Some things you should do before signing a lease:

1. **Decide on a move-in date.** Try to give yourself lots of time to do all the things you need to with changing addresses.

2. **READ and UNDERSTAND the LEASE!!!!** If you don’t understand the lease, contact student legal services (252-737-1067).

3. **Visit the location** during the day, night, and weekends to fully know the environment you might be living.

4. **Visit the unit** you will be in. Find out if the “best fit” for you in regards to location in the complex, neighbors, and floorplans. If you like to have a dark bedroom for sleeping, you may not want a unit that has a street light right outside your bedroom window.

5. **Talk to the people who live there.** This is a great chance to first meet a new neighbor/friend. Also, you can talk about what it is like to live there; if there are any problems or issues to know about. See who lives there and if it is majority student renters or if student renters a part of the whole demographic.

6. **Make a budget** for what ALL the costs are and what you can afford. If you don’t know the all the costs, research them: internet, cable TV, (landline) phone, water & sewer, electricity, garbage/recyclables pick-up. Please note: some of these costs may be included in your rent.