



☒ What you need to **know**

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| ☐ | Living off-campus does not change your financial aid. The Financial Aid Office uses the same estimated room and board budget for all students, except commuters who live at home with their parents or a family member. (If you plan on commuting, contact the Financial Aid Office) |
| ☐ | Living off-campus does not change your expected family contribution. If you budget wisely, your family's out-of-pocket costs for your living expenses during the school year should be the same. |
| ☐ | If your financial aid typically covers all or part of your on-campus room/board, you may be eligible for a financial aid refund, which you can use to help cover your off campus rent and expenses. Financial aid refunds are available on the first day of the quarter and cannot be released earlier. |
| ☐ | Up-front costs of moving off-campus are generally not covered by your aid, so be sure to plan for expenses like your security deposit, application/move-in fees, and first month's rent, as well as start-up costs like cable/internet installation, utilities activation, furniture, and dishes. |
| ☐ | Your financial aid only applies during the academic year. If you sign a 12-month lease but will only be in Evanston for the 9-month school year, you may need to find a subletter for the summer. |

☒ What you need to **do**

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| ☐ | After you receive your aid award, request an Estimated Billing Worksheet to figure out if you will qualify for a financial aid refund each quarter, which you can use toward your off-campus expenses |
| ☐ | Find reliable roommates! Make sure everyone's name is on the lease so no one gets "stuck" with too much responsibility. Develop a cost plan with your roommates – who will pay for what? |
| ☐ | Make a budget! You will need to plan for your rent, bills, and groceries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will you get a financial aid refund each quarter? If you have a job, how often do you get paid, and what will your earnings cover Will your parents send you money to help with your expenses? How/When/How often? |
| ☐ | Talk to your parents about getting renters insurance to protect your stuff in case of theft or damage. |
| ☐ | If eligible, request your financial aid refund through CAESAR as early as the first day of classes. |
| ☐ | Find a subletter (or make a plan to pay your rent) if you won't live in your space over the summer. |

Resources

Northwestern Off-Campus Life

<http://www.northwestern.edu/offcampus/>

Office of Undergraduate Financial Aid

847-491-7400

undergradaid@u.northwestern.edu

633 Clark Street Suite 1603, Evanston, IL 60208

<http://undergradaid.northwestern.edu>