

# MBA Housing Recommendations



## About the Housing Guide

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The following is a list of housing search tips, neighborhood details, and feedback made by current Robert H. Smith School of Business MBA students.

All Robert H. Smith School of Business graduate students live in off-campus housing. Apartments and shared houses are available for rent in Maryland, Northern Virginia, and Washington D.C.

Please note: The views, opinions, and recommendations expressed are those of current Smith MBA students only and are ***neither affiliated nor endorsed*** by the Robert H. Smith School of Business or the University of Maryland, College Park.

**\*All areas are categorized by state/district and are written in alphabetical order, not in order of recommendation.**



Van Munching Hall  
[7621 Mowatt Lane](https://www.rhsmith.edu/7621-mowatt-lane)  
[College Park, MD 20740](https://www.rhsmith.edu/college-park-md-20740)

## TIPS FOR THE HOUSING SEARCH

### Where to start:

- Speak to current and former Smith students and seek their recommendations.
- Utilize the Class of 2017 Facebook group to look for roommates or ask questions. Current students are monitoring it and can provide answers and suggestions.
- Look online and familiarize yourself with the various areas.
- Every area has advantages and drawbacks. Prioritize what is important to you (cost, commute, social scene, etc. ) to tailor your search.
- If you do not plan on having a car, live near public transportation. College Park is located on the Green Line (see map on last page).
  - Metro: <http://www.wmata.com/rail/maps/map.cfm>
  - Bus: <http://www.wmata.com/bus/maps/>
  - UMD Shuttle: <http://www.transportation.umd.edu/schedules.html>
  - MARC Train: <http://mta.maryland.gov/marc-train>

### Most Common Tips:

- Start your search early
- Live near or on the metro
- Ask current students
- Visit multiple areas if possible

### Where to look:

Search online. Suggested websites:

- [www.craigslist.org](http://www.craigslist.org) (most popular)
- [www.padmapper.com](http://www.padmapper.com) (easy way to visualize craigslist ads)
- [www.apartments.com](http://www.apartments.com)
- [www.apartmentfinder.com](http://www.apartmentfinder.com)
- [www.rent.com](http://www.rent.com)

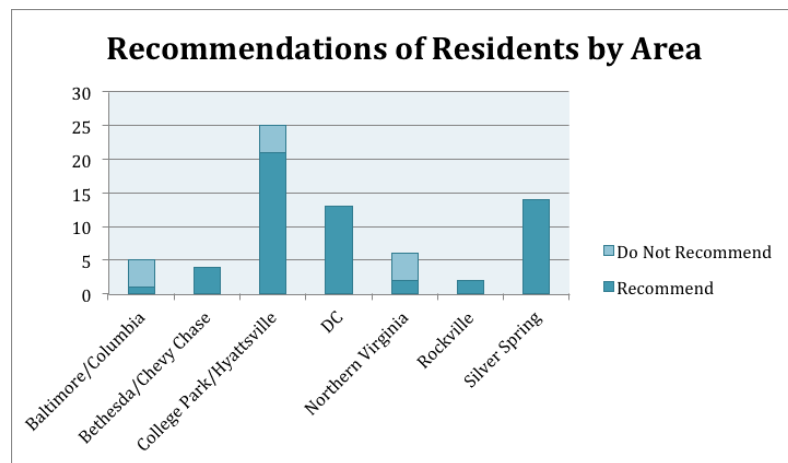
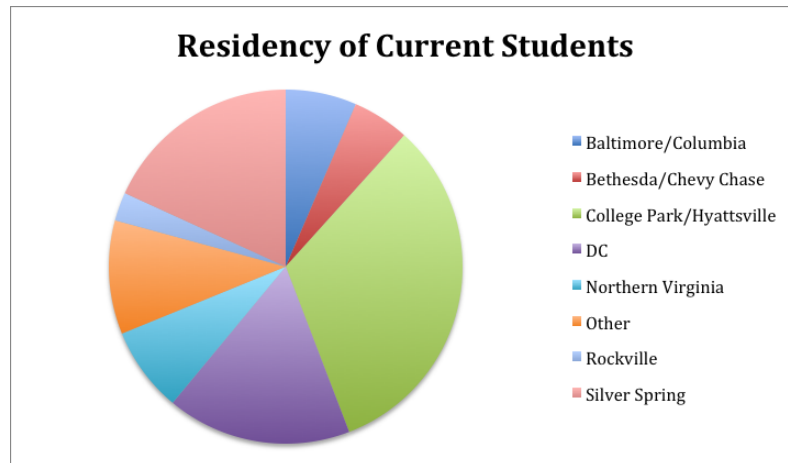
*Check them often. Apartments go quickly in the DC area, especially at the beginning of the school year. Most students found housing within 2-4 weeks of beginning their search.*

- UMD's off campus housing website: [www.och.umd.edu/OCH/Default.aspx](http://www.och.umd.edu/OCH/Default.aspx)
  - You can create a profile to find roommates and available housing options within the UMD community.
  - You can search for housing by bedrooms, rent, location, etc.

