

# Student Housing Comparison Guide

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**VITERBO**  
UNIVERSITY

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The information provided in this guide is intended to assist students in comparing the costs, amenities, and experiences associated with living on- or off-campus. We sincerely hope that students will use this information as one of many resources when considering a move off-campus at Viterbo University.



## Cost Comparison

\*Important Note: Merit awards are reduced by \$1,000-\$2,000, and additional need-based financial aid could be reduced if a student moves off-campus. To determine the impact of living off-campus on your specific financial aid award, please contact the financial aid office after you have received your financial aid offer.

### > On-Campus Housing



	Rent (9 month contract)	Meal Plan (9 month contract)	Parking	Utilities (water, gas, garbage, electricity)	Technology (Internet and cable)	Room and Board portion of merit award	Total Academic Year Cost*
Residence Halls	\$430-\$463/ month	\$611/month (7 Day all access)	Parking not available to first- year students	Included in on- campus housing costs	Included in on- campus housing costs	Up to \$2000 per year	\$7,369/AY to \$7,666/AY
McDonald, Rose, Treacy, Canticle	\$545.55/month	\$555/month (15 meals/week)  <i>or</i>	\$13.90/month (on-campus lot)  <i>or</i>				\$7,377.55/AY to \$8,030/AY
Clare Apartments	\$598.89/-/\$822.22 month	\$482.50/month (160 block)	\$27.80/month (Clare garage)				\$7,955.71/AY to \$9,992.68/AY

### > Off-Campus Rental



	Rent (AVERAGE 12-month rate, per Tenant)	Food (per Tenant)	Parking and Fuel	Utilities (Water, heating, electricity, etc. per Tenant)	Technology (Internet and cable, per Tenant)	Average WI Renter's Insurance	Total Yearly Cost (not including pet, storage, other fees)
Two Bedrooms	\$387.50/month	Groceries, eating out, etc. - \$245/ month	Commuter pass - \$3/month  Gas - \$30 - \$50/ month	\$50/month	\$25.00/month	\$15.58/month	\$10,476/year to \$10,716/year
Four Bedrooms	\$337.50/month	Commuter meal plan - \$133/ month  \$378 total/month	\$33 - \$53 total/month	\$30/month	\$12.50/month		\$9,492/year to \$9,732/year

## Additional Considerations

Ultimately, there's so much more to making the decision to move off-campus than just the numbers. Here's a collection of additional considerations that should factor into your decision-making process.

### > Words of Wisdom

If the information provided in this document isn't enough to help you make a decision, your classmates have offered the following thoughts about living on or off-campus (Student Life Survey, Fall 2017):

#### Live on-campus because:

- Easy access to classes, dining, and the Mathy
- Close-knit community on floor and in building
- RA can act as an impartial 3rd party in conflict
- Feel safer with extra security measures
- University provides services such as fixing things, instead of having to go through a landlord

#### Live off-campus because:

- Don't have to have a meal plan
- No policies such as guest and quiet hours
- Possibility of being closer to downtown
- Possibility of having pets
- More independence and responsibilities



### > Applications and Leases

#### On-Campus Housing

Admission to the University and the Housing and Dining application are all that are required to apply. Applications are open from December 1 through the beginning of the academic year.

Contracts coincide with the academic year (September - May).

Students are able to cancel their housing contract if they meet the criteria outlined in the University's residency requirement. Individuals do not pay a penalty if they cancel prior to May 1.

Contracts are made with each individual student. If a roommate chooses to leave, it does not financially impact the remaining roommates.

#### Off-Campus Renting

Most landlords require an application fee; some also require a credit and background check.

Many leases begin as early as September in the City of La Crosse, pressuring individuals to sign a contract with people they don't know well early on in the academic year.

It can be very difficult to break leases (regardless of any change to a student's status) and the consequences are often significant (loss of current month's rent and deposit, etc.)

Leases are often made with all members living in the property. If one student leaves, the remaining students are responsible for covering lost rent for the remainder of the lease.

### > Interpersonal Conflict

#### On-Campus Housing

Residence Life and Campus Safety staff are available to help residents resolve interpersonal conflicts, including roommate disagreements.

If approved, a student can move to a different location on campus with minimal to no impact on their housing and dining contract.

#### Off-Campus Renting

Students must resolve interpersonal conflicts on their own. If a conflict cannot be resolved, students may need to spend time finding a sublessee or break their lease. This generally results in severe financial penalty, if it is an option at all.



> Repairs, Cleaning, and Upkeep

<p><b>On-Campus Housing</b> Custodians regularly clean shared spaces. Maintenance staff are available for emergencies outside of normal hours.</p> <p>Maintenance staff is available to assist with minor repairs and emergency needs at no additional cost to students (except in cases of vandalism).</p>	<p><b>Off-Campus Renting</b> Students are responsible for cleaning the entire unit. Emergency needs will often result in additional expense. Be sure to consult renter's insurance for additional information.</p> <p>Individuals should read their lease carefully to understand what property owners cover and what is the responsibility of the tenant.</p>
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> Convenience

<p><b>On-Campus Housing</b> Residents are in close proximity to interactions between students, faculty, and staff, as well as important physical places that aid in success and wellness (such as the Mathy Center and the Library). They also enjoy the convenience of shorter travel times, lower fuel costs, proximity to programming, and readily available meals.</p>	<p><b>Off-Campus Renting</b> Students can find themselves spending much additional time and energy trying to stay connected to campus and creating opportunities that may otherwise develop naturally.</p>
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> Safety and Security

<p><b>On-Campus Housing</b> Campus Safety and live-in Residence Life staff are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Campus Safety offers the Safe Walk program at no charge to students. Residence Life staff is available for lockouts and emergency assistance.</p>	<p><b>Off-Campus Renting</b> Safety and security concerns can be directed to the La Crosse Police Department or your landlord. Most landlords do not provide safety and security measures outside of your lock and key. Lockouts and other services are only available through outside vendors.</p>
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> Community, Inclusivity, Academic Success, Leadership and Engagement

<p><b>On-Campus Housing</b> The Office of Residence Life collaborates with staff and faculty across campus to facilitate an environment where students can get to know each other, learn about respect and differences, get involved, and engage in learning around leadership and citizenship.</p>	<p><b>Off-Campus Renting</b> Off-campus housing options do not provided structured opportunities for engagement or success in the community.</p>
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> Questions about Living On-Campus?  
The Office of Residence Life is here to help!

Contact us with questions about housing at:

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