A place to call home.

Off-Campus Housing
musc.edu/housing
Charleston offers a wide variety of housing opportunities for you! From quaint Charleston single houses where history reveals itself in the piazzas, high ceilings and gorgeous gardens to the airy beach houses that line the perimeter of the islands...the choice is yours! For those who prefer more traditional living quarters, there is a myriad of apartment complexes with a variety of amenities. With careful consideration, you are sure to find a new home that is just right for you.

Living Downtown
If you choose to live downtown, you will be surrounded by the historical homes and cobblestone streets that give Charleston its reputation as one of the country’s most charming cities. And, in most cases, you will enjoy the convenience of being within a walk or bike ride of MUSC, local stores and tourist attractions. Downtown living offers many highlights, however, the demand to live on the peninsula is reflected in higher rental rates and limited parking spaces. Furthermore, the downtown area is prone to flooding, and many of the older homes lack good insulation, which can result in higher utility bills.

The Greater Charleston Area
The greater Charleston area provides a wide and often lower range of rental rates and many times rent includes such amenities as access to a yard, pool, tennis courts, fitness center, and plenty of available parking. In exchange for these luxuries, you will need reliable transportation for your commute to MUSC. Commuting time into the city varies from as little as five minutes to as long as thirty minutes.

Several areas off the peninsula like James Island, West Ashley and Mt. Pleasant offer traditional apartment complexes and more suburban living. They vary in location, size, floor plan, cost, number of bedrooms/bathrooms, lease terms and amenities so be sure to take these things in consideration in order to find what will best suite your needs.
Timing Your Housing Search
We recommend that your housing search begin 6-8 weeks prior to the date you want to begin living in Charleston. This should be adequate time to be selective without paying unnecessary rent. If possible, allow yourself two consecutive business days in Charleston to actively seek housing. For your temporary stay, special MUSC rates are available at several local hotels. Check out our website for a complete listing of discounted hotel rates.

Viewing Our Listings
We provide an online listing of homes and apartments available for rent in Charleston and the surrounding area. These listings are provided by locals who wish to offer their property to MUSC students, faculty and staff. Please note that we do not own, inspect, endorse, approve or assume responsibility for any of our listings nor do we support a particular property, landlord or real estate agent or agency.

Current students, staff and faculty can access listings of rentals, sales and rooms for rent using their MUSC-issued NetID and password.

New/incoming students will need to email housing@musc.edu with your full name, start date (month/year) and college/program that you will be attending. Once your enrollment is verified you will receive a temporary username and password to access the database.

Finding A Roommate
We offer an online matching service for students seeking a roommate. Visit our website to add your information to the matching database and search for others who are seeking a roommate.

Current students, staff and faculty can access roommate information using their MUSC-issued NetID and password.

New/incoming students will need to email housing@musc.edu with your full name, start date (month/year) and college/program that you will be attending. Once your enrollment is verified, you will receive a temporary username and password to access the database.

Dealing With Fraud
The MUSC Off-Campus Housing services are intended to assist people in advertising and acquiring housing in the Charleston area. Be aware that some people may use the information included on this site for fraudulent purposes.

Please be on the look out for an email in which the sender represents him/herself as an international seeking housing. The person offers to send funds in the form of a check or money order, and will then request that you cash the check or money order and return to him/her any remaining balance. For more information, please visit the INTERPOL website (The International Criminal Police Organization).

interpol.com
Things to Keep in Mind While Looking For A Place:

