



**A Guide to  
Off-Campus Living**

662.325.3611  
[ocss.msstate.edu](http://ocss.msstate.edu)





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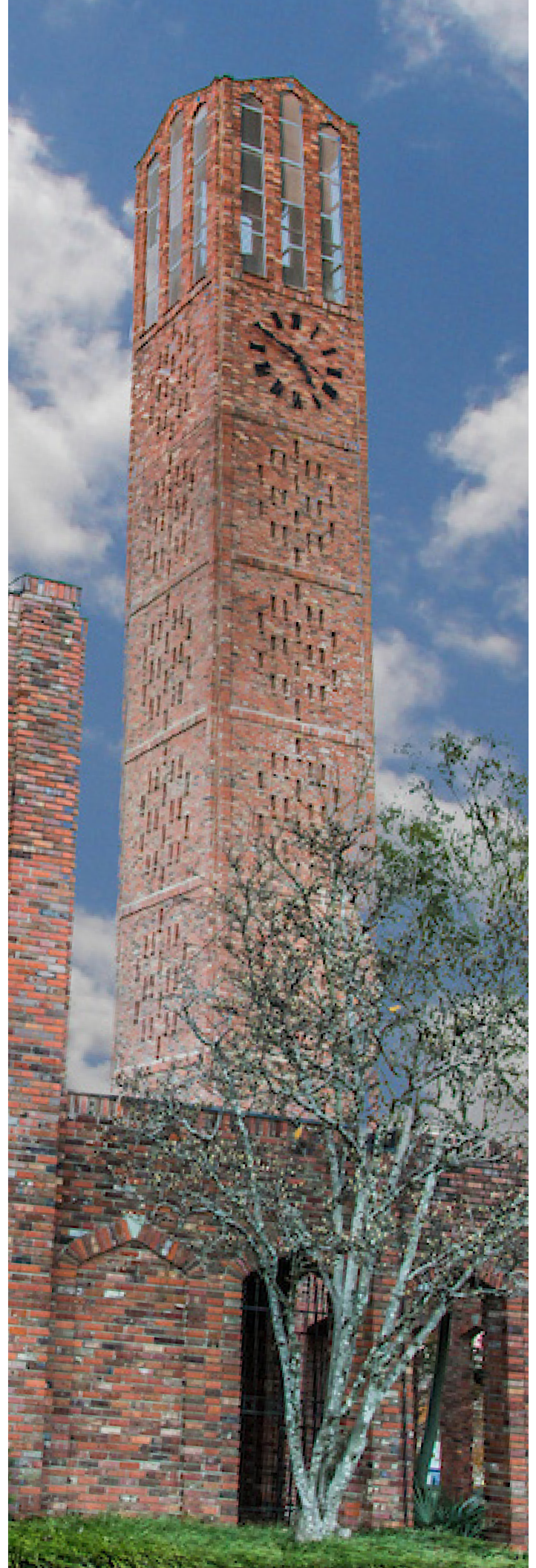
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# INTRODUCTION

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Off-Campus Student Services (OCSS) at Mississippi State University (MSU) serves as a connection for students, faculty, and staff to the off-campus community and all it has to offer. OCSS is housed in the Dean of Students' Office and is part of the Division of Student Affairs. Our goal is to provide the university with valuable resources to assist them in transitioning to an off-campus environment. Whether you are moving off campus or you have already made the move, let (OCSS) help. Make the most of your MSU experience by using OCSS's resources and services that are especially designed with the off-campus resident in mind.

Making the move off campus is an exciting time in your life. MSU hopes that living in Starkville will provide a memorable and rewarding living experience for students, faculty, and staff. This guide was developed to assist you in becoming familiar with the various resources on and off campus. As you become a part of the Starkville community, we encourage you to educate yourself about your rights and responsibilities as a resident and to learn about the numerous resources available.





# WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN MOVING OFF CAMPUS

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## OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT SERVICES (OCSS)

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OCSS HAS MANY GREAT OPTIONS TO HELP YOU FIND HOUSING:

### *Housing Fairs*

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- Spring and Fall events on the MSU campus
- Collect fun giveaways from our off-campus partners
- Explore the many available on-campus and off-campus housing options

### *OCSS Online Search*

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To connect with housing opportunities throughout Starkville, visit **[offcampushousing.msstate.edu](http://offcampushousing.msstate.edu)** to:

- Customize your property search based on criteria such as price, location, amenities, number of bedrooms, pet friendly, etc.
- Find roommates
- Search for or post a sublease

### *Find Available Housing through Local Resources*

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- Newspaper classified ads (The Reflector, Starkville Daily News)
- Network of friends
- Social Media
- "For Rent" signs





Each person has different priorities when choosing the right place to live. Ask yourself “what is important to me?” Survey the neighborhood/apartment complex as much as you can.

