

# Class of 2018 MBA Housing Recommendations

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**  
[7699 Mowatt Lane](#)  
[College Park, MD 20742](#)

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## TIPS FOR THE HOUSING SEARCH

### Where to start:

- Speak to current and former Smith students and seek their recommendations.
- Utilize the Class of 2018 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 Metro 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>

### Where to look:

Search online. Suggested websites:

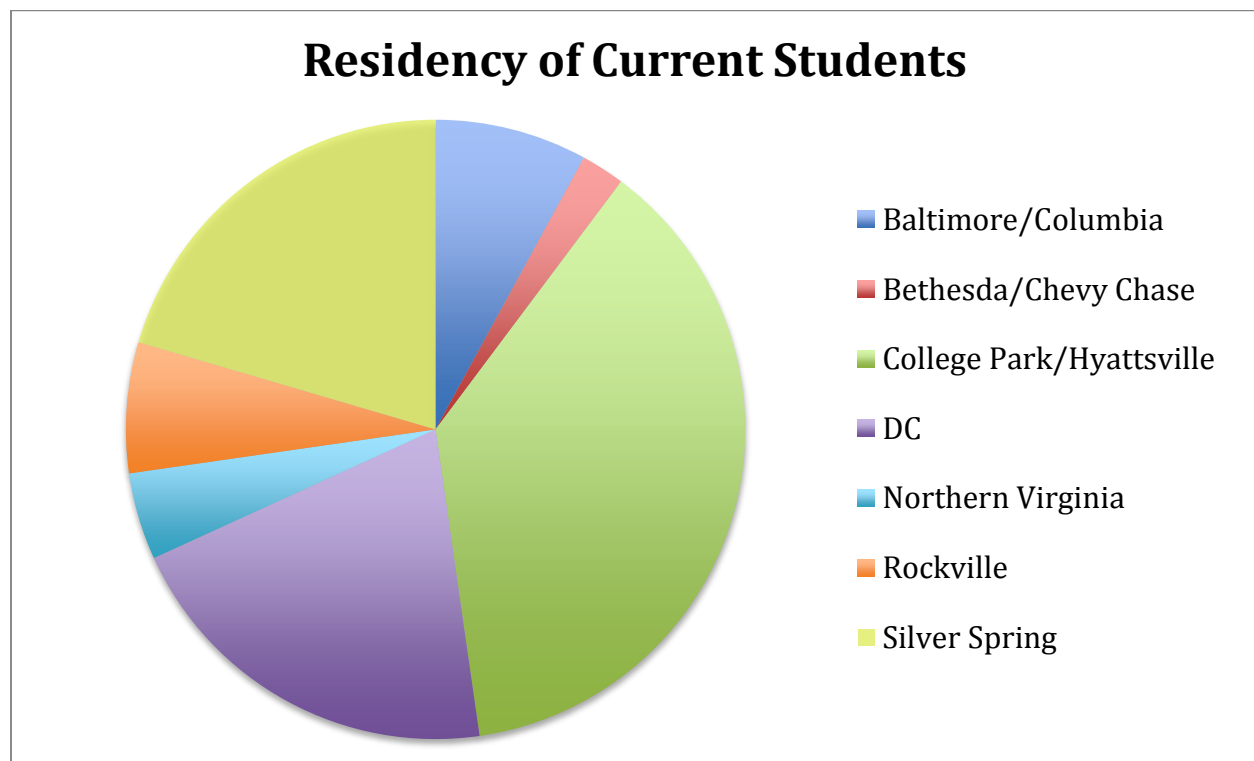
- [www.craigslist.org](http://www.craigslist.org) (most popular)
- [www.padmapper.com](http://www.padmapper.com) (easy way to visualize craigslist ads)
- [www.airbnb.com](http://www.airbnb.com) (temporary housing resource)
- [www.apartments.com](http://www.apartments.com)
- [www.apartmentfinder.com](http://www.apartmentfinder.com)
- [www.rent.com](http://www.rent.com)
- [www.zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com)
- [www.roomster.com](http://www.roomster.com)
- [www.roommates.com](http://www.roommates.com)

