

Moving to Pensacola

Tips for finding a rental property and/or roommates in the City of Five Flags

Sponsored by the University of West Florida Graduate Anthropological Association

Introduction

Knowing where to look to find an inexpensive, safe rental in Pensacola can be a daunting task, especially for incoming students who live far away. Many of the well-known websites list apartments out of the price range of the average student. Those within a more reasonable price range are difficult to find for those unfamiliar with the Pensacola rental scene. In order to address the difficulties faced by incoming Anthropology graduate students, the Graduate Anthropological Association has assembled this list of useful rental resources and information on finding roommates. When contacting rental properties, ask if utilities are included in the rental price and, if bringing a pet, ask about pet deposits, pet fees, and pet rent. These can often be pricey and nonrefundable.

NB: Inclusion of websites, newspapers, and other resources on this page does not constitute endorsement by the University of West Florida (UWF), the Anthropology and Archaeology Division, the Graduate Anthropological Association, or any other UWF departments or organizations. The information provided here has not been reviewed for accuracy or reliability by any of these parties. USE AT YOUR OWN RISK.

General Rental Property Resources

Most of the common apartment search websites include rental properties beyond the means of the average graduate student, but they can occasionally be useful. Rental prices change often and are usually incorrect in online and published guides. Contact the individual rental properties for up-to-date information.

Searching:

- www.apartments.com
- www.apartmentfinder.com
- www.apartmentguide.com
- www.apartmentsearch.com
- www.rent.com
- www.forrent.com

Evaluating:

- www.apartmentratings.com (Is it safe? Are the managers attentive and reasonable? This site lists what current and former renters have to say about these and other concerns.)

Pensacola Rental Property Resources

Local resources provide listings for reasonably priced properties that can usually be viewed before a contract is signed.

Searching:

- www.pensacolaml.com - The Pensacola Association of Realtors' website brings together information on rental properties – including apartments, houses, duplexes, triplexes, condos, and townhomes – from real estate agencies in and around Pensacola. To access the rental property search, click *Property* on the left-hand menu. Although the website is not especially user-friendly, the wealth of information it contains is worth the hassle. In addition, most of the real estate agencies that manage these properties readily schedule viewing appointments for the prospective renter.
- www.americanclassifieds.com - Pensacola's American Classifieds lists independent rental properties online and in the published edition available free at many convenience stores and restaurants.
- pensacola.craigslist.org - Pensacola's craigslist website includes listings for rental properties.
- The Pensacola News Journal, available at convenience stores and supermarkets, includes local rental property listings in their Classifieds section. The online version does not include these ads, but rather links to www.apartments.com.
- www.eshopperinc.com - The Shopper, a Pensacola classifieds paper, includes rental listings. Although an online subscription to the ads is a little expensive, the paper is available weekly for small change at local convenience stores.
- Searching under Apartments in the Pensacola yellow pages or online at Yahoo.com (yp.yahoo.com) can provide the names of Pensacola apartment complexes that rarely advertise, but are reasonably priced and well respected. Unfortunately, each complex must be contacted individually to determine prices and availability.

Evaluating:

It is generally difficult to evaluate small, independent, local rental properties and management agencies, but there are some options.

- Review business listings for apartment complexes and property management agencies on the Northwest Florida Better Business Bureau website (nwfl.bbb.org).
- For the female graduate student living alone, it may be useful to check the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Florida Sexual Offenders and Predators Neighborhood Search (offender.fdle.state.fl.us/offender/Search.jsp) to determine where offenders live in the Pensacola area. As with any community, Pensacola has its share of questionable individuals and awareness is the key to staying safe.

- Contact current graduate students (www.uwf.edu/anthropology/gradstudents/) for information and suggestions about local rental properties and management agencies.

Finding Roommates

Roommates share the cost of a rental property, making rent more reasonable for everyone involved, but be prepared to accept different lifestyles, levels of cleanliness, and standards of decency, especially from unfamiliar individuals.

Searching:

- To find current anthropology graduate students looking for roommates, contact the Anthropology Department at (850) 474-2797.
- www.roommates.com
- pensacola.craigslist.org