## **SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER...**

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Tour multiple properties in Starkville. Do not rent the first and only place you look at without comparing it to others. Do not rent a place you have only viewed online or read about in the paper. Be sure to read “What You Should Know before Entering into a Lease” by Whit Waide. **DO NOT SIGN A LEASE BEFORE YOU READ THIS VERY INFORMATIVE PIECE.**

### *Ask the Following Questions:*

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- Is this the right location?
- How long does it take to travel to campus? Can you walk/bike, is transportation provided or do you need to drive? If driving, how much will it cost for a permit to park your car on-campus?
- Are there amenities/stores nearby? (i.e. pharmacy, grocery, restaurants, laundromat, or gas stations)

### *Safety Is Important.*

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- Would you feel comfortable living there during both daytime and nighttime?
- Would you feel comfortable with the landlord or property manager?
- Are the windows and doors in good condition and lockable?
- Are there any smoke/carbon monoxide detectors?
- If there is a security system, does it work properly?
- Does the property have cameras, and if so, where?
- Is there more than one fire exit from the unit?

### *What Is Provided with the Residence?*

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- Is the unit furnished?
- Who is responsible for maintenance?
- What type of parking is available? Is it well lit? Where do guests park?
- Does the residence have laundry facilities on site?
- Are utilities included?
- Does the property have amenities such as a pool, activity center, study rooms, gym, etc.?



# ROOMMATES

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Who are you going to live with next year? This is a BIG decision and should be considered carefully since there are legal, financial, and personal implications that will affect people living together. Even though your best friend may appear to be the perfect roommate, he or she may not live up to your expectations.

You can search for roommates online at [offcampushousing.msstate.edu](http://offcampushousing.msstate.edu).

## *Some Roommate Issues to Consider:*

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- Privacy
- Noise
- Guests
- Pets
- Personal Belongings
- Smoking/Alcohol/Dugs
- Parties Bills/Deposits
- Cleaning
- Parking
- Groceries
- Mail





# COST/BUDGET

There is more to a move than just paying rent. For example, you need to consider the cost associated with groceries, household supplies, laundry, parking passes, renter’s insurance, and utilities.

Many landlords or property managers require the first and last months’ rent as a security deposit. Your utilities often require deposits to have the service initiated, as well.

- Plan for the year and establish a monthly budget. You can use our basic budget worksheet to get you started.
- At the end of the month, add in the actual total of what you spent. There likely are going to be expenses that you fail to include or things that come up unexpectedly.
- If you do need to cut back, you will be able to see where you can cut back once you see exactly where your money is being spent. This also may allow you to save money for an emergency fund, vacation or simply build up your savings.

Compare different housing options. You may find that living on your own is relatively expensive. Make a list of what each property has to offer. Amenities cost extra, so having things like pets, on-site laundry, a pool, tanning beds, or a gym will factor into the cost of the property and likely make it more expensive.

Try to be flexible and open-minded while weighing the pros and cons of your off-campus housing search. You may find that on-campus housing is more economical and convenient. For more information visit [housing.msstate.edu](http://housing.msstate.edu).

Item	Monthly Estimate	Actual Total	Remaining Balance (pos/neg)
Rent			
Repairs/ Upkeep			
Electricity			
Gas			
Water/Sewer			
Home Phone/ Internet			
Cell Phone			
Trash			
Parking Permit/Meter			
Care Payment			
Gas			
Insurance/Tags			
Groceries			
Eating Out			
Clothing			
Hair			
Health Insurance			
Medical Co-Pay			
Tuition			
Entertainment			
Gifts			
Misc-Bank/ Postage			
Extra Cash/ Spending			
Vacation			
Pet Care			
Savings Account			
Other			
TOTALS			

# SAFETY

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Feeling safe is so important. Consider the location of the properties you are looking at and drive around it during varying times of the day and week. This should give you a better idea of what takes place around the property. Also consider things like street lighting, property maintenance, and the distance from your front door to the parking lot or sidewalk area. Remember that you won't be coming in and out only during the daytime. Pay attention to the traffic (pedestrian and vehicle) around the property, as well as any areas behind the property that could make you feel unsafe.

