the Houses of The Martha Rivers Ingram Commons [<http://commons.vanderbilt.edu/>], except those who live with their parents or legal guardians in Davidson County. Please click here [<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/ResEd/main/housing/housing-policies/the-residential-requirement-for-all-undergraduates/>] for more information.
12. Do I have to apply for on-campus housing if I apply for off-campus housing?
 - a. Yes, you must submit an on-campus application before you can submit an off-campus application. If you apply for off-campus housing and are not approved or later find out that you cannot move off-campus, you will need to have had submitted an application for on-campus housing. Otherwise, you will be assigned housing at the end of the selection process.
13. What if I miss the deadline?
 - a. Contact OHARE.
14. Can I have a meal plan?
 - a. Yes. Please click [www.vanderbilt.edu/dining/] for more information.

15. Can I use the recreation center?
 - a. Yes. Please click [www.vanderbilt.edu/CampusRecreation/] for more information.
16. What if I am studying abroad, will I get off-campus approval when I return?
 - a. Students studying abroad should not assume they will be granted off-campus authorization when they return.
17. How does living off-campus impact my financial aid package?
 - a. Please contact your financial aid adviser for further assistance.
18. Will VU subsidize off-campus living?
 - a. No. While Vanderbilt is working to provide information about several properties to our students, OHARE will not subsidize the rent of off-campus housing.
19. Do VU rules apply for off-campus living?
 - a. Yes. We strongly encourage students to become familiar with the Student Handbook [http://www.vanderbilt.edu/student_handbook/], which states:
 - i. Members of the University enjoy the rights and privileges associated with their status and are bound by the laws of the surrounding community. Student status does not protect a Vanderbilt student from arrest or prosecution for violation of local, state, or federal laws. A student who violates certain regulations can be held accountable by the public court as well as by the University. A student's standing before the courts in and of itself, however, does not necessarily affect his or her standing within the University at any time.
20. What if I sign a lease before the application process, does it improve my chances?
 - a. No. All students hoping to live off-campus must first be approved by the Office of Housing and Residential Education. We strongly advise students not to enter into any lease before their off-campus application is approved.
21. What is OHARE doing to help students with off-campus housing?
 - a. Off-Campus Housing Fair
 - b. Off-Campus Referral Service
 - c. Agreement with Vanderbilt Real Estate, including Village at Vanderbilt, Wesley Place, Barbizon and 1808 Edgehill
 - d. Pending agreement with Midtown Place
 - e. This FAQ
22. What if I am authorized to move off-campus but I cannot find a place to live?
 - a. Students who apply for off-campus authorization will be notified of OHARE's decision on Thursday, February 16th. Those granted off-campus authorization will have until Tuesday, February 28th to decide whether to accept authorization or decline it and enter the on-campus housing lottery. Those who accept authorization assume responsibility for finding off-campus housing. Therefore, we strongly advise students to begin their housing search and get on waiting lists early.
23. Are there any houses available for rent?
 - a. Some years there are. Please refer to the Off-Campus Referral Service [<https://apphost1a.its.vanderbilt.edu/housing/Main/>] for more details. However, please keep in mind that Metro Codes prohibit more than 3 unrelated individuals from living in one abode.
24. If I live off-campus, where will I park when I come to campus for classes, meetings, visit friends, etc.?
 - a. The Office of Traffic & Parking classifies off-campus students as commuters. All commuters (students, faculty, and staff) are eligible for Zone parking permits. Student

commuters are zoned according to the schools in which they are enrolled and park in their assigned zones.

25. Will there be a shuttle service for students living off-campus?
 - a. TBD.
26. If I move off-campus next year am I guaranteed off-campus the following year?
 - a. Off-campus approval is granted for a single academic year, so students must apply each year they wish to live off-campus. However, students already living off-campus have first priority for off-campus authorization in subsequent years.
27. If I have special needs can I move off-campus? Will it improve my chances?
 - a. The Special-Needs housing process and the application for authorization to live off-campus are separate and distinct processes. We strive to accommodate special needs in our residence halls. Students with special needs who are seeking to live off-campus must apply for off-campus authorization.
28. What if I have a specific question about an off-campus property?
 - a. We invite students to contact properties directly with their questions.
29. What if I have additional questions about off-campus housing?
 - a. Please let us know, either by e-mail [resed@vanderbilt.edu], by phone (615) 322-2591, or by stopping by our office.
30. Will off-campus properties consider Vanderbilt seniority in their rental decisions?
 - a. That is up to each property manager. Vanderbilt has no authority or influence on how they determine how they rent.