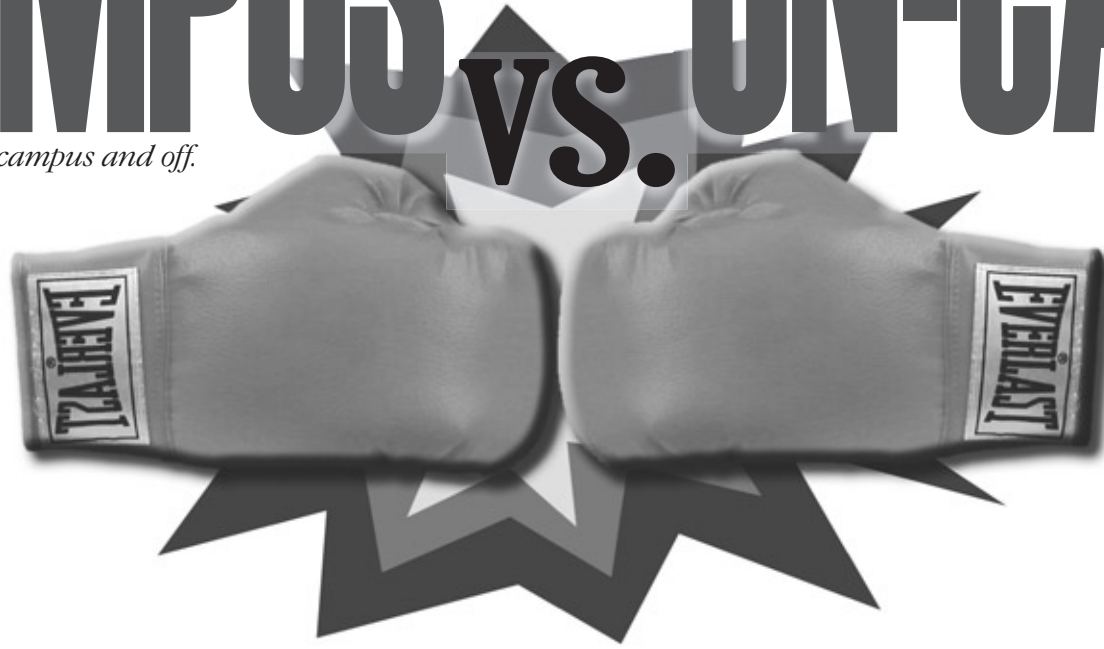


# OFF-CAMPUS vs. ON-CAMPUS

*A look at housing for Midland students on campus and off.*



## Students weigh benefits, drawbacks of housing options for the next year

By Curtis Heideman  
Midland Staff

School is winding down and students are looking forward to their summer vacations. There is only one thing they need to settle after getting their schedules for next year, they have to decide where they are going to live.

Students either stay in the dorms or take their studies off campus and start paying rent.

Students move off campus for many reasons. Junior Lezha Dougherty said one reason is that they do not want to be left behind and lose all of the close ties they have made with their classmates.

"Everyone I knew was moving off (campus)," Dougherty said. "I didn't want to be stuck in the dorms by myself."

Sophomore Adam Lamprecht said that his possible roommates already live off campus and he planned on joining them during the summer and the fall.

"Besides, it would be nice to have more room and it will especially be nice to have my own bedroom," Lamprecht said.

This is also a disadvantage of moving off campus. There are not a lot of people that you can talk to, hang out or study with, Scott Majerus director of residence life, said.

"While living on campus students always have someone

to talk to or do something with," Majerus said. "It is very convenient for them to just walk down the hall."

"I miss being able to talk to all my friends and catching up on the gossip," Dougherty said.

Freshman Lindsey Callaway, who is a Fremont resident and lives at home with her parents, agrees.

"I would like to move on campus because I feel that I don't know very many people on campus," Callaway said. "I feel like I am not as involved as I could be."

Other factors in the decision to move off campus are the resident advisors and housing regulations.

Sophomore Chris Wagner said there are too many rules on campus.

"Once people move off campus they can play music at night, have more than three people over and the fairer sex is allowed to stay the night," Wagner said.

Another advantage of living off campus is that it gives students a chance to mature and experience life that much more, Majerus said.

"Students who move off campus continue to gain experience," Majerus said. "It helps them take a step closer to where they are going to end up in life and teaches them how to better budget their money."

This is another benefit that many students forget about.

"The managing of bills helps a student to grow and become stronger and more independent," junior Andy Sommer said.

Something that comes along with growing is getting a job and paying the bills that are necessary to keep one's rental property, utilities and other necessities.

"When I moved off campus my parents quit helping me with money," Dougherty said. "They said that if I was going to move off campus, then it would be a good idea for me to work and start paying the bills."

Moving in with different and possibly more roommates is also a factor for students.

"I was excited to live with more than one of my friends," Sommer said.

Living with more than one person can also create problems.

Students may have more trouble adjusting to living with more than one roommate than they think, Majerus said.

"They are used to having a clean hallway, bathrooms and no worry about dishes," Majerus said. "Now they have to do all these things themselves. The problem is presented when one or more of the members is late on rent or is not pulling their share of the weight."