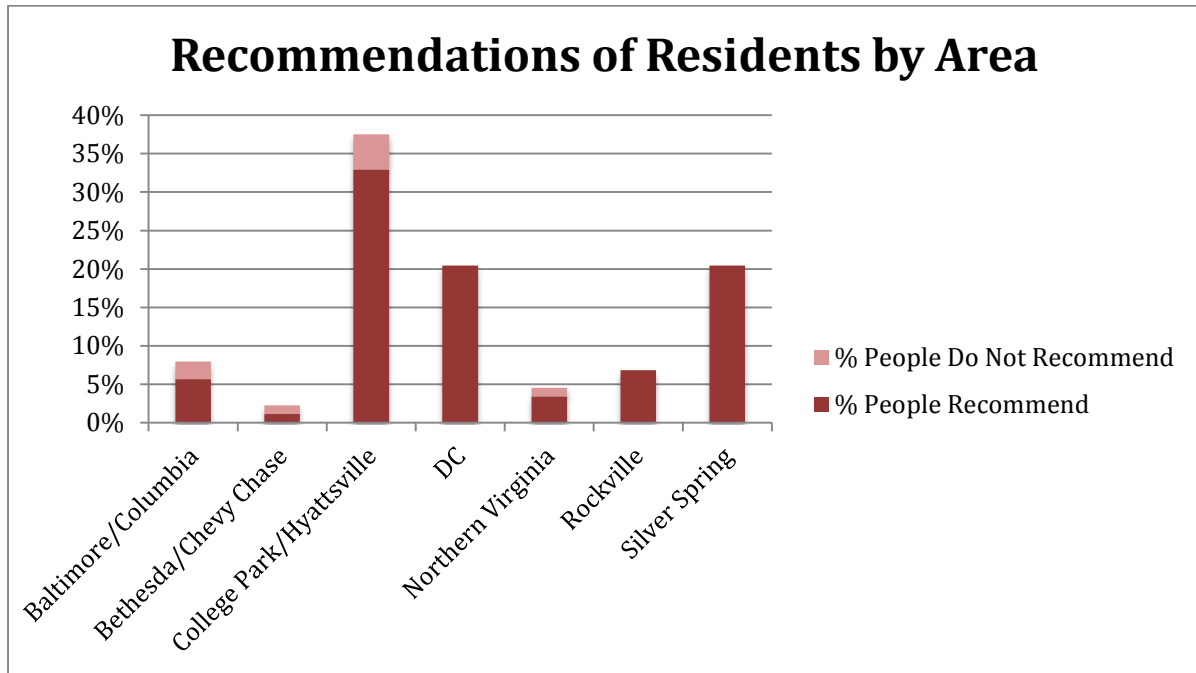
*\*\*Check sites often as apartments go quickly, especially at the beginning of the school year.\*\**

- 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:**

- Start your search early if possible. Most students found housing within 2-4 weeks of beginning their search but some students also took 1-3 months to find housing.
- Consider commute time relative to potential class schedule (8am classes) and try living within 25-30 minutes of College Park, as a long commute can be exhausting.
- The commute via Metro can be unpredictable on the way to school if switching metro lines. (Please see Metro map on last page).
- 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 selective to ensure priorities align with location and property - even if it means staying at temporary housing before finalizing a place.
- Consider where the neighborhood is located in relation to I-495/Beltway as cities inside the beltway are Washington, DC and the city's inner suburbs of Maryland and Virginia
- A full list of Maryland counties can be found here:  
<http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/01glance/html/county.html>

**Quick Statistics:**



	Baltimore <sup>1</sup>	Bethesda <sup>2</sup>	College Park <sup>3</sup>	DC <sup>4</sup>	Northern Virginia <sup>5</sup>	Rockville	Silver Spring
Response %	7.95%	2.27%	37.5%	20.45%	4.55%	6.82%	20.45%
Commute by Car	100%	100%	42%	61%	50%	100%	67%
Residents with Children	29%	50%	0%	6%	25%	33%	17%
Avg. Commute by Metro/Shuttle	N/A	N/A	10-20 minutes	25-45 minutes	>45 minutes	N/A	25-35 minutes
Avg. Commute by Car	>45 minutes	25-35 minutes	5-15 minutes	25-35 minutes	35-45 minutes	35-45 minutes	25-35 minutes
Avg. Monthly Rent/Room (Shared)	\$750-\$1000	\$1250-\$1750	\$500-\$1000	\$1000-\$1750	\$1000-\$1500	\$750-\$1000	\$750-\$1500
% Relocated for School	29%	100%	94%	22%	75%	83%	39%
% Recommend the Area	71%	50%	88%	100%	75%	100%	100%
Closest Metro Line	N/A						

