Living in D.C. and Surrounding Communities

**Apartment Searching**
When looking for a new home in the D.C.-metropolitan area, there are several factors that you should consider in your decision-making process:

- **Price:** As a general rule, the farther away from the city, the less expensive the cost of housing will be. There are also trade-offs when deciding whether to live closer or further away from a metro stop, because proximity to a metro stop may impact the cost of housing.
- **Area:** Consider the neighborhood you’re evaluating based on your lifestyle and the kind of community in which you want to live. Do you want to live near outdoor spaces, shopping centers, or around city nightlife?
- **Safety:** Check the area you are looking to rent during the day and night to ensure you are aware of the neighborhoods’ levels of safety.
- **Commute Time:** Consider the cost, time and convenience of whether or not you need to use public transportation to get to work and campus.
- **Parking:** If you own a car, consider the cost of parking the car in a daily garage or the challenge of finding street parking in a city. Oftentimes you will need to pay extra per month for a parking spot in your apartment building or residential area.

**Getting Around the District**
Living in an urban setting affords those living in and around the District with several ways to travel across the city and into southern Maryland and Northern Virginia. One of the primary methods of public transportation is the Metrorail, which consists of five different colored lines (Red, Blue, Orange, Green and Yellow) serving distinct areas of the D.C.-metropolitan area. In addition to Metrorail, Metrobus is another method of transportation across the District. Bus stops are located throughout the district and routes and schedules can be found online at http://www.wmata.com/bus/. Finally, another means of public transportation is the D.C. Circulator which operates routes that provide access to Georgetown, Woodley Park-Adams Morgan, and Navy Yard. More information about the Circulator is available at http://www.DCcirculator.com/

In addition to public transportation, many GW students choose to bring their own bicycles or invest in a Capital Bikeshare membership, which allows students to rent bikes and use them at stations located throughout the D.C. area. More information on Capital Bikeshare can be found here: http://www.capitalbikeshare.com/

If you don’t own a car, two primary modes of urban car rentals exist through memberships with Car2Go or Zipcar, both of which typically offer student discount rates. A member can reserve and rent a car by the hour for travel locally within the D.C. area instead of using public transportation. For more information on these services, please visit https://washingtondccar2go.com/ and www.zipcar.com.

**Civic Engagement**
**Voter Registration**
You can register to vote online at https://www.dcboee.org/voter_info/register_to_vote/ovr_step1.asp

**Community Service**
Work with the GW Center for Civic Engagement & Public Service to identify local opportunities you might be interested in or contact Greater D.C. Cares at www.D.C.-cares.org.

**Campus Involvement**
Stay involved on campus by connecting to a student organization and getting involved with one of the many events or opportunities the Center for Student Engagement offers. Visit the CSE online at studentengagement.gwu.edu
Getting to Know the District & Surrounding Areas

The District consists of many neighborhoods that range in history, culture and modernization across the city. A rule of thumb when traveling the District is to remember that the numbered streets go from north to south, lettered streets go east to west and diagonal streets are states. The District is divided up into four quadrants: Southwest, Southeast, Northwest, and Northeast.

- **Southwest D.C.**
  Otherwise known as the Capitol Waterfront, this area of D.C. includes residential areas as well as many federal office buildings. Some better known attractions of this area are the National Mall grounds, Maine Avenue Fish Market, and Hains Point. Metro Blue and Orange lines primarily serve Southwest D.C.

- **Southeast D.C.**
  Southeast D.C., which has a mixed population of politicians, professionals, and students, is the area known as "Capitol Hill." Other prominent features of this quadrant are RFK Stadium, Nationals Stadium Ballpark, and Eastern Market. The Metro Green, Orange and Blue lines primarily serve the Southeast area.

- **Northeast D.C.**
  This area is home to many students due to the proximity of Catholic University, Howard University, and Gallaudet University all within this quadrant. Generally, housing options are less expensive and the area is very public transit accessible. Better known features of Northeast D.C. include Union Station and the rapidly developing area known as "NoMa," which includes residential, commercial and retail spaces. The Metro Red line primarily serves Northeast D.C.

- **Northwest D.C.**
  Where The George Washington University and the Foggy Bottom-area are located is in the Northwest quadrant. Other major features to Northwest include Georgetown, Dupont Circle, the U Street corridor, and the Woodley Park and Adams Morgan neighborhoods. As the largest quadrant, all Metro lines serve various parts of the Northwest quadrant except notably Georgetown, which is primarily accessible via the Circulator or Metrobus.

- **Northern Arlington, Virginia**
  Accessible via the Metro Orange Line, Northern Arlington has a number of neighborhoods that attract the student and young professional variety including, but not limited to, Court House, Clarendon and Ballston. Housing ranges widely from high-rises to more residential properties. Being in the less urban setting allows for immediate access to grocery, home improvement and other chain retail stores.

- **Southern Arlington, Virginia**
  Accessible via the Metro Blue Line, Southern Arlington also has a number of neighborhoods that attract a variety of people living in areas such as Crystal City or Pentagon City. Housing tends to be of the high-rise and apartment variety, although more residential properties do exist. Features of this area include the Pentagon, Pentagon City Shopping Center, and the Crystal City Shops. There is also a great deal of chain retail outlets available in the immediate area as well for grocery, home improvement and other lifestyle needs.

- **Alexandria, Virginia**
  Alexandria is home to D.C. transplants as well as established D.C. families. Alexandria's better known area is Old Town, a restored colonial area with shops and restaurants. However, Alexandria does provide a wide range of housing options as well as a wide range of cost of housing depending on the location. Alexandria is metro accessible serving both the Metro Blue and Yellow lines making it easy to commute in and out of the District via public transportation.

