

## Drop the Addy Transcript

Isabella 0:00

Hello, campus compass. So now that we're into our second episode, thank you guys so much for joining us. As you guys know, we had our first episode, new semester, new me. And if you haven't heard it, definitely go ahead and check it out. But with that, we have our second episode entitled Drop the Addy, which is such a fun title. Today we're going to be talking a lot about finding housing for your sophomore year and different options that we have available to you as UA students.

Juli 0:30

Yes, and I know it might sound crazy like, Julie, what are you talking about? What do you mean? I have to figure out where I'm living in August. But not only is it very important, but it is financially responsible to do it as early as possible, as a lot of the off-campus housing options tend to raise their rates the closer that you get to the following year.

Isabella 0:51

Yeah. So, the sooner you can check this box off, the sooner that you can start saving some more money. So, jumping right into it. There are so many options around Tuscaloosa. Around Northport for student housing. We obviously have lots of apartment complexes. Some people choose to live in their sorority house, their fraternity house, but then also, there are a lot of people who have sub lease Tuscaloosa,

Juli 1:20

yeah, I have a friend, or I have a couple of friends who either live in a student housing neighborhood, or they live in an apartment. oh, really? Yes. Or they're also, they'll rent a home from a local Tuscaloosa resident, and then that way, they literally have a full house to themselves, which is super great. And kind of when you're looking into your housing options, go ahead and make a pros and cons list of what you're looking for, what you're not looking for. I know for me, I don't have a car on campus, so getting away to and from campus was super important, making sure that, like, not only where I was living, would have transportation, but it was also flexible and easily accessible. A lot of apartment complexes have a relationship with UA to where the crimson ride has buses that come and go. But also, I know where I live that students will walk to class, which is also useful for game days, because I can walk to BDS instead of having to try to Uber or drive or whatever. So taking those things into account, but also certain amenities, I know that I wanted to have a pool or an in house, washer and dryer, a workout facility, different things that I feel are really important to take into account as well. Yeah, and I feel like, honestly, every off campus housing option, they'll definitely offer their own unique amenities, like, I know some that are closer to the strip, it's like, you can walk to campus, or they'll have like, certain, different, study rooms or different study areas. Or, I know off campus they do, a nightlife shuttle, literally drop you off on the strip, and then they'll pick you up, and they'll take you, like, right to where you're living. So I think definitely look into things like, not only what you're looking for, but also what kind of benefits you and kind of your college living opportunities.

Isabella 3:15

If you want a pet or an animal on campus, make sure you look into that. If you want to be new, how to find places that come in your shopping area, or Aldi. I know there's an apartment complex that's right next to an Aldi, so beneficial. Look into all that but schedule a tour. I feel it is the best way to kind of figure out that Pro and consistent, figure out what that certain apartment complex that certain housing allows or has available to you, so you're able to either check it off and continue on, or maybe cross them off the list and move on to the next one. Yeah.

Juli 3:52

And I think with scheduling tours, it's not only great to like, create your own opinion, but also getting the opinions of other people is so important. I think not only tracking the reviews of the place, but also talking to different people on campus and seeing like, Hey, do you live here? What is your opinion? I know things that you wouldn't think come up that often, but a lot of people it affects their living and it affects, like, the quality of it is, like, the management of the facility and like, if you have a problem, how fast are they to, like, help you fix it? Or, how does the trash system work?

Isabella 4:26

Like, facility, right? Yeah, you know, no, I feel whenever I was giving on all of my tours, I think even on three or four apartment tours, one thing that I realized a lot of was the parking I guess some places, you know, maybe have a parking garage and you have to pay X amount of dollars per month to continue parking there. Some of them may have covered or uncovered parking, and then you have to pay for one or the other. Sometimes you don't pay at all. There are so many variations, and I feel going on that tour is when you're really going to learn a lot of information about the complex itself.