<sup>1</sup>Includes Baltimore, MD; Columbia, MD; Annapolis, MD; Arnold, MD

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

<sup>3</sup>Includes College Park, MD; Hyattsville, MD; Greenbelt, MD

<sup>4</sup>Includes Adams Morgan, Capitol Hill, Columbia Heights, Brookland, Deanwood, Mt Vernon Triangle/Chinatown, Navy Yard, U Street/Shaw

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

## Maryland

### **Baltimore/Columbia/Annapolis/Arnold**

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

**About the Area:** Baltimore, Columbia, Annapolis, and Arnold are cities in Maryland outside of the I-495/Beltway. Some students live in these areas, however only 29% of them relocated to attend school. Based on survey results, students chose to live in these areas primarily due to low cost, safety 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. Annapolis is home of the U.S. Naval Academy and also offers bars, restaurants, and many boutiques for shopping. The main drawback is the approximate 45+ minute drive to campus (all students use car as their mode of transportation) and lack of friends or classmates in the area.

**Who Lives Here:** 8% of respondents said that they live in Baltimore, Columbia, Annapolis or Arnold. Of those respondents, 29% relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, 29% are single, 43% are in a relationship but not married, 29% are married, and 29% have kids.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on the survey, the monthly rent of a *two* bedroom apartment ranges from \$1,750-\$1,999. Students reported paying approximately \$750-\$999 for a one bedroom in a shared apartment/house.

**Website:** <http://baltimore.org/>, <http://www.downtowncolumbiamd.com/>, <http://www.annapolis.gov/>

## 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 safety, the reputation of the location, and proximity to public transportation and social life. These areas are close to the beltway and driving into DC is easy. There are several restaurants and good shopping options. Some drawbacks include the distance to campus and lack of classmates or friends in the area. The average commute to school by car is about 25-35 minutes as all students commute via car from this neighborhood.

**Who Lives Here:** 2% of respondents said that they live in Bethesda or Chevy Chase. Of those respondents, 100% relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, 100% are married, and 50% have kids.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on the survey, the monthly rent of a *one* bedroom apartment ranges from \$2,000-\$2,249.

### Housing Recommendations:

- The Metropolitan
- Aldon Apartments (Management Company)
- 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/Greenbelt

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

**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, public transportation and cost. On average, commute time ranges from 5 to 15 minutes via walking/biking, UMD shuttle or driving. Students suggest living very close to campus if you do not plan on having a car. More information about the UMD shuttle is on the following website: <http://www.transportation.umd.edu/schedules.html>. Some dislikes include lack of social scene (students tend to go out in DC) and safety.

**Who Lives Here:** 38% of respondents said that they live in College Park, Hyattsville or Greenbelt. Of those respondents, 94% relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, 79% are single, 15% are in a relationship but not married, 6% are married, and none have kids.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on the survey, the monthly rent of a *one* bedroom apartment ranges from \$1,250-\$1,499. Shared housing usually ranges from \$500-\$1,000 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)
- Westchester Towers
- Post Park
- Franklin Park at Greenbelt Station
- Graduate Gardens (contact early to book, approved on waitlist as a graduate student, applications start in January)
- Campus Gardens
- University Gardens
- 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/ North Potomac

### Google Map: [Rockville](#); [North Potomac](#)

**About the Area:** Rockville, Maryland is located in Montgomery County. Students chose to live in Rockville primarily due to the neighborhood reputation, safety, and cost. The main drawbacks for students are the distance from College Park, social scene and lack of students or friends in the area. Most students drive to school and the average commute time is 35-45 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:** 7% of respondents said that they live in Rockville. Of those respondents, 83% relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, 17% are single, 17% are in a relationship but not married, 67% are married, and 33% have kids.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on the survey, the monthly rent of a *two* bedroom apartment ranges from \$1,750-\$2,250 while shared housing usually ranges from \$750-\$1,000 per room.

### Housing Recommendation:

- Congressional Towers
- Georgetown village condominium

### 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 safety, cost, reputation of the neighborhood, proximity to College Park and 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. Most students drive to school from Silver Spring (25-35 minutes) but others take the UMD shuttle (stops near the Silver Spring metro station), (25-35 minutes) which runs on the weekdays free of charge for students. Drawbacks to Silver Spring include distance to DC social life, lack of friends and classmates in the area, and cost.