• Does the neighborhood look safe and clean?
• Are the grounds of the dwelling well kept? Who is responsible for the upkeep, you or the landlord?
• Where do you pick up your mail? Are there individual mailboxes? Where are they located?
• Are there dead-bolt locks on the doors? Can windows be locked? Are screens furnished?
• How many electrical outlets are in each room?
• Do you need special outlets to accommodate computers, microwaves, etc?
• Is there enough closet space or an additional storage area?
• Look under the sink. Does there appear to be any water damage or evidence of bugs?
• Look at the ceilings throughout the facility. Do you see any evidence of water damage?
• Are the walls damaged in any way?
• Will the apartment be painted before you move in?
• Is the carpet or floor covering in good shape?
• Can you get an estimate on previous utility bills?
• Can you talk with previous tenants?
• Try and talk with some of the neighbors about the area.
• Is there a washer and dryer in the apartment? If not, are there laundry facilities nearby?
• Is there a shopping area nearby?
• What are your parking options?
• Does the landlord allow pets? If so, is there a pet deposit and is it refundable?
• Is there a washer and dryer in the apartment? If not, are there laundry facilities nearby?
• Downtown Charleston is prone to flooding. Does your street or parking area flood?
• If desired, can you have a roommate or other individual living on the property?
• If planning to leave town for the summer, can you sublet?
• Downtown Charleston is prone to flooding. Does the street, parking area or apartment flood during high tide or heavy rain storms?
For many students, having a roommate is not a new experience. You may have had great roommates and you may have had difficult roommates, but either way, each new roommate is a different relationship. Learning to adjust to each other’s differences, without infringing on one another’s freedom, helps create a positive environment for your educational pursuits. The most important factor is good communication.

One of the most important steps of your roommate search is interviewing/talking with potential roommates. Listed below are a few things you should discuss so you’ll have no doubts about each other’s likes and dislikes:

- Your study habits
- Importance you place on neatness
- Feelings about drugs and drinking
- How you like to relax
- Music preferences
- Feelings about loaning and sharing things
- Thoughts on religion, politics
- How you would like to decorate the apartment
- Feelings about overnight guests – long and short-term
- Feelings about splitting costs of shared items (ex: furniture, appliances, groceries, household items, etc.)

Having a roommate can be both a rewarding and challenging experience. You hope to have a roommate who shares your interests and good times, but sharing an apartment can sometimes result in a few problems. Experience shows that roommates who get along well usually work at it.
Despite the best preparation, there will be times when you and your roommate disagree about your living environment. Here are some common conflicts:

- Guests and visitors
- Cleaning schedule
- Sleep schedule
- Time for parties
- Use of personal property
- Security (locking doors and windows)
- Pets
- Paying bills on time

Before confronting your roommate with problematic issues, try to identify those issues for yourself. Be clear as to why they are a problem for you. For more help with solving roommate conflicts, read over Strategies for Conflict Resolution below.

**Strategies for Conflict Resolution**

**Step 1 - Communication:** Effective communication is essential for the resolution of a roommate conflict. The parties involved must be free to express themselves. Make an effort to allow the other party to speak without interruption, to listen actively and with patience, and to encourage full discussion of the problem at hand. Avoid placing blame. Use statements such as, “I feel...” rather than, “You...”. Concentrate on specific problems and avoid emotional confrontations.

**Step 2 - Definition:** In order to discuss the problem, you must first define it. Be specific in your definition of the problem. Talk about it together to make sure each of you clearly understands the other’s position. It may be that there is merely a misunderstanding.

**Step 3 - Solution:** Brainstorm together to come up with different solutions, allowing each person to express their ideas.

**Step 4 - Education:** Review and evaluate the solutions you have generated. This is the time to negotiate. Be clear about the ways in which you are willing to compromise. Decide together on the best solution.

**Step 5 - Taking Action:** After you have settled on the best possible solution, you must agree on the best method to put it into action. Be very clear about how it will work; describe it in specific terms. Don’t become discouraged or impatient, and keep the lines of communication open.

**Step 6 - Check Back:** Agree to meet together in a week or so to check on your plan of action. Is it working? Is everyone satisfied? If problems continue, contact the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) office at 792-4930 to arrange to meet with a mediator free of charge.

**Keep in Mind:** Communication is the key to successful conflict resolution!
Roommates and Joint Liability

Before you consider having a roommate, you should talk to your landlord to confirm that roommates are allowed within the terms of your lease. Once this has been established, you should become aware of the legal implications.

If only one person signs the lease, that person is solely responsible for the entire rent and other conditions of the lease and is technically subletting to any other roommates.

If more than one person signs a lease, each are responsible for all the conditions on the lease. Meaning, each tenant is responsible for all rent and any damages. So, if one person does not pay the rent, the other roommates are responsible for payment of that person’s share or they are all subject to eviction for non-payment of rent. It is up to the other tenants, not the landlord, to collect from the non-paying tenant. By the same token, if one tenant damages the premises, the landlord may deduct the damages from the tenants’ collective security deposit without determining or considering who did the damage. Again, it is up to the other tenants to collect for the damages from the tenant who caused the damage.