Once moved in, you should continue to protect yourself and your property.

When at home, you should:

- Always keep doors and windows locked
- Keep emergency numbers in your phone
- Do not leave messages on your door indicating that you are away and/or when you will return
- Do not leave keys in hiding places, thieves will find them
- Get to know your neighbors
- Do not put your address on your key ring
- Do not let a person inside your home for an emergency call; call 911 for them

There will be times of the year that you must leave your property to travel home during breaks. If you leave for a break, you should:

- Make the place look lived in because thieves know the college schedule better than you might think
- Let your neighbors know that you'll be out of town and ask if they'll keep an eye out on things
- Keep all windows and doors secured
- Store valuables in a safe place
- Contact the post office and ask that they hold your mail while you are away
- Newspapers can be canceled so as not to pile up
- If your neighbors have an extra vehicle, you might ask them to park it at your place while you are away
- Keep your heat on (during winter months) so your pipes do not break and flood your home
- Under no circumstances should you post on social media that you are away from home





## FIRE SAFETY

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You can do small things to prevent a fire from starting in your home:

- Make sure all smoke detectors are working properly by testing them frequently and replacing batteries once per semester.
- Know where the fire extinguisher is located.
- If you do not have a fire extinguisher, purchase one.
- Know more than one way out of every room.
- Do not overload outlets.
- Do not leave candles or incense lit and unattended.
- Do not leave food unattended on the stove or even in the microwave, and be sure all burners on the stove and the oven are off before leaving the house.
- Make sure cigarettes are fully extinguished.
- Do not smoke in the bed, and make sure you use a sturdy, non-tipping ashtray when smoking.
- Space heaters, while helpful during the colder months, should not be left unattended or near furniture.
- Keep flammable items at least three feet away from water heaters, space heaters, furnaces and fireplaces (this includes furniture and curtains).
- Don't run the dryer without a lint trap and make sure you clean it regularly.

## MAROON ALERT SYSTEM

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As a student at MSU, you have access to the Maroon Alert System. This is a comprehensive array of communication channels to let you know when emergency conditions are developing. One or all of these channels may be used during an emergency situation. Most emergencies are generally weather-related, but Maroon Alert communication is used for any emergency that requires taking safety measures. To register to receive alerts from the Maroon Alert System, log into your MyState account and click on the "Banner" tab. Click on the link titled "Update Your Maroon Alert Information" under the "Personal Information" column. You also may access emergency information via the web page at [ready.msstate.edu](https://ready.msstate.edu) where information is updated frequently during an active emergency.

## WEATHER SAFETY

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In a weather emergency, it is important to seek the nearest shelter on the lowest level of an apartment building. The local Oktibbeha County SafeRoom at 985 Lynn Lane can also be accessed in a weather emergency. Before you need a weather safe place, it is very important to create a plan and to identify your weather safe location. If weather is imminent, pay attention to your surroundings, local weather reports, and the local university emergency website, [ready.msstate.edu](https://ready.msstate.edu). Both the city and the university are equipped with emergency alert sirens that will warn you if bad weather is in the area. As a reminder, it is important that you do not drive during an active weather warning.



## LEASES

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Leases are legally binding documents that should be carefully read before signing.

**DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING WITH THE ASSUMPTION THAT YOU NEED A PARENT/GUARANTOR TO MAKE IT LEGALLY BINDING.** Once you have signed the lease, it IS legally binding, even without a guarantor.

Always make sure your lease is in writing. Written agreements will protect you and the landlord by defining rental terms, rules and expectations.

*What are some things that should be specified in the lease?*

- Amount of rent
- Length of the rental period
- Amount of security deposit and return of security deposit date
- Who is responsible for repairs
- Whether subleasing is allowed, and under what terms
- When a landlord may enter your property



Whit Waide, an attorney, who is an MSU instructor, has some advice to offer about entering into a lease.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE ENTERING INTO A LEASE

*By Whit Waide, MSU Student Counsel*

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When signing a lease, realize that you are agreeing to what is essentially a contract; a contract that bestows upon you a temporary property interest in the dwelling you lease. With a contract comes real world obligations. The failure to live up to your end of those obligations will mean the potential for legal troubles from which you will not easily - or cheaply - emerge. Contracts simply are promises that the courts will enforce if one side does not fulfill their obligations under that promise. Meaning that if you sign a lease for a year, then decide after three months that you simply don't like living there, move out and stop paying rent, then you can be sued for the outstanding rent and other damages.