Another motivation for students to move off campus is money. Many students move off campus thinking that it will be cheaper. This is true as far as rent is concerned.

According to a survey of 25 students living off campus, they pay an average \$160 a month versus \$211 on campus.

This does not include many expenses dorm residents

take for granted such as cable phone, trash and utilities. On average, off-campus students pay \$221 a month including these living expenses.

Another expense that adds to on-campus living is food. Next year students will pay approximately \$240 to \$260 a month for their meal plans.

According to a University of Nebraska-Lincoln study, off-campus students spend on average \$120 a month on food.

Figuring all estimated expenses, on-campus living costs \$460 and off-campus living costs \$311.

Callaway said she does not have to worry about these hassles because she lives at home, doesn't pay rent and gets home cooking.

The costs of living off campus does get to some for a variety of reasons, so some students fall back on the convenience of living in the dorms.

"I can't afford living off campus," Sommer said. "My roommates are graduating and moving elsewhere, so I am going to move back on campus and become an RA."

Majerus said that Midland is like a safety net and although they would like to see the upperclassmen stay on campus and be a positive influence on the freshmen, it is their decision.

"We love to have upperclassmen stay around and live on campus, but we also think that it can be important and beneficiary for them to move off," Majerus said. "Our ultimate goal is to see them graduate."

## House searching is difficult, emotional experience

By Leslie Bochart  
Midland Staff

Finding an affordable house for five students can be a difficult experience. For five Midland Lutheran College girls, it made for an emotional ride with stressful and exciting times.

Many students choose the option of living off-campus after they have lived in the dorms for the required two-year period, and the search for off-campus housing can be stressful.

Junior Amy Silcox said her and four of her friends have been searching for off-campus housing since before Spring Break.

"We started looking about a month before [Spring Break]," Silcox said. "But we seriously started looking when we got back."

Silcox said her and juniors Molly Dennehey and Laura Albrecht and sophomores Sara Weaver and Michelle Peterseney first started looking in the newspaper and Internet.

"The big help was through the Internet on the Don Petersen Realty website," Silcox said.

Albrecht said the site showed several houses they could look at. Then they contacted the agents to get more advice and information about available houses.

"We told the Real Estate agents what we wanted and how much we wanted to spend," she said. "Then they gave us a list of places to look at."

She said they were able to find houses within their specifications and price range.

"There are five of us, so we wanted at least a three-bedroom house," Silcox said.

Weaver said they wanted to keep the price low.

"We really wanted to keep the price range at, or under, \$200 a month per person," Weaver said.

Silcox said they started by looking at a few different houses, but they were not quite satisfied with them. Eventually they found the right one.

"Our real estate agent showed us one last house that only had two bedrooms but had an office room in the basement we could use," Silcox said. "We decided that we really did like this house and went for it."

Silcox said they are making the final arrangements.

"We turned in the paper work last week and we are signing the lease on Wednesday," she said.

Silcox said it is a relief to have all of the details finalized because the process is stressful.

"The thought of not having a home is very scary," Silcox said. "We didn't

know if we would have to split up and we wanted to make it as cheap as possible, it is just a relief to finally have a home."

The girls also said the experience was fun.

"It stopped being stressful after we got the house," Weaver said. "Then it got really exciting going through all of the details. After we saw it and started making plans about sharing rooms, buying furniture and getting stuff from garage sales."

Petersen said she felt lots of emotions.

"While we were looking it was pretty stressful, but since we have found it, it is very exciting and I just can't wait to move in," she said.

They said that they were all ready for a change.

"We compared prices, with things like meal plans," Weaver said. "That was kind of the deciding factor."

Silcox said she has grown out of living in the residence halls.

"Last year I really didn't feel ready to live off-campus and I still wanted to be a part of things here," Silcox said. "But now I want to move on and get out of here."

Silcox said the search was a learning experience.

"It was stressful, but it was very fun looking at different houses," she said. "But this is also a very good learning experience."



Nikki Carlson / Photo Editor

Senior Andy Sommer folds laundry in his bedroom at his two-story house. Sommer said that there are advantages and disadvantages to living off campus. He doesn't enjoy paying bills, but he likes the freedoms that go along with not living in a dorm. Sommer lives with two other seniors and pays \$140 a month to stay in his house on South Street.



Nikki Carlson / Photo Editor

Junior Lezha Dougherty scrubs a weeks worth of dishes in the kitchen of her off-campus house. Dougherty lives with her five other Pi Epsilon Sorority sisters on the corner of Military Avenue and Pebble Street. A weekly chore list is posted on the refrigerator to keep their living environment tidy. She said she enjoys living off campus, but she misses talking to other friends that live on campus. Dougherty said each of them pay \$125 a month to live in their two-story house.



Robyn Thomsen / Photographer

Sophomore Chris Wagner played with his basketball as he is watched a game in his room. Wagner's opinion for off-campus housing is that there would be less rules and more freedom.



Robyn Thomsen / Photographer

Sophomore Adam Lamprecht sat down for a snack as he watched TV in Men's Memorial Hall. Lamprecht said he thinks that having his own room and more space is a positive benefit to living off campus.