



# OFF-CAMPUS LIVING GUIDE

ZipAssist Office

The  
University  
of Akron

# WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING GUIDE

Whether this is your first time searching for off-campus housing, or if you have lived off campus before, this guide presents the various resources available on and off campus to help you navigate the housing process.

Off-Campus Living (OCL) is a program within the ZipAssist office that provides resources to all off-campus students, including students living in Akron and those commuting from elsewhere.

ZipAssist serves as a central information hub, designed to share resources to support student success.



If you have additional questions or suggestions regarding off-campus living, please email [uazipassist@uakron.edu](mailto:uazipassist@uakron.edu).



# ZIPASSIST RESOURCES

## HELP-A-ZIP

College can be stressful for students as they balance academics with their lives outside of the classroom. If you are aware of someone in distress, or if you are in need of help, please let us know. Please visit [uakron.edu/referral](http://uakron.edu/referral) to submit a referral.



## THE SALVATION ARMY

ZipAssist and The Salvation Army of Summit County have partnered to offer financial relief, social services and immediate assistance to students in need, including:

- textbooks
- payment plans
- utility assistance (gas and electric)
- food pantry (off campus)
- child care (18 months to 12 years)
- emergency travel
- vision exams

## EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Student Emergency Financial Assistance (SEFA) program is supported by the Dash Emergency Grant from the Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation & Affiliates. This program provides critical support to at-risk students needing to overcome financial obstacles in order to persist at UA. Visit [uakron.edu/financial-assistance](http://uakron.edu/financial-assistance) for additional information and eligibility requirements.

## PASSPORT ACCEPTANCE FACILITY

Are you looking to apply for or renew a U.S. passport? ZipAssist is now a registered passport acceptance facility. To apply for or renew your passport, please visit [uakron.edu/zipassist/zipassist-passport-2](http://uakron.edu/zipassist/zipassist-passport-2).



# FINDING OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

UA has partnered with Rent College Pads, a company that specializes in providing off-campus housing for college students. Students can use this free service to search local housing options, find roommates and add subleases. To access Rent College Pads and search housing options, visit [uakron.edu/offcampus](http://uakron.edu/offcampus).

## VIEW RENT COLLEGE PADS AND CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING WHEN VIEWING LOCATIONS:

- **Neighborhood safety**
- **Proximity of public transportation**
- **Distance to campus**
- **Distance to a grocery store**

## TIMELINE

- Start looking for housing around February or March for the upcoming academic year.
- Housing is always available, but the earlier you start looking, the more likely it is you will find something that satisfies all your needs.
- Give yourself an ample amount of time so that you don't feel pressured into signing a lease or pre-lease.
- There are many options for living off campus, so do your research.
- OCL hosts housing fairs during the fall and spring semesters. The housing fairs allow students to connect with common vendors in the area as well as learn about the various resources available to them. Please check our website for current dates.



## TIPS FOR TOURS

- First impressions count! Dress professionally and be polite.
- Arrive a few minutes early. This allows you to sit in the lobby and observe. Can you see yourself living here?
- Take notes during the tour! You'll be taking in a lot of information, so it helps to write it down.
- Take photos while you're there! This makes it easier to compare apartments later.
- Look closely at the apartment. Do you see any potential problems?
- Review your notes and photos after the tour. What did you like? What didn't you like?
- Email the landlord, leasing agent or property manager with follow-up questions.
- Questions? Email [uazipassist@uakron.edu](mailto:uazipassist@uakron.edu)



# BUDGETING

You'll want to consider the TOTAL cost of the location you are reviewing. In addition to your monthly rent, you will be responsible for additional costs that will affect your budget. Sometimes specific utility costs are included with the price of your lease, so make sure to ask the landlord what you will be responsible for in addition to your monthly rent.