### General tips:

- Students suggest living on the green line of the metro if you don't have a car and are planning on using the metro to get to school. The commute can be unpredictable on the way to school if switching metro lines. (Please see metro map on last page).
- Try living within 25-30 minutes of College Park, as a long commute can be exhausting.
- If you can, visit the different neighborhoods and apartments to get an idea of the surroundings and commute times before making a decision.
- Try to find a roommate to save money. Speak or meet with them beforehand to make sure you are compatible.
- Be aware of traffic patterns.
- Be selective - even if it means staying at temporary housing before finalizing a place.

**Quick Statistics**



|  | Baltimore <sup>1</sup> | Bethesda <sup>2</sup> | College Park <sup>3</sup> | DC <sup>4</sup> | Rockville     | Silver Spring | Northern Virginia <sup>5</sup> |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| % Commuting by Car                               | 100%                   | 100%                  | 56%                       | 54%             | 100%          | 64%           | 83%                            |
| Residents with Children                          | 0%                     | 25%                   | 4%                        | 23%             | 50%           | 7%            | 0%                             |
| Avg. Commute by Metro/Shuttle                    | N/A                    | N/A                   | N/A                       | 25-45 minutes   | N/A           | 25-35 minutes | >45 minutes                    |
| Avg. Commute by Car                              | >45 minutes            | 25-35 minutes         | 5-15 minutes              | 25-35 minutes   | 30-40 minutes | 25-35 minutes | 35-45 minutes                  |
| Avg. Monthly Rent/Room (Shared)                  | \$500-\$749            | \$1250-\$1749         | \$500-\$749               | \$1000-\$1499   | \$750-\$999   | \$750-\$1249  | \$1000-\$1249                  |
| % of Current Residents that Relocated for School | 20%                    | 75%                   | 96%                       | 39%             | 100%          | 38%           | 33%                            |
| % of Current Residents that Recommend the Area   | 40%                    | 100%                  | 84%                       | 100%            | 100%          | 100%          | 83%                            |
| Closest Metro Line                               | N/A                    |                       |                           |                 |               |               |                                |

<sup>1</sup>Includes Baltimore, MD and Columbia, MD

<sup>2</sup>Includes Bethesda, MD and Chevy Chase, MD

<sup>3</sup>Includes College Park, MD and Hyattsville, MD

<sup>4</sup>Includes Capitol Hill, Cleveland Park, Columbia Heights, Georgetown, Mount Pleasant, U Street, Van Ness UDC and Woodley Park.

<sup>5</sup>Includes Alexandria, VA and Arlington, VA

## MARYLAND

### Baltimore/Columbia

**Google Map:** [Baltimore](#); [Columbia](#)

**About the Area:** Baltimore and Columbia are cities in northern Maryland. Some students live in Baltimore and Columbia, however only 20% of them relocated to that area to attend school. Based on survey results, students chose to live in these areas primarily due to low cost and reputation of the location. Baltimore is an urban area with many bars and restaurants; students enjoy the social atmosphere though some feel secluded from classmates in DC. Columbia, which is known to be a safe residential area, serves as a midpoint between DC and Baltimore. The main drawback is the approximate 45-minute drive to campus and safety of some Baltimore neighborhoods.

**Who Lives Here:** 6.5% of respondents said that they live in Baltimore or Columbia. Of those respondents, 20% relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, 20% are single, 60% are in a relationship but not married, 20% are married, and none have children.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on the survey, the monthly rent of a *two* bedroom apartment ranges from \$1000-\$1249. Students reported paying approximately \$500-\$749 for a bedroom in a shared apartment/house.

**Websites:** <http://baltimore.org/> and <http://www.columbia-md.com/>



## **Bethesda/Chevy Chase**

**Google Map:** [Bethesda](#); [Chevy Chase](#)

**About the Area:** Bethesda and Chevy Chase are located in Montgomery County. Students chose to live in Bethesda/Chevy Chase primarily due to the reputation of the location and access to public transportation. These areas are close to the beltway and driving into DC is easy. There are several restaurants and good shopping options. Students describe it as a "safe neighborhood with a mix of a younger and older crowd." Some drawbacks include the cost of living, distance to campus and other classmates, and limited bar scene within walking distance. The average commute to school by car is about 25-35 minutes. Students said that the commute can increase based on route 495 traffic and on weekends when the metro can be unreliable due to track construction on the Red Line.