Of course, the landlord has obligations to you, as well. These should be written in the lease. Understand that the landlord's obligations are usually of a significant nature -- relating primarily to maintenance of the property in a manner that is suitable for basic human habitation. A landlord's refusal to fix a gaping hole in your roof through which raccoons invade your kitchen and steal all your snacks is significant. A landlord's refusal to paint your walls green because you think green is prettier than brown is not.

A good rule of thumb is this: if there is something you think the landlord should be doing that he is not doing, advise him of your complaint ON PAPER, i.e., write him a letter detailing your concern and politely ask him to fix it. In the letter, you should point to the specific provision of the lease that you think the

landlord is failing to address. DO NOT simply stop paying rent and move out because you get in a foul mood over your blinds being broken or your freezer not keeping your food items frozen enough. Throwing a hissy fit and doing something rash because you don't get your way does not relieve you of real world obligations, and probably will get you sued.

It is difficult to give blanket, one-size-fits-all legal advice with regard to leases. All leases are different. The main thing you should realize is that you are doing real-world business when you sign a lease. In the real world, there are consequences that can be expensive and could follow you around for a long time if you fail to adhere to your end of the deal. Rule No. 1 in entering into a lease, before you sign anything, is to actually READ the lease. Every single word. If there are things in the lease you don't understand, ask the landlord to explain them -- or ask that the language be changed to something that makes sense to you. Feel free to have an attorney look at the lease if you are uncomfortable with it.

If there is something you would like to appear in the lease but does not, it is not at all improper to ask the landlord to consider adding the provision or provisions you request. The landlord is not required to add those provisions, though. Be very mindful of the words of the lease. Vague contractual language may not always work out in your favor. The entire agreement should be clearly spelled out on the lease document itself. Never rely on handshake agreements to things

outside the lease document. A provision any college student lease should include is language allowing for subleasing of the property. Given the nature of college student schedules, the ability to sublease the apartment is extremely important. You never know what might come up. Some examples include students who decide to study abroad or take an internship elsewhere for a semester. Some landlords refuse to sublease. You need to resolve the subleasing question before you ever sign the lease.

It may also be a good idea to take some pictures of the property, inside and out, before moving in. This gives you a record of the condition of the dwelling before you move in so that you will not be blamed for any damage that existed before you moved in. If there is significant damage, you should request that it be fixed before you move in. The slightest damage to the property could mean that your deposit won't be returned at the end of the lease -- and you don't want that to happen if the damage was done by a previous tenant. Many leases clearly define the types of damage that could result in forfeiture of your deposit. That may be something to consider adding to a lease that does not already contain such language.

Understand, too, that with a lease comes a property interest on your behalf in the dwelling. Landlords do not have an unfettered right to

access your property whenever they so choose -- even though they are the owners of it. The instances when a landlord can enter the property should be included in the lease. Most landlords will seek permission from the tenant before entering the property for repairs, maintenance, etc. Landlords also have a right to enter the property if they think you are breaching the lease provisions or doing something illegal inside the dwelling.

When your lease has expired, you should send a letter to your landlord making a formal request of return of your deposit, and providing him with a mailing address where your deposit may be mailed. (Provided, of course, you haven't caused significant damage to the property.) Sometimes landlords can be a bit slow in returning deposits that are owed. By all means keep a copy of your lease on file, and some record of the monthly rent payments. In any real-world business transaction, good record keeping can save you a lot of headache and expense later should some dispute arise on a contract.

Finally, be a good tenant. Take care of the property as if it were your own. Pay your rent on time. Be a good neighbor. Be polite when dealing with the landlord -- even if he is a jerk. The old adage "you can catch more flies with sugar than with vinegar" is as true in business as it is in life.





A street scene with cars and trees, featuring a maroon text box with the text "READY TO MAKE THE MOVE". The scene is captured during the day, with sunlight filtering through the trees. The text is in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Below the text is a horizontal line of small white dots. The background shows a street with several cars, including a white SUV, a silver sedan, and a dark car with a rack. There are trees with yellow and green leaves, and a building is visible on the left. The overall atmosphere is bright and clear.

**READY TO MAKE THE MOVE**



# TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

## MOVING IN OR OUT

Whether you are moving in or out of a place, there are things you will need to consider.

