Moving off-campus is a major decision. Ensure you have thought through the responsibility of living off-campus by considering some of these following factors:

Cost:
When estimating or comparing the cost of off-campus living to on-campus living, be sure to consider monthly rent, utilities, transportation, food, and any additional monthly fees. Create a budget with what you can reasonably afford prior to making a decision.

Location:
Choosing a location is important when considering what type of off-campus housing may work for you. Will you have a car to transport you back and forth to campus and to grocery stores, or will you need to be within walking distance of the university and shops? Will you need to be closer to the Health Sciences Campus? Does your housing option provide transit? Keep these questions in mind when considering the location of your housing.

Roommates:
For some, living with roommates is ideal. For others, living alone is a preference. Residence hall life has most students living in close quarters with others. Off-campus housing options will provide students with their own bedroom (and maybe bathroom!) with typically only the common area and kitchen area being shared.

Leasing Terms:
On-campus housing contracts typically run for one entire academic year (August-May). However, most off-campus housing options have standard leasing agreements that run from August-August. Be sure to budget for those additional months! Short-term leasing options may be available for an additional fee.

When Should I Sign a Lease?
Many off-campus housing options use a “tiered-leasing system” meaning that pricing for housing may increase the more leases that are signed. Typically, OCSS advises students to sign a leasing agreement when they feel comfortable. If you will be using financial aid to pay for off-campus housing OCSS always recommends waiting until you have received your financial aid package before committing to a lease.

“Off-Campus Student Services provides resources, services, and programs designed to educate and explain the process of moving from residential living to independent living in the surrounding areas.”