Off Campus Living Survey

AU administered a survey to students who currently live off campus to assess their satisfaction with the information we provide prior to moving off campus, and their experiences living off campus. The assessment was administered in a web format in October of 2012 and we had 24 respondents, mostly seniors.

Key findings:

- 83% agreed that they knew how to read a lease/rental agreement
- 96% felt comfortable approaching their landlords with concerns, and 91% felt they knew how to get issues resolved. However, only 58% thought their concerns were addressed in a timely matter.
- 21% had not personally checked their fire alarms and fire extinguishers.
- 83% had met their neighbors but only 54% felt comfortable approaching them with concerns.
- 46% had hosted a party at their residence (4-5 guests or more) and 100% said they knew how to host a party safely and legally. However, from police reports, we know that is not true of all AU students who live off campus.

Selected responses to “What do you wish you’d known before moving off campus?”

“Utilities are not always included in rent. Not all apartments have internet access and you have to call Time Warner and purchase a wireless router yourself.”

“How much cleaning even a small apartment takes to look nice.”

“Specific lease agreement interpretations”

“What to do when your landlord does not address issues within the apartment, and the proper steps to take to deal with the problem.”

Summary and Action Items

This was a very helpful survey and we greatly appreciated those who took the time to respond. We have modified our off-campus living forum significantly as a result. Areas of improvement include focusing more effectively on fire safety (we want 100% of our students to personally be checking their fire equipment), going into more detail on how to read lease agreements and identify hidden costs, and incorporating a discussion of our village local laws.

Complete results are available on Campus Labs or by contacting Kathy Woughter, VP for Student Affairs.