### *Deposits*

Often when renting a property, there is a security deposit required. The security deposit is usually the amount of the first month's rent. There is no statutory limit on security deposits at the state level in Mississippi.

Under Mississippi law, a landlord has 45 days to return the tenant's security deposit after the tenant has moved out. The landlord can charge their tenant for any damages to the premises as long as they provide the tenant with an itemized statement within the time period specified in the lease.

According to MS Code 89-8-21, the itemized statement will outline:

- Remedy defaults in the payment of rent
- Repair damages to the premises caused by the tenant beyond normal wear and tear
- Cost to clean unit upon termination of the tenancy
- Other reasonable and necessary expenses incurred as a result of the tenant's default

If the tenant has fulfilled all the terms of the lease (including proper termination), has paid the rent in full and on time, and has caused no damage beyond normal wear and tear, then the tenant is entitled to the return of the full security deposit.

- Document the condition of your place upon moving in. You may even want to photograph minor things. However, major concerns need to be discussed before you move so that the property owner can be informed.
- Obtain keys to your place and have an extra key made if possible. Or, if you are moving out, be sure to return all of the keys to the residence.
- Change your address. When moving (in or out) it is necessary to register the change of address with the U.S. Postal Service through one of the following options:

**Online:** [usps.com/moversguide](https://usps.com/moversguide)

**In-Person:** local post office

- Register to vote or update your current voter registration information. You can find the form online at [sos.ms.gov/elections\\_voter\\_info\\_center.aspx](https://sos.ms.gov/elections_voter_info_center.aspx).
- Register your vehicle in your new town of residence. Find more information on the Mississippi Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) site: ([dmv.org/ms-mississippi/car-registration.php](https://dmv.org/ms-mississippi/car-registration.php).)
- Change your driver's license at the local DMV

# STARKVILLE SERVICES

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Now that you have found that perfect place, it's time to make the move. This can be both an exciting and stressful time.

## CABLE

### *MaxxSouth Broadband*

911 Highway 12 West  
662.323.1615  
1.800.457.5351  
maxxsouth.com

## ELECTRICITY

### *Starkville Utilities*

Provides electric, water, sewer, and garbage service inside the city limits.  
200 N Lafayette Street  
P.O. Box 927  
662.323.3133  
starkvilleutilities.com

### *4-County Electric*

Provides electric service outside the city limits.  
9776 MS-25  
P.O. Box 827  
662.323.4502  
4county.org

## GAS

### *Atmos Energy*

atmosenergy.com

## SANITATION & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

### *City of Starkville*

662.323.2652  
Residential garbage collection twice per week.  
Monthly charge per dwelling added to electric bill.  
Curbside recycling available.  
cityofstarkville.org (under City Services)

## TELEPHONE

### *AT&T*

902 ½ Highway 12 West  
Starkville, MS 39759  
888.757.6500

### *C-Spire*

337 Highway 12 West  
Starkville, MS 39759  
855.277.4735

### *Verizon*

911 Highway 12 West, Suite 108A  
Starkville, MS 39759  
662.324.1113





# MOVING SERVICES & STORAGE UNITS

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This is not an all-inclusive list of available moving services and storage units; subject to change.

## *Academy Mini Storage*

509 Academy Road  
662.320.9944

## *Bulldog Mini Storage*

102 Lynn Lane  
662.324.1443

## *Dawg House Storage*

9722 MS-25  
662.323.9878

## *Enterprise Rent-A-Car*

404 Highway 12 West  
662.323.3389

## *Starkville Mini-Storage – Clayton Village*

1280 Old Highway 82 East  
662.324.8411

## *Moreland Storage*

1769 Louisville Street  
662.323.4892

## *The Pines Mini Storage*

1000 Louisville Street  
662.323.6423

## *Starkville Mini Storage*

801 Reed Road  
662.324.1444

## *U-Haul Neighborhood Dealer*

13077 Highway 182 East  
662.324.1194

## *Mobyl Car + Truck + Van Rental (STK)*

205 Highway 12 West  
662.461.7368





**WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?**  
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# BEING A RESPONSIBLE NEIGHBOR

## AVOIDING CONFLICTS

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Being a good neighbor is as important as being a good roommate. Communication is the foundation to a successful relationship with your neighbor. Conflicts may easily be controlled or avoided altogether if you maintain good communication with your neighbor/s. The most common types of neighbor conflicts include:

### *Noise complaints*

Having parties, loud vehicles, etc.

