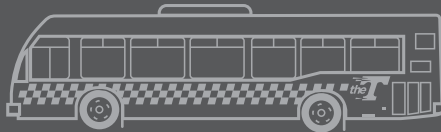
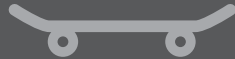
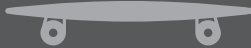




THE UNIVERSITY OF  
TENNESSEE  
KNOXVILLE

OFF-CAMPUS &  
COMMUTER SERVICES

# RESOURCE GUIDE FOR COMMUTER VOLS



# What Every Commuter Vol Needs to Know About...



## MONEY & RENT

### Make a budget and manage your money!

Consider your monthly income and expenses (transportation, food, personal, health, education, gifts, etc.)

### Consider renters insurance.

It protects your personal possessions, and many properties require it.

### Have a checking account?

Ask your landlord if paying rent with a check will be cheaper.

### Have a plan for paying rent & bills.

Online resources like SimpleBills make it easy to divide utility bills between roommates. [simplebills.com](http://simplebills.com)

### Save money on utility bills.

(and be more environmentally friendly)

- **Turn off lights, TVs, entertainment systems, computer, monitor, etc.** when you're not in the room. Plug your home electronics into power strips so it's easy to turn them off when they're not in use. Even in standby mode, they're still using power.
- **Wash only full loads** of dishes and clothes.
- **Adjust your thermostat** by 10 to 15 degrees when you're not home to save up to 10 percent on your bill. Close windows and doors when heating or cooling your home.



## BEFORE SIGNING YOUR FIRST LEASE

### Know your budget before you search for housing, and watch for additional fees.

Ask what utilities are and are not included, if the place comes furnished or unfurnished, and whether there are any application fees.

### Be aware of community rules.

Ask about noise, pets, parking, use of common spaces, etc.

### Check for and report any preexisting damages.

Make a detailed report.

### Read the ENTIRE lease.

Ask the landlord any questions you may have, such as:

- What are the available lease term options? Twelve, ten, or six months?
- How, when, and where is rent paid each month?
- When is a late fee applied to rent?
- What are the rules about personalization in rooms or apartments?
- How does maintenance work?
- What's the process for renewing the lease?



## COMMON TERMS

### TENANT

A person who pays rent to use or occupy a property owned by another; also known as a renter, occupant, dweller, lessee, or boarder.

### LANDLORD

A person, company, or corporation who owns property and rents or leases it to other people; also known as a lessor, property owner, or manager

### LEASE

A written legal contract that grants temporary possession, for a length of time that must be indicated, of property to a tenant for compensation of a fixed rate paid to the landlord. The lease provides both the tenant and the landlord rights and duties.

### APPLICATION FEE

Monetary amount typically requested from the potential tenant at the time of application. This amount is not refunded.

### SECURITY DEPOSIT

Monetary amount usually paid by the tenant at the time of signing the lease. The amount is intended to cover the expenses of any repairs of damages to the property that are greater than normal wear and tear. A landlord can request any amount for a security deposit. Security deposits (minus any costs) must be returned within thirty days of the tenant moving out.

### COSIGNER

A cosigner will appear on the lease as a guarantor, promising to pay your rent if you cannot. A landlord may require a cosigner if you are renting your first apartment, have no credit history or a poor credit score, or are under a certain age. A cosigner doesn't have to be your roommate.

### PRORATED RENT

If you move into your rented property prior to the first of the month, you may need to pay prorated rent. Prorated rent is determined by dividing the monthly rent by the number of days in the month. Multiply this daily rent number by the number of days you will occupy the property before the first of the month.

### NOISE ORDINANCE

Knoxville has a noise ordinance, and the fine associated with it is more than \$100. The ordinance prohibits "any unreasonably loud, unusual or unnecessary noise which disturbs the peace and quiet of any neighborhood, or which causes discomfort or annoyance to any reasonable person of normal sensitivity residing in the area, or which otherwise injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace, safety or welfare of others."



## TRANSPORTATION



### Save money & gas on the bus!

Ride the T to class and check out KAT, Knoxville Area Transit.

[ridethet.utk.edu](http://ridethet.utk.edu)

[katbus.com](http://katbus.com)



### Bike to class.

#### It's free and it's exercise.

Register your bike—it's required—for free with Parking and Transit Services.

[parking.utk.edu](http://parking.utk.edu)



### Get your parking permit.

If you must drive, you'll need a commuter permit form from Parking and Transit Services to park on campus.

[parking.utk.edu](http://parking.utk.edu)



## SAFETY

### Call for help.

974-HELP is a 24/7 referral line that students, faculty, staff, and parents can call if they are worried about the safety and well-being of a student.

### Download the UT app to get the UT Guardian App.

Set up a safety profile with your UT e-mail address to access the UT-specific interactive safety features.

[utk.edu/mobile](http://utk.edu/mobile)

### Report crime.

Off campus, call 911 (emergency) or 865-215-4010. On campus, call 865-974-3111 (emergency) or 865-974-3114.

### Avoid walking alone, especially at night.

Ride the T: Late Nite or call the T: Link to pick you up after hours at 865-974-4080.

[ridethet.utk.edu](http://ridethet.utk.edu)

### Stay safe from fire.

Have working smoke alarms and a fire extinguisher.

For more personal safety tips—on campus, in your neighborhood, around town, visit [utpolice.utk.edu](http://utpolice.utk.edu).

## YOUR ENERGY BILL BREAKDOWN

Take a look at where your dollars go, based on an average home's utility bill.



**42% SPACE HEATING**  
**24% WATER HEATING**  
**18% OTHER**  
**6% REFRIGERATION**  
**5% COOLING**  
**5% LIGHTING**

## RESOURCES

If you are a commuter student, considering commuting to UT, or already living off campus, Off-Campus and Commuter Services is here to help!

### Off-Campus and Commuter Services

2218 Dunford Hall

Phone: 865-974-4221

E-mail: [commuter@utk.edu](mailto:commuter@utk.edu)

Join Commuter Vols on VOLink



[@commuterVols](#)



Off-Campus & Commuter Services  
at the University of Tennessee

[commuter.utk.edu](http://commuter.utk.edu)

## LOOKING FOR HOUSING OFF CAMPUS?

The off-campus housing website is a great resource. Visit [offcampushousing.utk.edu](http://offcampushousing.utk.edu), and use your NetID and password to log in and get started.