It may be wise to protect yourself and your roommates by designing a written contract that spells out roommates’ obligations to each other, such as what portion of rent each will pay, responsibility for damages, division of payment for utilities, duration of the rental period, responsibility for finding a replacement upon early termination, and payment of rent until replacement is found.
On-Campus Parking
For on-campus parking, contact the Office of Parking Management at 843-792-3665, email parkit@musc.edu or visit www.musc.edu/parking. Their office is located at 91 President Street (on the 2nd floor of the parking garage at the corner of President and Bee Streets).

Downtown Residential Parking
To obtain a residential parking decal for residents/renters living in the downtown area:

- Bring your current lease agreement and vehicle registration to the Department of Traffic and Transportation located at 180 Lockwood Drive. Go to the Revenue Collections-Parking Division Office, Room 234.
- If the vehicle registration is in a different last name than your own, you will need to bring written authorization from the owner stating that you have permission to use the vehicle. The letter must be notarized.
- The cost is $7.50 per decal (which you need to get twice a year). A decal is valid from January 1 – June 30 and July 1 – December 31.

For more information on residential parking decals, please contact the Revenue Collections-Parking Department at (843)-724-7375 or visit sc-charleston.civicplus.com/index.aspx?nid=150
Bicycle Registration
For identification purposes, all bicycles must have a City of Charleston registration. You will receive a numbered identification sticker and your bicycle's description and serial number will be on record. Register your bike for $1.00 at the MUSC Public Safety Office, 101 Doughty Street, Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 843-792-4023, or at the Charleston Police Department, 180 Lockwood Boulevard, 843-720-2497.

Please be sure to familiarize yourself with South Carolina and Charleston bicycle laws.

pccsc.net/sc-bike-laws
charleston-sc.gov/index.aspx?NID=872

Free Public Transportation (CARTA-Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority)
For students/employees who do not have a car in town or simply want to save money on gas, CARTA offers free options for your traveling needs. Visit ridecarta.com for more information.

All MUSC students, faculty and staff can ride any of the regularly scheduled Fixed-Route buses, DASH (Downtown Area Shuttle) buses and CARTA Express buses for absolutely FREE! Simply show your MUSC I.D. badge upon boarding the bus. (NOTE: If you do not have your MUSC I.D. badge, you will be required to pay the normal rate).

CARTA Express (Park and Ride)
CARTA Express is a commute alternative for the Charleston area (used especially by the MUSC community), providing a limited stop, premium service that connects area residents into downtown Charleston; both to and from convenient parking lots in North Charleston, West Ashley, Mount Pleasant, and James Island – Just Park. Get On. And Go!

For more information or route maps, please contact the Transit Administration Office at 843-724-7420 or visit ridecarta.com/riding-carta/express.

MUSC Carpooling
Want to save money on gas and parking? If you are looking to carpool with other MUSC students, faculty or staff who live in close proximity to you, simply visit MUSC Carpooling. You will need to use your Net ID username and password to log on and view information on others interested in carpooling. Please contact the Office of Parking Management with any questions regarding this service at 843-792-3665 or email parkit@musc.edu.

Visit carpool.musc.edu to get started.

MUSC Shuttle Bus Schedule
MUSC Shuttle Buses pick you up from specified lots and drop off at various points on campus. Buses operate weekdays excluding major holidays.

Visit musc.edu/transportation for more information on the MUSC Bus Schedules.
Get Connected

Electric and Gas
South Carolina Electric and Gas Company (SCE & G), 843-554-7234 or 1-800-251-7234. General Information 843-576-8000 or Customer Service 1-800-251-7234. Depending on credit history, a deposit may be required and is refundable after one year of satisfactory payments. Persons with previous accounts may be handled differently. You can also visit sceg.com to get started.

Cable / Internet / Telephone
Deposit dependent on credit history. Ask about specials.

