

Emphasis

Apartment dwelling

Are there advantages over dorm living?

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Emphasis Editor

Following the completion of the freshman year, many students are faced with a choice of whether or not to continue living on campus.

There are economic factors to be considered concerning apartment living; including rent, utilities, food costs, and individual needs. Initial costs include deposits, followed by monthly payments for which someone must be responsible. This means that someone has to obligate themselves and sign their name as responsible for each separate bill. Many will be establishing credit for the first time.

Last fall, there were 1,697 students living in the dormitories and fraternity/sorority houses; but a substantial number of students lived off campus. There were 1,232 students classified as commuters, and many of them live in nearby apartments.

Kim Keating, a senior from

Virginia Beach, Va., is a resident of the newest apartment building near campus — Weatherby Arms.

After dividing the rent with her roommate, Keatings pays \$143 per month (including water). Costs for power are approximately \$40 a month, says Keating, along with about \$50 a month for the phone bill and \$20 for food.

"I think it's really cheaper in the long run to live off campus," says Keating, "You're paying more on campus for only one room." Keatings says she enjoys the privacy of living in an apartment and added, "There's more freedom to do things when you live off campus."

Rent costs vary for residents of Sheridan Place, because the townhouses are sold, not rented. Several student's parents have purchased the townhouses, however, and in turn, rent them to students. "Each of us pay \$200 a month for rent and utilities," says Lydia Shull, a junior and resident of Sheridan, and "we all split the phone bill," she says.

Her food costs she said vary from \$25-30 every two weeks. Shull also agrees that it's cheaper to live off campus, and says "There's more freedom to do what you want to do."

Karen Miner, a senior from Chapel Hill, lives in a one-story, two-bedroom apartment in College Town. She splits the \$280 a month rent with her roommate and says she spends about \$25 a week on food, \$30 for the power bill, and about \$20 for the phone bill. "I think they charge too much to live on campus," says Miner, who also agreed that it's cheaper to live off campus. Prior to living in an apartment, Miner said that at first she missed some aspects of campus living. "There seems to be more to do on campus," she says.

"College Manor is probably the closest apartments to campus," says Greg Woodle, a senior from Richmond, Va., and a resident of College Manor. Woodle says his share of the monthly rent is \$166 after dividing it with his other two roommates. His power bills he



SNACK TIME: Johnny Flournoy and Greg Woodle, pause from their meal to smile for the camera in this College Manor Apartment.

says average about \$25 a month along with \$25 a week for food, and about \$30 a month for the phone bill. Woodle says that the cost to live on and off campus is fairly equal, "depending on how you budget your money." He says he likes living in an apartment better than in the dorms. "You can come home and do what you want to do," he says.

The total cost for rent at College Gardens is \$325 a month. Chris Reidenouer, a sophomore from Charlottesville, Va., splits this cost with his other two roommates, making his monthly cost about \$108. He says he spends about \$30 a month for power, and about \$45 a week for food. Reidenouer says he prefers living off campus, and he also enjoys cooking his own meals as opposed to eating in the cafeteria. "You can eat when you want to eat," he says.

How do these apartment costs compare to living on campus? Currently, the combined room and board cost for the fall semester is \$1,235 (with a caution

deposit of \$50). This averages out to about \$308 for combined living and food costs per month, not including the phone bill.

Heather Hoffman, a freshman from Vienna, Va., is a resident of Carolina Dorm. "I'd rather live on campus than in an apartment," she says, "because it makes you feel like a part of the school." Hoffman also added, "You meet more people living in the dorms."

"You get to meet a lot more people living on campus than you would otherwise," says Kristina Rawn, a freshman from Hickory, N.C., and also a resident of Carolina Dorm. Rawn also added, "If it's raining or cold, it's not as far to walk."

After figuring the finances and considering all the variables, there seem to be advantages and disadvantages to both on and off campus living. "It's just a matter of personal preference," says Brian Batchelor, a senior from Bryans Road, Md., who lives in Sheridan Place now.



TAKING A BREAK: Suzy Heberle, Lisa Milanak and Barbi Calahan lounge around in the Oaks after classes.

Photos by Meredith Lee