

Tips on Safe Off-Campus Living

- Make sure your door has a deadbolt lock and a peephole
- If you have a sliding glass door, place a wooden or metal rod in the track so it cannot be opened from the outside.
- Make sure your landlord or building manager firmly controls all of the building keys. Ask who has master keys to your apartment, if there is little understanding on this matter; be wary of renting the unit.
- If you plan to go out, leave a light on or a radio playing to give the illusion that you are home.
- Even if you are going out just for a few moments, lock your door and take the keys with you.
- If someone comes to the door asking to use the telephone, make the call yourself and do not invite them in.
- Drive through the apartment community during the evening hours to see how well lit the parking lots and community is as a whole.
- The walkways, entrances, parking areas, elevators, hallways, stairways, laundry rooms and storage areas should be well-lit 24 hours a day.
- Get to know your neighbors, if there are social events for tenants, such as monthly dinners, attend them.
- If you come home and believe that someone has unlawfully entered your apartment, do not go inside. Find a safe place and call for assistance.
- If you have common area laundry facilities only use them during high traffic hours.
- **KEEP YOUR KEY SAFE!!!** Do not leave a key under a doormat or flower pot; burglars know these hiding places.
- Lock all doors at all times, even when you are home.
- Leave outside lights on at night and close your curtains, you do not want people to be watching you at any time.
- Be cautious when returning to your apartment alone. If possible, do not let people see that you are entering your apartment alone.
- Do not overcrowd balconies and decks in housing communities, make sure you know the maximum people allowed and do not go over that number.
- If you live on the first floor, make sure that the windows are locked before you sleep or if your apartment is unoccupied.