- Comcast (Cable, Internet & Telephone options) 843-554-4100 or www.Comcast.com
- Direct TV (Cable and Internet options) 1-800-531-5000 or www.DirectTV.com
- Exede (Satellite Internet provider) 1-855-627-2553 or www.Exede.com
- Knology (Cable, Internet & Telephone options) 843-225-6100 or www.Knology.com
- Verizon (Cable, Internet & Telephone options) 1-800-837-4966 or www.Verizon.com

Water
Charleston Water System: 103 St. Phillip Street, 843-727-6800, charlestonwater.com
Mt. Pleasant Waterworks: 1619 Rifle Range Road, 843-884-9626, mountpleasantwaterworks.com

Newspaper
The Post and Courier: Charleston’s daily newspaper, delivered mornings. 843-577-711, postandcourier.com
Charleston City Paper: Free weekly alternative newspaper (published every Wednesday) featuring music, news, arts, cuisine, film, columns, and events/happenings in the Charleston area. Can be picked up in many shops, restaurants, and venues around town. 843-577-5304

Mail Services
For Change-of-Address cards, stop by any U.S. Post Office or visit www.framed.usps.com/moversnet/coa.html

Nearby post offices locations:
- Downtown - 83 Broad Street, 29401 and 557 East Bay Street, 29403
- James Island - 579 Folly Road, 29412
- Mt. Pleasant - 1050 Johnnie Dodds Blvd, 29464
- West Ashley - 78 Synamore Road, 29407
- For more information call 1-800-ASK-USPS (1-800-275-8777) or visit www.moversguide.usps.com
Vehicle License Tags
First, you must pay vehicle property tax for the county in which you live in by taking the vehicle title and registration to your County Auditor’s Office. The following are office locations:

- Charleston - 101 Meeting Street, 843-958-4200
- Mt. Pleasant - 1189 Iron Bridge Road, 843-856-1200
- North Charleston - 4045 Bridge View Drive, 843-202-6691

Then go to the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office with the vehicle property tax receipt, original vehicle title, proof of insurance, current car mileage, and fill out Form 400 for tag. The following are DMV office locations:

- Downtown - 180 Lockwood Blvd, 843-727-6477
- Mt. Pleasant - 1189 Iron Bridge Road, 843-856-1200
- North Charleston - 3790 Leeds Ave, 843-740-6168
- West Ashley - 1119-G Wappoo Road, 843-769-5879

For more information regarding vehicle license tags, please contact the DMV information line at 800-442-1368, customer service 803-896-5000, or visit www.scdmvonline.com.

Driver’s License
Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV), 1-800-442-1368. To obtain a South Carolina Driver’s License, you will need to bring the following items to the DMV:

- Your out-of-state driver’s license
- Original birth certificate or passport
- Social Security card
- Proof of residency (utility bill, paycheck stub, school record, MUSC i.d., etc.)

See DMV locations listed above or visit www.scdmvonline.com for more information.

Garbage & Recycling
Contact City of Charleston Environmental Services Division at 843-724-7364 or charleston-sc.gov to get the collection schedule for your area. Contact Charleston County Solid Waste and Recycling at 843-720-7111 or charlestoncounty.org for the recycling calendar, bin pick-up locations and additional information.

Parks and Recreation
Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (CCPRC), 843-795-4386, ccprc.com

Public Schools
Please see below for information regarding the Charleston County Public School System and other school districts in the Charleston area:

Charleston County School District: 843-937-6300, ccsdschools.com
Berkeley County School District: 843-899-8600, bcsdschools.net
Dorchester County School District Two: 843-873-2901, edlinesites.net/pages/dorchester_County_S
Dorchester County School District Four: 843-563-4535, dorchester4.k12.sc.us
Official City/Town Websites in the Charleston Area

Official Website of the City of Charleston
www.charleston-sc.gov

Charleston Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
www.CharlestonCVB.com

Charleston County Government
www.CharlestonCounty.org

Charleston Lowcountry
www.CharlestonLowcountry.com

Charleston Tourism/Travel
www.Charleston.com

South Carolina Information Highway
www.SCIway.net

Daniel Island
www.DanielIsland.com

James Island
www.JamesIslandsc.us

Mt. Pleasant
www.TownofMountPleasant.com

North Charleston
www.NorthCharleston.org

Summerville
www.summerville.sc.us

West Ashley
www.charleston-sc.gov