**Who Lives Here:** 5% of respondents said that they live in Bethesda or Chevy Chase. Of those respondents, 75% relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, 25% are single, 25% are in a relationship but not married, 50% are married, and 25% have children.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on the survey, the monthly rent of a *one* bedroom apartment ranges from \$1250-\$1749.

### **Housing Recommendations:**

- Aldon Apartments (Management Company)
- The Metropolitan
- The Promenade
- Upstairs at Bethesda Row
- 8200 Wisconsin

**Closest Metro Station:** 

**Website:** <http://www.bethesda.org/> and <http://www.townofchevy Chase.org>

## **College Park/Hyattsville**

**Google Map:** [College Park](#); [Hyattsville](#)

**About the Area:** College Park, Maryland is home to the University of Maryland in Prince George's County. Hyattsville is the next town over and borders UMD's campus. Students chose to live in this area primarily due to the proximity to the school and cost. On average, commute time ranges from 5 to 15 minutes. Students suggest living very close to campus if you do not plan on having a car. Several students purchased a bike to overcome the commute and others use the UMD shuttle, which is a free service that runs from some apartment complexes. More information about the UMD shuttle is on the following website: <http://www.transportation.umd.edu/schedules.html>. Some dislikes of College Park and Hyattsville include lack of social scene (students tend to go out in DC) and the long campus shuttle route. \*The yellow metro line also runs through College Park ONLY from Monday-Friday, 6:30am-9:00am and 3:30pm-6:00pm.

**Who Lives Here:** 33% of respondents said that they live in College Park or Hyattsville. Of those respondents, 96% relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, 60% are single, 24% are in a relationship but not married, 16% are married, and 4% have children.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on the survey, the monthly rent of a *one* bedroom apartment ranges from \$1000-\$1499. Shared housing usually ranges from \$500-\$749 per room.

### **Housing Recommendations:**

- Mazza Grandmarc (no waitlist to rent, quickly able to move in)
- Graduate Hills (contact early to book, approved on waitlist as a graduate student, applications start in January)
- Graduate Gardens (contact early to book, approved on waitlist as a graduate student, applications start in January)
- Seven Springs Village
- Domain (must contact 60 days before preferred move-in date, only do 12-14 month leases)
- Camden Apartments
- Wynfield Park
- Highview Terrace

**Closest Metro Station\*:**



**Website:** <http://www.collegeparkmd.gov>

## **Rockville**

### **Google Map: [Rockville](#)**

**About the Area:** Rockville, Maryland is located in Montgomery County. Students chose to live in Rockville primarily due to the neighborhood reputation, safety, and good public school system. The main drawback for students is the distance from College Park. Most students drive to school and the average commute time is 30-40 minutes. Traffic can be very unpredictable from Rockville and this area is best suited for families with school-aged children, or people who are not relocating.

**Who Lives Here:** 4% of respondents said that they live in Rockville. Of those respondents, 100% relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, 100% are married, and 50% have children.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on the survey, the monthly rent of a *two* bedroom apartment ranges from \$1750-\$2000.

### **Housing Recommendation:**

- Congressional Towers

### **Closest Metro Station:**



**Website:** <http://www.rockvillemd.gov/>





## **Silver Spring**

### **Google Map: [Silver Spring](#)**

**About the Area:** Silver Spring, Maryland is located in Montgomery County. Students chose to live in the area primarily due to the reputation of the location, proximity to College Park and DC, and access to public transportation. The apartments are more updated and relatively affordable when compared to DC (number of square feet compared to price). Many bars and restaurants are within walking distance from several apartment buildings. Students recommend living near public transportation so that DC is easily accessible. Most students drive to school from Silver Spring (25-35 minutes) but some take the Red Line or the UMD shuttle (stops near the Silver Spring metro station and takes 25-35 minutes) which runs on the weekdays free of charge for students. Details of the UMD Shuttle can be found at: <http://www.transportation.umd.edu/schedules.html>. Drawbacks to Silver Spring include distance to DC and rent prices.

**Who Lives Here:** 18% of respondents said that they live in Silver Spring. Of those respondents, 38% relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, 29% are single, 43% are in a relationship but not married, 43% are married, and 7% have children.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on the survey, the monthly rent of a *one* bedroom apartment ranges from \$1500 - \$1749, and a *two* bedroom ranges on average from \$1250-\$1749.