### *Parking issues*

Taking a neighbor's assigned spot, blocking a neighbor's car, etc.

### *Over-occupancy concerns*

Having other individuals stay with you that are not under contract can lead to several other problems

### *Animal disturbances*

Loud noises, clean-up from pets, containing aggressive pets, etc.

### *Property maintenance*

Not taking out trash, cluttered area around your door, etc.

## GOOD NEIGHBOR TIPS

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### *Introduce yourself*

Meeting your neighbors may be awkward but if your neighbor has an idea who you are, he or she will be more likely to develop a positive relationship with you. Reaching out to your neighbor will go a long way. That first greeting with your neighbor might be the beginning of a lasting friendship.

### *Communicate with your neighbor*

Keep your neighbor informed on issues or situations that will directly affect them. Please let your neighbor know if you are having a party, getting a pet, or having the apartment or house remodeled.

### *Understand the neighborhood expectations*

Understand and abide by the neighborhood or complex rules and guidelines. Also, know the local laws and ordinances.

### *Handle problems or concerns respectfully*

Your tone and attitude when addressing a problem or concern with your neighbor should always be polite. Your neighbor will be more willing to work with you if you are respectful. Remain patient when handling issues with your neighbor. If you and your neighbor cannot come to a compromise, contact your landlord for assistance.



# HOSTING A PARTY

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The benefit to having your own place can bring many freedoms, but your neighborhood, roommates, and landlord deserve respect when hosting a party. Remember these important tips to make sure everyone stays happy:

## ***BEFORE THE PARTY***

Set house rules with your roommate(s). Be sure that you are on the same page regarding the party size, hours of the event, whether alcohol will be served, music volume, clean-up, etc.

### **Have a responsible host**

A sober host will be the best option to ensure a safe and successful party. This host should be responsible for abiding by the house rules, talking with police if an issue arises, turning away uninvited guests, and having a plan for safe guest transportation.

### **Keep your neighbors in the loop**

Be sure to inform neighbors that you are having a party. If they have any concerns, ask that they contact a sober host. Tell neighbors when the party will end and stick to that time. Lastly, invite your neighbors to the party.

## ***DURING THE PARTY***

### **Monitor the party carefully**

Be sure that noise level, size of party, parking and sobriety levels are under control. Inform your guests to remain quiet when arriving and leaving. The most complaints from neighbors occur when guests are arriving and leaving the apartment, not the actual party.

### **Take action, if needed**

If the party gets out of hand, be sure to contact the proper law enforcement for assistance. Let the sober host talk with the police to ensure that communication with law enforcement is respectful. Lastly, understand and accept the consequences of having a party. For assistance, call the police non-emergency number at 662.323.4134.

## ***AFTER THE PARTY***

### **Clean up**

Make sure the surrounding areas of apartment or house (including your neighbor's area) are properly cleaned. All trash, cups, cans, etc. should be picked up. Ask neighbors if they experienced any problems with the party.

# BUILDING A COMMUNITY

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Living off-campus can be a completely different experience. When on-campus, you are surrounded by a multitude of individuals with the opportunity to participate in activities and programs. Resources off-campus are not always as accessible. It is important to continue to build a community off-campus similar to the community on a college campus.

Become involved in the community. Introduce yourself to community leaders and take part in community projects and organizations. Visit the following links to learn more information about the community:

## **[cityofstarkville.org](http://cityofstarkville.org)**

Check out our city services and view local government officials

## **[starkville.org](http://starkville.org)**

Search the latest events that Mississippi's College Town has to offer both residents and visitors and explore the Greater Starkville Development Partnership



# OWNING A PET

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Owning a pet can be a rewarding experience, but it also can come with some tedious responsibilities. First, you should determine whether you are ready for the responsibility of a pet. Are you financially able to spend money on a pet? Are you gone long periods of time during the day? Do you have the time and patience to train a pet? Do you live in an area that is suitable for a pet? Do your roommates have pet allergies? Does your property management company or apartment complex allow pets?

If you are considering owning a pet while living off-campus, keep in mind these important tips:

## ***Healthy Pet***

Give your pet plenty of water and healthy food options. To ensure minimal health costs, take your pet to annual examinations and vaccinations

## ***Exercise***

Make sure your pet is receiving regular exercise. For dog lovers, be sure to take them on a walk or run.

