

Off-Campus Housing Frequently Asked Questions

I am looking for a place to live. What should I do?

The Student Housing Office has a variety of resources available to assist those who are looking for a place to live. Resources include:

- The OFF-CAMPUS DATABASE can be searched if you are looking for a place to live or even a roommate. Go to **och.ucmerced.edu** and follow the links.
- Information for both first time renters and students who have rented before.
- Information and advising on landlord/tenant rights and responsibilities
- Information and forms helping to make your off-campus living experience successful!

What types of listings are on the och.ucmerced.edu site?

- Houses, Apartments and Condos
- Rooms in Private Homes
- Roommates Wanted

I am on the waiting list for On-Campus Housing. What should I do?

First of all, decide if you want to look at off-campus housing as a permanent solution for the year, or if you may want to move to campus when/if your name comes up on the waiting list. If you decide to live off campus as a temporary solution, and want to move on-campus if space allows, don't commit to a lease. A lease is a binding contract, just like student housing on campus. You might want to look for a month to month agreement where you can move out with 30 days notice. Often, the best place to find these agreements is in a room in a private home or an apartment complex that agrees to those terms.

Can I buy meals and eat on campus?

Yes, anyone may purchase food at Valley Dining and the Library Café. You may pay using cash. For the quickest service, put dining credit on your Cat Card so you can simply swipe your card at the cashier station and go.

What do I do if I need furniture?

Some apartments and homes may be furnished. If yours is not, look for garage sales, discount stores, or in your parent's garage! Don't think you cannot live without a full living room suite, however. Talk to your roommates, and pool your resources.

Speaking of Roommates...What do I do if we don't get along?

First of all, pick your battles! Don't let every little thing get to you. It will be a very long year if you start that way! Try to take care of problems "in house". Work together to find solutions to your problems and if that doesn't work, ask a mutual acquaintance to act as a mediator. Then LISTEN to one another and take steps to work it out. Don't talk to others about your problems behind one another's backs. This only makes things worse. Try treating your roommate as well as you would treat a guest in your home.

I won't have a car. What type of transportation is available to me?

- Contact taps.ucmerced.edu for all types of transportation and schedules.
- Merced County Transit also offers an Employee Based Transit program (EBT) which provides commuter runs to the campus for 8 people or more on "an off the fixed route schedule". Call (209) 385-7600 to make EBT arrangements.

My financial aid was calculated for living on-campus. Now what do I do?

As soon as you know you will be living off campus, contact the financial aid office at finaid@ucmerced.edu or (209) 724-4384 for more information. The estimated cost varies with on and off-campus living. Do not wait until it is too late.

What advice would you give a first time renter?

- Read what is available on the off-campus site and become familiar with it.
- Choose your residence for the year carefully. Think about transportation issues, safety issues, and where your friends will be living. Keep all these things in mind when you are looking over a lease.
- Do not hurry to sign something and think you will "work out the details later". Later is never better.
- Find and carefully choose your roommates. Sit down before you sign together and ask a lot of questions. Having a roommate you don't mind coming home to helps to make your life in the apartment less stressful.
- Don't think just because you are off-campus means you can just sit home! We need you to join a club, help volunteer at campus activities, and gain leadership experience. Contact Student Life, (209) 381-4163, or stop by and visit with people. UCM will have lots of things going, but you need to show up!

REMEMBER! A BOBCAT IS A BOBCAT WHEREVER THEY LIVE!