## MONTHLY BUDGET SPREADSHEET

| EXPENSES    | MONTHLY COST |
|-------------|--------------|
| Rent        |              |
| Electricity |              |
| Water       |              |
| Gas         |              |
| Internet    |              |
| Cable       |              |
| Phone       |              |
| Groceries   |              |
| Laundry     |              |



| EXPENSES          | MONTHLY COST |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Transportation    |              |
| Entertainment     |              |
| Renters Insurance |              |
| Other Expenses    |              |
|                   |              |
|                   |              |
|                   |              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      |              |



# RENTING

## THE LEASE

A lease is a legally binding document. Therefore, it is important to read through the entire lease before signing it.

### Your lease should include:

- Name and address of landlord
- Tenants
- Rent information, including how much, when rent is due, etc.
- Security deposit information
- Maintenance and repair responsibilities
- Details regarding subletting
- Inspection dates, who inspects the property, etc.

### Before signing your lease, you should:

- Make sure you understand the entire agreement
- Make sure your name, contact information, etc. are spelled correctly
- Research any terms or conditions you do not understand
- Review the conditions for terminating the lease
- Be aware of the restrictions on noise, smoking, storage, parking, pets, etc.



## RENTERS INSURANCE



When you are living in an apartment or house, it might be a good idea to think about getting renters insurance, which covers your personal belongings.

- You may be covered under your parents' homeowners policy if they claim you as a dependent.
- Your landlord's homeowners policy does not cover any of your belongings. Purchase renters insurance to cover losses of your possessions (laptop, clothing, furniture, cell phone, etc.) due to theft or destruction.
- Basic renters insurance often includes protection for you in case someone is hurt in your house.
- Be sure to check this coverage with the insurance company, as policies differ.



# TENANT RIGHTS

## VA SCHOOL OF LAW - CIVIC LITIGATION CLINIC

The Civil Litigation Clinic assists low-income clients who are experiencing housing problems. Cases are referred to the clinic from Community Legal Aid Services Inc. For more information, contact **Prof. Joann Sahl** at **330-972-7189** or **jsahl1@uakron.edu**.

## FAIR HOUSING CONTACT SERVICE

Fair Housing Contact Service (FHCS) is an independent nonprofit agency which provides comprehensive educational opportunities, counseling and support services to people concerned about fair housing in our communities. Founded in 1965, FHCS strives to prevent and eliminate housing discrimination and promote equal housing opportunity.

### For more information:

Phone: **330-376-6191**  
Helpline: **330-376-0359**  
**fairhousingakron.org**



## THE CITY OF AKRON HOUSING DIVISION

The Housing Division works to ensure decent, safe and sanitary living conditions for residents of the city of Akron through the enforcement of the Environmental Health Housing Code. Call **330-375-2366** for more information.

## COMMUNITY LEGAL AID

Community Legal Aid is a nonprofit law firm serving the legal needs of low-income individuals and families in Central Northeast Ohio.

Call **330-535-4191** or visit **communitylegalaid.org** for more information.

### Services Available:

- Landlord/Tenant (non-federal housing)
  - Evictions
  - Security and damage deposits
  - Tenant rights
- Homeownership
  - Foreclosure
  - Warranty of habitability
- FMHA Housing Programs
  - Evictions
  - Warranty of habitability
- Federal Housing Programs
  - Evictions
  - Section 8



# MOVING IN

## Two MONTHS To Go

- Schedule a move-in date with the landlord.
- Start going through everything and decide what you want to move and what you want to get rid of.
- Create a floor plan to determine the layout and spacing.
- Start your rental file to keep track of all your paperwork (receipts, moving records, rental information, copy of lease, etc.).
- Determine how you will be moving all of your stuff and if you need to rent a truck.
- Start getting furniture or other items needed for the space.

## ONE MONTH To Go

- Get boxes and other packing supplies.
- Start using up things that you don't want to move.
- Schedule the connection of all utilities to your new place.
- Choose a truck rental or moving service.
- If you plan to drive your car for the move, check the oil and fill your gas tank.
- Having your vehicle properly serviced prior to the move can save a lot of time and hassle.

