

OFF CAMPUS HOUSING RESOURCES

The Office of Residence Life is committed to assisting commuter, post-baccalaureate, and graduate students with finding convenient and affordable housing that is close to campus. Please note, Elms College does not endorse or promote any particular property owners/renters, or maintain any list of rental properties in the area. We are striving to provide our students with resources in order to make informed choices when it comes to living options off campus.

Rental Resources:

[Skye Mountain Realty](#) | 413-532-1452
406 Britton St., Chicopee, MA 01020

[Apartments.com](#)

[Zillow](#)

[Trulia](#)

[Mass-Live Listing](#)

Post-Bacc Housing:

Elms College owns a rental property at 37 Grant Street in Chicopee. The house offers two multiple bedroom apartments (private rooms, a bathroom, kitchen, and common area). For more information, please contact Residence Life at 413-265-2461 or reslife@elms.edu.

[Click here to request housing!](#)

Questions You Should Ask

(when searching for the right lease):

- ⇒ Are heat, electricity, hot water, cable, internet, trash or snow removal, etc. included in the rent?
- ⇒ When will the apartment be available and what are the dates of the lease?
- ⇒ What are the parking arrangements? Can guests park?
- ⇒ What are the arrangements for trash/recycling disposal or pick-up?
- ⇒ Does the landlord allow subletting?
- ⇒ What is the lawn/yard maintenance policy?
- ⇒ What is the snow removal policy?

Things to Inspect:

- ⇒ Turn on all the faucets in the house or apartment.
- ⇒ Flush the toilet.
- ⇒ Turn on the stove and oven.
- ⇒ Flip the light switches.
- ⇒ Are there at least two electrical outlets or one outlet and one light fixture in each room?
- ⇒ Do you see exposed wires?
- ⇒ Windows should be weather-tight with working locks; they should open and close and have screens.
- ⇒ Inspect the walls, ceilings, and floors. Are they in good condition, without cracks, holes, or signs of leaking?
- ⇒ Are the carpets clean?
- ⇒ Are there working smoke detectors?
- ⇒ If the apartment is above the first floor, look for fire escape routes.
- ⇒ Can you control the heat? Is it working?
- ⇒ Are the buildings and grounds well maintained?
- ⇒ Are the entryways, sidewalks, & parking areas well lit?
- ⇒ Are entryways visible from the street?
- ⇒ How are mail and packages received? Are the residents' names printed on the mailboxes?
- ⇒ Is the mailbox lockable and in good condition?
- ⇒ Is parking usually available close to your door?
- ⇒ Are there designated visitor parking spaces?
- ⇒ Does the apartment complex provide security services?
- ⇒ Are shrubs cut below window level?
- ⇒ Is the unit number visible from the street?
- ⇒ Does the landlord have a published policy about issuing and replacing keys?
- ⇒ Do the front and back doors have peepholes?
- ⇒ Do sliding doors have blocking cleats to prevent opening from the outside?
- ⇒ Do doors have deadbolt locks?
- ⇒ Can windows that are left open for ventilation be secured?
- ⇒ Are door locks located so they can't be reached through a window?
- ⇒ Are there fire extinguishers/are they up to date?
- ⇒ Do curtains, blinds, and draperies fully cover windows?
- ⇒ Are the exterior doors made of core wood or metal?
- ⇒ Have you or your family considered renters' insurance?
- ⇒ Check the doors for working locks; check that they aren't blocked in anyway.

After You Move In:

If your landlord takes a security deposit, make sure you receive the following: a dated receipt, Statement of Condition, and a notice of the bank account in which the deposit is being held. You need to receive this within 30 days.

The Statement of Condition describes any faults in the unit (i.e. stain on the living room carpet), so that you cannot be blamed or charged for causing the damage when you move out. If your landlord fails to give you a Statement of Condition, you can complete one on your own. Examine each room and write down any problems that you see.

Make a copy of your Statement of Condition for your records before you send it to your landlord. If the conditions are serious, notify your landlord as soon as possible.