Juli 4:55

Yeah. And with that being said, not only knowing where you're going to live, but who you're. Like, this is incredibly important. So definitely going ahead and like, having the inventory of who you might want to live with, whether you get along right now with one of your roommates, or if you have another friend who's also looking to live off campus, to kind of seeing what you guys are both looking for and then kind of going and moving forward together. I have had random roommates in the past, and I think random roommates can be very hit or miss, depending on who you're talking to. And I think for me, I definitely get peace of mind knowing who I'm moving in with next year. Yeah, and kind of being able to, like, create a space

Isabella 5:40

around that I've been in a unique position in the sense that I've done both. My freshman year, I had a random roommate, and she ended up being the most amazing, sweet human being. Shout out, shovel grace, I love that girl. But then also, going into my sophomore junior years, I know who I've been rooming with even though I don't live with Shelly Grace anymore. She lives two doors down from me, but not getting that roommate now, figuring out what works for you. Very important, making sure that you and your roommate are on the same page about certain things. Yeah, maybe where you want to live. How much are you looking for in a budget? I know some girls who knew that they wanted one place, but then a different roommate wanted this one, but that was out of another one's price range, and it became kind of into an idea of where exactly they wanted to live. So make sure that your picking roommates not only align with you and your values and your schedule and whatnot, but also your budget,

Juli 6:39

Yes, and with the budgeting aspect of it, it tends to be that the more roommates you have, the cheaper the rent is. Yes. So, if you are looking for one person, just be ready for that bill. With that being said, not only does signing a lease earlier kind of guarantee that earlier and cheaper rate, but looking at the lease in its entirety is extremely important, as there can be fees or there can be add on-s. And for example, where I live off campus, they have guest bracelets, and you're only allowed to have so many guests, like, if we're going to go to the pool, every guest has to have a wristband. But if you lose a wristband, it costs a lot of money to get a new wristband back, so kind of just being aware of not only what you're paying for, but also what you're kind of expected in terms of, your living arrangement, yeah, your conduct, and just making sure you have all your jobs in a row, yeah,

Isabella 7:32

Getting back to the price of things, and you said, Julie, reading into that lease a lot, I know, personally for me, I have my rent, but then I also have to pay X amount in utilities, or X amount for my Wi Fi or internet usage. So really reading into it, seeing how much you're truly going to pay, because sometimes that base amount is not truly what you're going to end up paying.

Juli 7:55

Yes, and I know some off campus housing places too, they'll also look into your credit score. So suddenly, yes, log into your credit score to make sure that you're able to kind of be secured for that year of rent. So a lot of students, they'll cosign with their parents. And since the age of regality in Alabama is 19, if you're 18, you might have to co-sign with your parents. Yeah, and kind of just speaking with your parents and figuring out how I pay for rent, how they're getting everything worked out and figured out, not only helps you, like, solidify what you're doing next year, but like, you'll know that you're confident in your decision making.

Isabella 8:31

Yeah, and if you feel completely lost right now, maybe you don't have any options open to where you want to live, or maybe you don't have someone picked out for a roommate. You can always check out the UA off campus housing website. Yes, they not only have a lot of linkage to different apartment complexes, different housing opportunities, but you can also, I will leave to correct me if I'm wrong, and meet with someone to talk things through.

Juli 8:55

You can meet with someone. And I think something too with the off campus housing website is you can also find roommates. Yes, it is super awesome. And I know, like, definitely people that you are, you come from all walks of life, and it might be really hard to, like, go out and find the people that you've been looking for, but there's a lot that goes into having a roommate, whether you clean a lot or don't clean that much, or what time you're staying up, or what time you're waking up at, yeah, and kind of being able to, like, take a test and see, like, Okay, this, it's Tinder for roommates, basically what works best for you. And I love some different off campus housing options. They do that as well, yes, which is so helpful that, everybody, they want you to be successful, and they want you to find your niche, and they definitely give you the resources to do so.

Isabella 9:40

So, yeah, I agree with that. And moving into you actually moving out of your dorm, it can be a scary odd time. But something I really want to bring up into storage units

Juli 9:53

So personally, I got a storage unit. I live in Miami, so that is a 12 to 14 hour car ride. I was not going to track my whole dorm in a car just to bring it back in about three months, so what me and my roommates and friends did is we ended up splitting a storage unit. I found this to be extremely helpful, not only as I just had to drive my stuff up and down the street a couple of times, but it also was not as expensive as having to buy a U haul and bring it all down with me. I'm in the same apartment I was in my sophomore and junior year, and my roommates actually stored a lot of her stuff in my room, since I wasn't here for the summer. So maybe if you don't want to go the storage unit route. If you have someone that's staying in Tuscaloosa or whatnot, has room available that you can kind of shove some of your stuff. That's also an option you can look into as well. But start planning that out right now. Yeah, because definitely the closer you get to move out date, the more expensive the rates for the storage unit scale. But in my opinion, I think just looking ahead is always best. Planning can definitely save you money in the long run.

Isabella 11:05

If I had to say one sentence to wrap everything up, I just want to say, make sure you plan now. Now is the time to make sure you are already going into next semester.