## Two WEEKS To Go

- Start packing, beginning with things that you don't frequently use.
- Dispose of items that cannot be moved.
- Dismantle beds and other large furniture that you will be taking with you. Confirm your moving help (friends, rental truck, etc.).
- Follow-up on the connection of all utilities to your new place.

## ONE WEEK To Go

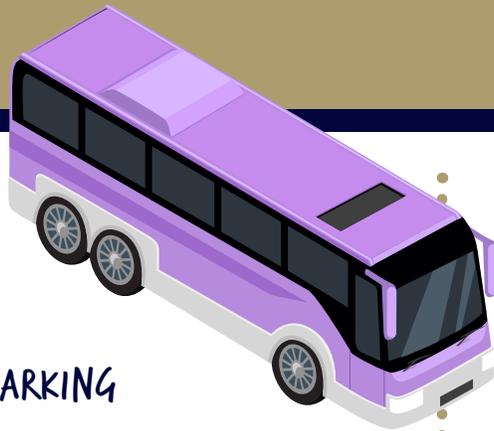
- Aim to finish packing a couple of days before the moving date. Label and number the boxes to make it easier to identify the things you will need right away.
- Set aside things that you will personally transport to your new place, such as valuables and important files.
- Confirm the move-in date with the landlord and where/when to pick up keys.
- Pick up moving supplies, including tape, rope, labels and markers.
- Arrange parking for movers or vehicles unloading your belongings.

## DAY BEFORE MOVE-IN DAY

- Pick up the rental truck. (Call the day prior to your move to verify your reservation.)
- Keep track of your keys, wallet, checkbook, prescription medications, etc.
- Pack a separate bag with a hammer, screwdriver, flashlight, batteries, trash bags, light bulbs and a telephone.
- Be sure to have toilet paper, soap, a towel and first-aid supplies.
- Before you leave for your new home, be sure to clean up!



# PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION



## ON-CAMPUS PARKING

Students who take more than five credit hours in a semester on the main campus are assessed a Transportation Fee for that term (\$175 for the fall and spring semesters, \$120 for summer). This fee allows students to receive a parking permit on request (at no additional charge) and gives them unlimited access to the shuttle service. Students who are not assessed this fee based on enrollment can opt to pay it in order to receive a parking permit.

Commuter students can apply for a parking permit using the online application. The permit will be mailed about two weeks before the start of the semester. Permit applications submitted after the mailing will be available for pickup in the Parking and Transportation Office at 255 East Buchtel Ave. in the North Campus Parking Deck.

For more information regarding parking, please visit [uakron.edu/parking/permits.dot](http://uakron.edu/parking/permits.dot).

## ACCESSIBILITY PARKING PERMITS

All UA Permit Holders who wish to park in disability parking spaces on campus are required to submit their State Placard or Plate Registration. Placard/Plate registration is mailed to the holder, and a Duplicate Registration can be picked up from your local BMV office. Registration can be brought to the office by person or sent by fax (330-972-5452) or by mail: The University of Akron, Parking Services, 185 E. Mill Street, Akron, Ohio 44325-6204.

After the registration is verified, an Accessibility Parking Permit will be issued at no additional cost, and any current permit will be traded in.

## ROO EXPRESS

- Roo Express is a shuttle service providing transportation to University buildings in the downtown area, neighborhoods near campus and the parking lots on the north side of campus.
- You need a valid Zip Card to ride.
- Many of the regular routes operate between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m.
- The wait time usually averages 10-20 minutes.
- The shuttle operates during weekends and the summer.
- Note: The shuttle may have limited service or may not operate on holidays or when the University is closed.



## DASH

- DASH is downtown Akron's free weekday shuttle service.
- The shuttle makes 14 stops on campus.
- DASH runs every 10 minutes from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and every 15 minutes from 7-11 p.m.
- The shuttle follows a loop route, traveling from the Robert K. Pfaff Transit Center, around downtown and to UA.