### **Apartment Building Recommendations:**

- The Veridian
- Silver Spring Towers
- Lenox Park
- The Blairs
- Tiers of Silver Spring
- LongMead Crossing
- Alexander House
- Soleaire Wheaton

**Closest Metro Station:**



**Website:** <http://www.silverspringdowntown.com/>



## WASHINGTON, D.C.

### Capitol Hill

#### Google Map: [Capitol Hill](#)

**About the Area:** Capitol Hill is located in Southeast DC. Students chose to live in Capitol Hill primarily due to the safety and reputation of the neighborhood. The neighborhood features easy access to metro stations and historical character. The reported dislikes of the area include high rent prices and distance to campus but most residents feel that these are offset by the quality of the neighborhood. Commute to school by public transportation takes 45-60 minutes while it takes about 20-35 minutes to drive. If you plan on having a car, be sure to verify the parking permits needed because DC parking restrictions are quite strict.

**Who Lives Here:** 4% of respondents said that they live in Capitol Hill. Of those respondents, 33% relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, 33% are single, 33% are in a relationship but not married, 33% are married, and none have children.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on the survey, the monthly rent of a *two* bedroom apartment ranges from \$2500-\$2749.

#### Housing Recommendations:

- Kennedy Row
- Lovejoy Lofts

#### Closest Metro Stations:



**Website:** <http://dc.gov>



## **Columbia Heights/Mount Pleasant**

**Google Map:** [Columbia Heights](#); [Mount Pleasant](#)

**About the Area:** These neighborhoods are located in the Northwest portion of DC. Among DC neighborhoods, this is the most popular for students due to its relative proximity to school (compared to other DC areas) and the proximity to the Green Line. Students chose to live in the area primarily due to the social scene and proximity to public transportation. Students describe it as a vibrant, young area. On average, the commute is about 30 minutes by car. Several students use public transportation to get to school, which takes from 26-35 minutes, and the commute to school is the major complaint by survey respondents. The rental costs are lower than other parts of DC but are higher than places outside of DC, especially when comparing square footage. If you plan on having a car, be sure to verify the parking permits needed because DC parking restrictions are quite strict.

**Who Lives Here:** 5% of respondents said that they live in Columbia Heights or Mount Pleasant. Of those respondents, 50% relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, 50% are single, 50% are in a relationship, and none have children.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on the survey, the monthly rent of a *one* bedroom apartment ranges from \$1250-1499 and a *two* bedroom apartment ranges from \$2000-\$2249.

### **Housing Recommendations:**

- Row houses and basement apartments
- Allegro
- The Chalfonte

**Closest Metro Stations:**



**Website:** <http://dc.gov>

## U Street

### Google Map: [U Street](#)

**About the Area:** The U Street area is located in Northwest DC. Students chose to live in this area primarily due to the social atmosphere and access to public transportation. Students describe the U Street area as a “lively and fun area” and it is within walking distance to a large nightlife scene and variety of restaurants. Some dislikes include the commute to school and finding parking in the evenings or weekends. The average commute to school by public transportation is about 26-35 minutes (there is a metro stop on both the Green and Yellow lines) and the average commute to school by car is about 30 minutes. If you plan on having a car, be sure to verify the parking permits needed because DC parking restrictions are quite strict.

**Who Lives Here:** 1% of respondents said that they live in U Street. All respondents relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, all are single and none have children.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on the survey, the monthly rent of a *one* bedroom apartment ranges from \$1700-\$2100 and a *two* bedroom apartment ranges from \$2250-\$2499.

### Housing Recommendations:

- Row houses and basement apartments
- The Harper

### Closest Metro Stations:



**Website:** <http://dc.gov>



## **Northwest, DC**

### **Google Map: [Northwest DC](#)**

**About the Area:** The Northwest area of DC includes many neighborhoods. Those in which current students live in which have not already been covered in this document include Cleveland Park, Georgetown, Woodley Park, and Van Ness UDC. Former students have chosen to live in this area primarily due to the reputation of the location and safety of the area, access to nightlife and access to public transportation. Some dislikes include lack of friends/classmates in the area, distance to campus, and cost of living. The commute varies by location, however students reported that driving was the best option and the commute varied from 30-45 minutes.

**Who Lives Here:** 8% of respondents said that they live in Cleveland Park, Georgetown, Woodley Park, or Van Ness UDC. 20% of respondents relocated to this area for school. 20% are single, 20% are in a relationship but not married, 60% are married and 40% have children.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on the survey, the monthly rent of a *one* bedroom apartment/studio ranges from \$1250-\$1749.