- **Silver Spring, Maryland**
  Silver Spring serves as the primary urban area in Montgomery County and its revitalization has ushered in a diverse mix of people. It contains many reasonably priced apartments. In recent years the Downtown area has been revitalized with an eclectic mix of entertainment, restaurants, and shopping centers. Silver Spring is located on the Red Line of the Metrorail.

- **Bethesda, Maryland**
  Just north of the District, Bethesda is home to the National Institute of Health, National Naval Medical Center, and the headquarters of both Marriot International and the Lockheed Martin Corporation. Bethesda is best known for its large number of restaurants. There are many apartment buildings and condominiums in downtown Bethesda. This lively urban community is located near two metro stops on the Red line (Bethesda and Medical Center).
## Off Campus Resources Directory

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<th>Emergency Services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fire &amp; Emergency Medical Services Department</strong>&lt;br&gt;Emergency: 911 &amp; Non-Emergency: (202) 673-3331&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:info.fems@DC.gov">info.fems@DC.gov</a>&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://fems.DC.gov/">http://fems.DC.gov/</a></td>
<td><strong>Metropolitan Police Department</strong>&lt;br&gt;Emergency: 911 &amp; Non-Emergency: 311&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:mpd@DC.gov">mpd@DC.gov</a>&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://mpd.gov/">http://mpd.gov/</a></td>
<td><strong>GW Police Department</strong>&lt;br&gt;Emergency: (202) 994-6111 &amp; Non-Emergency: (202) 994-6110&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:gwpd@gwu.edu">gwpd@gwu.edu</a>&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://police.gwu.edu/">http://police.gwu.edu/</a></td>
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<td><strong>District Services</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mayor's Citywide Call Center</strong>&lt;br&gt;311&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://311.D.C.gov/">http://311.D.C.gov/</a></td>
<td><strong>Department of Public Works</strong>&lt;br&gt;(202) 673-6833</td>
<td><strong>Department of Consumer &amp; Regulatory Affairs (D.C.RA)</strong>&lt;br&gt;(202) 442-4400</td>
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<td>Residents can request many services, such as bulk collection, parking enforcement, trash and recycling collection, and street or sidewalk repair.</td>
<td>&amp; Environmental services/solid waste management and parking enforcement.</td>
<td>Provides licensure of District landlords, registration and inspection of housing, and oversees zoning permits within the District.</td>
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<td><strong>Housing Regulatory Administration</strong>&lt;br&gt;(202) 442-4400</td>
<td><strong>Department of Health - Division of Animal Disease Prevention</strong>&lt;br&gt;(202) 576-6664</td>
<td><strong>D.C. Water and Sewer Authority</strong>&lt;br&gt;(202) 787-2000</td>
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<td>Responsible for administration and enforcement of the D.C. Housing Code which regulates the standards by which residential housing must be maintained.</td>
<td>&amp; All dogs in the District of Columbia must be registered with the Department of Health.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@D.C.water.com">info@D.C.water.com</a>&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.D.C.water.com/">http://www.D.C.water.com/</a></td>
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<td><strong>Department of Motor Vehicles (MD)</strong>&lt;br&gt;(410) 768-7000&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:MVACS@mdot.state.md.us">MVACS@mdot.state.md.us</a>&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.mva.maryland.gov/">http://www.mva.maryland.gov/</a></td>
<td><strong>Department of Motor Vehicles (VA)</strong>&lt;br&gt;(804) 497-7100&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.dmv.state.va.us">http://www.dmv.state.va.us</a></td>
<td><strong>Department of Motor Vehicles (D.C.)</strong>&lt;br&gt;(202) 737-4404</td>
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<td>The DMV provides Maryland licenses, vehicle registration, collects ticket fees, and vehicle inspections.</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:info@D.C.gov">info@D.C.gov</a>&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://dmv.D.C.gov/">http://dmv.D.C.gov/</a></td>
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<td>WMATA provides public transportation via rail and bus throughout the Washington, D.C. area.</td>
<td>At just $1 and with buses arriving every 10 minutes, the Circulator provides daily bus service on five convenient routes throughout Washington, D.C..</td>
<td><a href="http://www.washgas.com">http://www.washgas.com</a></td>
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Washington Gas assists with management and control of gas leaks and gas used in District homes and residential properties.
### Off Campus Resources Directory (Continued)

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<th>University Services</th>
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District and Maryland electricity and power operator. | **Dominion Power (VA)**  
(888) 667-3000 | **GW Community Concern Hotline**  
(202) 994-6110  
A hotline to call regarding concerns or issues that arise in the Foggy Bottom community that can be reported anonymously. |
| **GW Campus Advisories**  
GW Info Line: (202) 994-5050 & VSTC Info Line: (301) 881-9260 http://www.campusadvisories.gwu.edu/  
Supports the University in efforts to prepare and address emergencies that arise impacting the university and its greater community of students, faculty, and staff. | **Off Campus Student Affairs**  
(202) 994-6555 | **Student Rights & Responsibilities**  
(202) 994-6757  
rights@gwu.edu http://studentconduct.gwu.edu  
Student conduct follow-up is conducted by the Student Rights and Responsibilities Office regarding behavioral issues and policy violations. |
| **Center for Student Engagement**  
(202) 994-6555 | **GW Housing**  
(202) 994-2552 | **Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Education (CADE)**  
(202) 994-2599  
CADE serves to educate students, so that they can make informed and responsible decisions regarding substance-related behavior and other wellness issues. |
| **Student Health Services**  
(202) 994-6827 | **University Counseling Center**  
(202) 994-5300 | **University Parking Services**  
(202) 994-7275  
Provides parking permits for university parking garages and lots as well as collects ticket fees for university parking citations. |