# SAFETY



## SAFETY RESOURCES

Whether you are on campus, off campus or traveling to or from campus, personal safety and responsibility is extremely important to your overall success at UA.

The list below includes several University resources available to you, as well as many other strategies that you can use to maintain personal safety:

- **Emergency phones** - You will see blue-light emergency phones across campus, on pedestrian walkways, inside parking decks, at building entrances and in elevators. The phones instantly connect to UA police dispatch. Our officers respond to all activated emergency phones, even if no words are spoken.
- **Emergency text messaging (Z-Alert)** - With our Z-Alert text messaging service, UA will notify you when campus closes or when there's a major event that affects safety. Sign up for Z-Alert online at [uakron.edu/safety/z-alert.dot](http://uakron.edu/safety/z-alert.dot).
- Be aware of your surroundings. If you see anything suspicious, immediately call 911. If you have a cell phone, don't wait until you get back to your room or apartment; call immediately!
- If you are involved in an incident, report it immediately.
- If you have a friend who has been involved in an incident, encourage him or her to seek assistance and report it to police.
- If you're going to be out late, go with friends, stay with friends and return with the same friends.



## UA POLICE DEPARTMENT

The UA Police Department (UAPD) is available 24/7. The UAPD has a directory of services and contact information that they offer. Some services require a small fee.

- UAPD Emergency Line - **330-972-2911**
- Campus Escort Service - The University offers a campus escort service. Patrol members will escort students between campus locations at any hour. Call **330-972-7263** to request the service.
- UAPD FREE Security Audit

If you live off campus, you can call the UAPD at **330-972-5914** to request a free security audit of your rental. (Leave a message if there is no answer).

### In the audit, an officer will:

- Test the adequacy of your locking system
- Study all entry points and offer suggestions to improve their security
- Offer tips about exterior lighting and other tactics to deter would-be criminals

## AKRON POLICE

The Akron Police's mission is to serve the community of Akron in a collaborative effort to enhance the quality of life through crime prevention, enforcement of laws, promotion of safety and reduction of fear. If you have safety concerns or neighbor issues, you can contact them at **330-375-2552**.

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

## DOWNTOWN AKRON PARTNERSHIP

The Downtown Akron Partnership's mission is to promote and build a vibrant and valuable downtown. Search events, concerts, dining options and more!

## COUNSELING & TESTING CENTER

UA's Counseling & Testing Center provides psychological services when the University is open. The following community services are available 24/7 throughout the year.

- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: **1-800-273-TALK**
- Crisis Text Line: **text START to 741-741**
- Rape Crisis Hotline: **330-434-7273**
- Portage Path Psychiatric Emergency Services: **330-762-6110**
- Portage Path Psychiatric Support Hotline: **330-434-9144**
- Online list of community resources: **infolineinc.org**

**Simmons Hall 306**

**330-972-7082**

**8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday, during spring and fall semesters**

## CHILD CARE CENTERS

Visit [childcarecenter.us/county/summit\\_oh](http://childcarecenter.us/county/summit_oh) for the largest directory for child care services in the U.S., with over 270,000 child care providers to give you the best choices possible for your child.



## MILITARY SERVICES CENTER

UA's Military Services Center provides comprehensive enrollment and referral services to new and returning veterans and their families.