## ***Safe Environment***

Make sure the area you live in is safe for your pets. If you live near a congested area or heavy traffic streets, make sure your pet is safely enclosed. Also, make sure your pet does not have easy access to toxic chemicals within the household such as rodent poison or anti-freeze.

## ***Grooming***

Make sure your pet is bathed regularly, the litter box is cleaned, fish tank is cleaned, etc. Please don't forget to clip your pet's nails for the safety of others.







**COMMUNITY STANDARDS AND CONDUCT**

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# BEING A RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN AND STUDENT

## CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

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The Dean of Students' Office (DOS) is responsible for adjudicating cases of alleged individual and organizational violations of the code of student conduct.

The DOS staff addresses behavior in a manner consistent with core values of fairness, honesty and integrity while promoting the university's educational mission. Our mission is to promote responsibility and standards of conduct for Mississippi State students through a fair and objective process. By fostering concepts of fairness, civility and encouraging personal responsibility, we are striving to ensure a safe and healthy university community by:

- Administering the Code of Student Conduct while ensuring the principles of due process.
- Serving as a consultant and resource for students, faculty, staff and parents concerning student conduct expectations and rights including university policies and procedures related to student life.
- Assisting and counseling victims and those accused of conduct violations.
- Offering conflict and dispute management.

The Code of Student Conduct should provide the necessary resources to understand your rights as a student while also explaining in depth the policies and procedures that each student is expected to follow. With living off-campus, you are expected to understand the different city codes and ordinances but also respect the fact you are still an MSU student.

As an MSU student, it is important to abide by the Code of Student Conduct. For more information on the Code of Student Conduct, please visit the following websites:

Listing of Policies Relating to Students: [msstate.edu/web/security/student\\_policies.html](https://msstate.edu/web/security/student_policies.html)

Listing of all University Policies: [policies.msstate.edu](https://policies.msstate.edu)



## STUDENT HANDBOOK

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The Student Handbook is MSU's resource for information like campus contacts, departmental offerings, opportunities to get involved, etc. Please visit [family.msstate.edu/resources](https://family.msstate.edu/resources) to access the Student Handbook.



## CITY ORDINANCES

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All cities and municipalities have codes or guidelines that are strictly enforced. In order to ensure that these codes and guidelines are not broken, you and your roommates should educate yourselves on what is expected of you as an apartment renter or home owner. The City of Starkville City Codes and Ordinances can be found under City Government at [cityofstarkville.org](https://cityofstarkville.org).





# STAYING CONNECTED

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# GETTING INVOLVED

As an off-campus student, staying connected to the university may be difficult, but not impossible. Whether involved on campus or in the Starkville community, it is important that you stay active in campus life and in the community. Your college experience will be much richer the more you are connected with the university or Starkville community.

## *Student Organizations*

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Take an opportunity to get involved in one of more than 200+ student organizations MSU has to offer. Being involved with a student organization can provide life-long friendships, develop transferable skills, and offer an overall meaningful college experience. There are two ways to view student organizations; the Student Organization website at [one.msstate.edu](http://one.msstate.edu) and Cowbell Connect at [msstate.campuslabs.com/engage](http://msstate.campuslabs.com/engage), our student organization database that lets you view events going on all over campus.

## *MSU Athletics*

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Athletics are a huge part of the MSU culture. As part of the Southeastern Conference, sporting events are never dull and provide our student population an unforgettable experience. Every sporting event is free of charge for students, with the exception of football tickets. For more information on athletics and team schedules go to [hailstate.com](http://hailstate.com).

## *Starkville Community*

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Throughout the school year, the Greater Starkville Development Partnership has several events for MSU students to enjoy including New South Weekends, Pumpkinpalooza, Cotton District Arts Festival, and many others. Visit [starkville.org](http://starkville.org) for more information on events and programs in the Starkville community.





## MSU PARKING AND TRANSIT SERVICES

MSU provides a broad range of transportation services for campus, Starkville, and the Golden Triangle area.

Commuter students are required to get a parking permit to park on campus. Failure to purchase a permit will result in citations if you park on campus. The permits are valid for a full year and can be purchased every July.

Most students benefit from the shuttle system on campus. Visit [smart.msstate.edu](http://smart.msstate.edu) for information on maps, routes, announcements, and service times. Download the DoubleMap app [smart.doublemap.com/map](http://smart.doublemap.com/map) on your smartphone or tablet to track your bus.