### **Housing Recommendations:**

- Row houses and basement apartments
- The Alto (Gelman Management)
- Brandywine
- 2501 Porter

**Closest Metro Station:** 

**Website:** <http://dc.gov>

## NORTHERN VIRGINIA

### Alexandria/Arlington

**Google Map:** [Alexandria](#); [Arlington](#)

**About the Area:** Northern Virginia (mainly includes Crystal City, Arlington & Alexandria) is located across the Potomac River to the west of Washington DC. Students like living in this area due to its proximity to downtown DC, access to highways, larger living space and the cost. The major drawback is the commute to campus and that a car is necessary. The average commute from Northern Virginia is about 35-45 minutes by car and students recommend having a car if you choose to live in these areas

**Who Lives Here:** 8% of respondents said that they live in Northern Virginia. Of those respondents, 33% relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, 17% are single, 33% are in a relationship but not married, 50% are married, and none have children.

**Range and Average Rent:** The monthly rent of a two bedroom apartment ranges from \$2250-\$2549.

#### **Housing Recommendations:**

- The Williamsburg (Arlington)
- Crystal House (Arlington)
- Carlyle Towers (Alexandria)
- West Village at Shirlington (Arlington)

**Closest Metro Stations:**



**Website:** <http://crystalcity.com/> or <http://alexandriava.gov>



## ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

There are several other areas in which current students do not reside but are options for incoming students as well.

### Takoma Park, MD

#### **Google Map:** [Takoma Park](#)

**About the Area:** Takoma Park, Maryland straddles Montgomery County and Prince George's County. Former students have chosen to live in Takoma Park primarily due to the proximity to College Park and the low cost. Students like the access to public transportation and describe it as a "quiet and quaint" area; however, students say there is nothing within walking distance. Past students have lived in basement apartments of a house instead of an apartment complex. Most students drive to school from Takoma Park, which takes about 5-15 minutes. The UMD shuttle (website: <http://www.transportation.umd.edu/schedules.html>) does stop there but students say the shuttle route takes a while.

**Who Lives Here:** 0% of respondents reported living in Takoma Park this past year.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on previous surveys, the monthly rent of a *two* bedroom apartment ranges from \$1000-\$1250.

**Closest Metro Station:**



**Website:** <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov>



## **Adams Morgan, DC**

### **Google Map: [Adams Morgan](#)**

**About the Area:** Adams Morgan is located in Northwest DC. Students chose to live in Adams Morgan primarily due to the social and cultural scene. The neighborhood features some of the best ethnic cuisine in DC along with a hip bar scene. Some dislikes include the size of the housing relative to the rent, distance to the university, and distance from the metro. Commute to school by public transportation is 50-60 minutes while it takes about 30 minutes to drive. If you plan on having a car, be sure to verify the parking permits needed because DC parking restrictions are quite strict.

**Who Lives Here:** 0% of students reported living in Adams Morgan this past year.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on previous surveys, the monthly rent of a *one* bedroom apartment ranges from \$1800-\$2100.

**Closest Metro Stations:**



**Website:** <http://www.adamsmorgannow.com/> or <http://dc.gov>





## ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

### Dupont Circle, DC

**Google Map:** [Dupont Circle](#)

**About the Area:** Dupont Circle is located in Northwest DC. Former students have chosen to live in this area primarily due to the reputation of the location and access to public transportation. The area features some of DC's most stylish restaurants and bars, along with the majority of foreign embassies. The area is walker friendly and "close to all things in DC." Some dislikes include difficulty of parking, length of commute, and cost of living.

**Who Lives Here:** 0% of respondents reported living in Dupont Circle this past year.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based upon previous survey results, the monthly rent of a *one* bedroom apartment ranges from \$2400-\$2900 and a *two* bedroom apartment ranges from \$3000-\$3400.

**Closest Metro Station:** ●

**Website:** <http://dc.gov>



# METRO MAP



wmata.com  
 Customer Information Service: 202 637-7000  
 TTY Phone: 202 638-3780  
 Metro Transit Police: 202 962-2121

- Legend**
- **RD** Red Line • Glenmont / Shady Grove
  - **OR** Orange Line • New Carrollton / Vienna
  - **BL** Blue Line • Franconia-Springfield / Largo Town Center
  - **GR** Green Line • Branch Ave / Greenbelt
  - **YL** Yellow Line • Huntington / Fort Totten
  - **SV** Silver Line • Wiehle-Reston East / Largo Town Center

- Station Features**
- Bus to Airport
  - Parking
  - Hospital
  - Airport



- Connecting Rail Systems**
- AMTRAK
  - MTA
  - AMRC



<http://www.wmata.com>