

Beware of Scams

Students looking for off-campus housing must protect themselves against rental scams and fraud. Learn the most frequent warning signs of rental fraud to ensure that the property you are looking into is reputable and safe.

What To Look Out For:

- The opportunity is too good to be true: Scammers often advertise “too good to be true” properties that seem like amazing opportunities. Do your research into the property listing and surrounding locations to price compare.
- Pressuring you into sending money before a property walk-through: You should not be sending money to a property lister until you are personally filling out an application (potential application fee), paying a security deposit or paying for rent. Never give out your financial information through the internet, over social media or via telephone.
- Untrustworthy payment methods: Be cautious of any links that a landlord or property manager sends you for payment methods. Ensure that it is a trustworthy link before inputting your financial information.
- You cannot find the property location: Sometimes, scammers post fake properties that are not actually for rent. It is always recommended to tour property listing in person – bring a friend, if possible – to confirm that it is a legit listing.

Quick Tips:

- Verify: Check ownership and licensing of landlord/property manager. Phone numbers alone can be spoofed, so check authenticity with additional information.
- Research the landlord: With a simple Google search, you can find out if the person is associated with the area, or even if they have been named in scams in the past by news outlets, local law enforcement or previous victims.
- Check the property’s street views: When you look at the property on an online map, click on the street view option to see if the property matches the listing photo.

Searching for an off-campus property is not a scary task; however, we want students to remain informed and prepared during their housing search. You should always do your research on a property and make sure that location is where you want to live for the school year.