**Simmons Hall 213**

**330-972-7838**

**8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday**  
**veterans@uakron.edu**

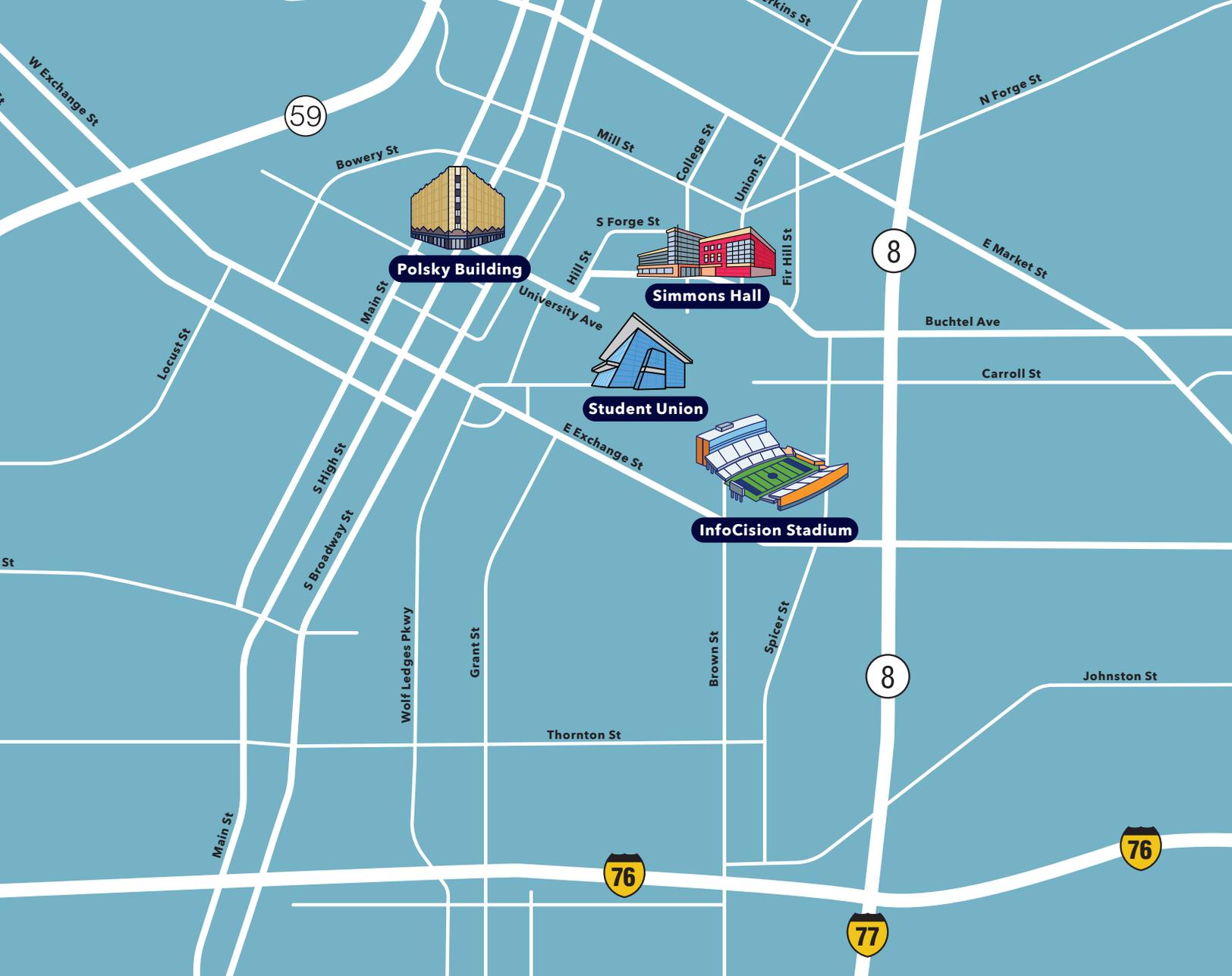


## DINING SERVICES

Living off campus brings a different set of needs and challenges to college life. Commuters and residents in the surrounding apartments are offered a select group of meal plans specifically tailored with flexibility in mind. All meal plans are offered to non-resident students and include Dining Dollars that can be used at any dining services location. Visit [uakron.edu/dining](http://uakron.edu/dining) for different plans and pricing.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Visit [uakron.edu/advising/resources](http://uakron.edu/advising/resources) for a comprehensive list of resources.



# ZipAssist

Simmons Hall lobby  
Akron, OH 44325-6208  
Info Desk: 330-972-7272  
Fax: 330-972-5977  
[uazipassist@uakron.edu](mailto:uazipassist@uakron.edu)