### *Saturday Shuttle Services*

To accommodate the needs of students on the weekend, a shuttle service runs on Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. to various locations on and off campus. This service does not run on football game days during the fall. For a live map and arrival times, visit [smart.msstate.edu](http://smart.msstate.edu).

### *Game Day Shuttle Service*

For the avid Bulldog fans wanting to avoid parking on campus for game days check out the Game Day Shuttle Service. This service consists of several routes constantly running three hours prior to kick-off until two hours after the game. (Gates at Davis Wade Stadium open two hours and fifteen minutes before kickoff.) Visit [fanguide.msstate.edu](http://fanguide.msstate.edu) for a live map of shuttle stops and arrival times.







# EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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## ***Emergency Numbers***

Dean of Students' Office & Office of Parent Services.....	662.325.3611
MSU Police Department.....	662.325.2121
Campus.wide Emergency Info Line.....	662.325.5555
Longest Student Health Center.....	662.325.7539

## ***OCH Regional Medical Center in Starkville***

Main Number.....	662.323.4320
Emergency Room.....	662.615.2692
Highway Patrol.....	662.323.5315
Oktibbeha County Sheriff's Office.....	662.323.2421
Starkville Police Department.....	662.323.4134
Starkville Fire Department.....	662.323.1845

## ***Division of Student Affairs***

Assessment and Testing Services.....	662.325.6610
Barnes & Noble at MSU Bookstore.....	662.325.8361
Center for America's Veterans.....	662.325.6719
Colvard Student Union.....	662.325.2513
Counseling Center.....	662.325.2091
Disability Support Services.....	662.325.3335
Dean of Students.....	662.325.3611
Dining Services.....	662.325.7120
Greek Life.....	662.325.3917
Health Center.....	662.325.7539
Holmes Cultural Diversity Center.....	662.325.2033
Housing and Residence Life.....	662.325.3555
Maroon Volunteer Center.....	662.325.2150
Parent Services.....	662.325.3611
Police.....	662.325.2121
Recreational Sports.....	662.325.7529
Residence Hall Association.....	662.325.2255
Spirit Groups.....	662.325.0976

Student Involvement.....	662.325.2930
Student Leadership.....	662.325.0244
Student Support Services.....	662.325.7520

## ***Academic Colleges***

Agriculture and Life Sciences.....	662.325.2110
Architecture, Art and Design.....	662.325.2202
Arts and Sciences.....	662.325.2646
Bagley Engineering.....	662.325.2270
Business.....	662.325.2580
Education.....	662.325.3717
Forest Resources.....	662.325.2952
Veterinary Medicine.....	662.325.3432

## ***Other Campus Units***

Academic Affairs.....	662.325.3742
Admissions and Scholarships.....	662.325.2224
Alumni Association.....	662.325.7000
Athletics.....	662.325.2532
Band.....	662.325.2713
Career Center & Cooperative Education.....	662.325.3344
Student Support & Outreach .....	662.325.2957
Cheese Store.....	662.325.2338
Financial Aid.....	662.325.2450
Florist.....	662.325.3585

## ***Information Technology***

Services Help Desk.....	662.325.0631
International Institute.....	662.325.8929
MSU Libraries.....	662.325.7668
MSU Directory Assistance.....	662.325.2323
Parking Services.....	662.325.3526
U.S. Postal Service Office.....	662.323.5772



Registrar.....	662.325.2022
ROTC/Air Force.....	662.325.3810
ROTC/Army.....	662.325.3503
Shackouls Honors College.....	662.325.2522

## ***University Academic***

Advising Center.....	662.325.4052
WMSV Radio Station.....	662.325.8034

## ***Residence Halls***

Cresswell.....	662.717.1201
Critz.....	662.325.8858
Deavenport.....	662.717.0043
Dogwood (main housing office).....	662.717.0061
Griffis.....	662.717.0798
Hathorn.....	662.717.0143
Herbert.....	662.325.2867
Hull.....	662.325.8156
Hurst.....	662.717.0645
Magnolia.....	662.717.0028
McKee.....	662.325.3214
Moseley.....	662.717.0964
Nunnelee.....	662.717.0947
Oak.....	662.717.0012
Ruby.....	662.717.0150
Sessums.....	662.325.3440

**Discrimination based upon race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or veteran’s status is a violation of federal and state law and MSU policy and will not be tolerated.**









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**OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT SERVICES**