Housing Search
Self Quiz

Before looking for your first apartment, ask yourself these questions:
**Notes that definitions are on the back of this sheet.

1. What three words would you use to describe your dream place?

_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________

2. Do you need mates?

☐ No
☐ Yes, roommates*
☐ Yes, housemates*
  ☐ How many? ______
  ☐ What type of lease are you seeking?
    ☐ Individual leases*
    ☐ One joint lease*

3. Where do you want live?

☐ House  ☐ Row house
☐ Townhouse  ☐ Apartment Complex
☐ Apartment Building  ☐ Converted Warehouse/Building

4. How will you get around (class, work, gym, grocery store)?

☐ Walk  ☐ Drive
☐ Bike  ☐ Carpool

5. How long are you willing to commute?

☐ 0 - 10 minutes
☐ 10 – 15 minutes
☐ 15 – 20 minutes
☐ 20 - 30 minutes
☐ Doesn’t matter

6. How much can you afford to spend a month?

________ On rent

________ On utilities (electricity, water, internet, gas, oil)(on average it is an additional $220 per unit)

________ On extras (phone, cable, internet, renters insurance)

________ On transportation (parking pass, gas, service, insurance)

________ On food (groceries, dining out, household items)

7. What do you need to live comfortably?

☐ Large bedroom
☐ Large common areas
☐ Private Bathroom
☐ Dishwasher in the unit
☐ Washer and dryer in the unit
☐ Laundry in the building
☐ Laundromat (no more than __ mins away)
☐ Grocery store (no more than __ mins away)
☐ Coffee shop (no more than __ mins away)
☐ Gym (no more than __ mins away)
☐ Near a bus stop (no more than __ blocks away)
☐ Parking available
☐ Pets allowed
☐ Ability to sublease/relet the unit, if needed
☐ Other: __________________

8. When do you need to move in by (a few days/week prior to first day of classes, first day of work)?

____ / ____ / ____

9. When do you want to move out by (a few days/weeks after finals, last day of work)?

____ / ____ / ____

Anything else?

_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
TYPES OF LEASES

- A **joint lease** is a lease signed by all tenants, making the entire group responsible for damages and paying the full rent. This places the choice of filling empty bedrooms in the apartment or home on the tenants themselves.
- An alternative to joint leases are **individual leases**. This when a tenant signs for a single room, meaning s/he is individually responsible for paying rent and any damages to the room. However, this may also mean the landlord can place any tenant in remaining rooms in the apartment or townhome. Be sure to ask about this before signing your lease. Please note that the properties that offer individual leases tend to be very popular with VCU’s undergraduate population.

TYPES OF ROOMMATES

- **Housemates** are individuals whom would rather live alone, but are unable to afford it. Typically, each housemate is rather independent and respective of the others living in the house. Friendships may form, but the primary purpose of living together is solely to keep costs low.
- Alternatively, **roommates** are those living together to save money and for social reason. Typically, roommates will invest time and energy into creating long-term friendships.

REMINDERS

- Financial Aid is applied towards any money you owe to the university first, than if there is a remaining amount, you will receive a refund check. If you have met all your financial aid deadlines, you should receive your check in mid-late September and late January to early February.