**Who Lives Here:** 20% of respondents said that they live in Silver Spring. Of those respondents, 39% relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, 33% are single, 17% are in a relationship but not married, 50% are married, and 17% have kids.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on the survey, the monthly rent of a *one* bedroom apartment ranges from \$1,500 - \$1,749 while shared housing usually ranges from \$750-\$1,500 per room.

### Apartment Building Recommendations:

- The Veridian
- LongMead Crossing
- Alexander House
- Soleaire
- Monterrey Apartments
- Kenwood House
- Eleven55
- Northwest Park
- The Enclave
- 1155 Ripley
- Citron
- Silver Spring Towers
- Lenox Park
- The Blairs
- Tiers of Silver Spring

### Closest Metro Station:



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

## **Washington, District of Columbia (DC)**

### **Capitol Hill**

#### **Google Map: Capitol Hill**

**About the Area:** Capitol Hill intersects with both Northeast and Southeast DC. Students chose to live in Capitol Hill primarily due to the safety and reputation of the neighborhood and proximity to social life. Dislikes of the area include distance to campus. Commute to school by public transportation takes more than 45 minutes while it takes about 25-35 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:** 3% of respondents said that they live in Capitol Hill. Of those respondents, none relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, 33% are single, 33% are in a relationship but not married, 33% are married, and 33% have kids.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on the survey, the monthly rent of a *one* bedroom apartment ranges from \$1,250-\$1,500 while shared housing usually ranges from \$500-\$1,000 per room.

#### **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 reputation, social scene and proximity to school and public transportation. On average, the commute is about 25-35 minutes by car in which 57% of students choose this as their main mode of transportation. The remaining students use public transportation to get to school, which takes from 35-45 minutes. If you plan on having a car, be sure to verify the parking permits needed because DC parking restrictions are quite strict.

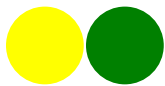
**Who Lives Here:** 8% of respondents said that they live in Columbia Heights or Mount Pleasant. Of those respondents, 14% relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, 43% are single, 29% are in a relationship, 29% are married and none have kids.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on the survey, the monthly rent of a *one* bedroom apartment ranges from \$1,250-\$1,499 and a *two* bedroom apartment ranges from \$2,000-\$2,249.

### Housing Recommendations:

- Allegro
- The Chalfonte

### Closest Metro Stations:



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

## U Street Corridor/Shaw Neighborhood

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

**About the Area:** The U Street/Shaw area is located in Northwest DC. Students chose to live in this area primarily due to the social atmosphere, reputation of neighborhood, and access to public transportation. Students describe the 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 distance to campus and cost. The average commute to school by public transportation is about 35-45+ minutes (there is a metro stop on both the Green and Yellow lines) and the average commute to school by car is about 15-25 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:** 3% of respondents said that they live in U Street. 33% respondents relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, 67% are in a relationship and none have kids.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on the survey, the monthly rent of a *one* bedroom apartment ranges from \$2,250-\$2,499.

### Housing Recommendations:

- The Harper
- Row houses and basement apartments

### Closest Metro Stations:



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

## **Northern Virginia**

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

**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 reputation, safety, proximity to social life and cost. The major drawback is the commute to campus and lack of classmates or friends in the area. Most students who live in this area travel by car in which the average commute is about 35-45 minutes.

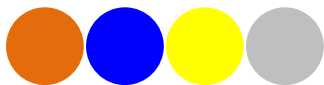
**Who Lives Here:** 5% of respondents said that they live in Northern Virginia. Of those respondents, 75% relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, 0% are single, 50% are in a relationship but not married, 50% are married, and 25% have kids.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on the survey, the monthly rent of a *three* bedroom apartment ranges from \$2,750-\$2,999.

### **Housing Recommendations:**

- Crystal House (Arlington)
- Island Creek (Alexandria)
- The Williamsburg (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.

### **Adams Morgan, DC**

#### **Google Map: Adams Morgan**

**About the Area:** Adams Morgan is located in Northwest DC. Former 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, cost of rent, distance to the university, and distance from the metro. Commute to school by public transportation is 50-60 minutes while it takes about 25-35 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.

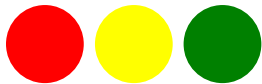
**Who Lives Here:** 1% of students reported living in Adams Morgan this past year.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on this survey, the monthly rent of a *one* bedroom apartment can range from \$1,750-\$2,000.

#### **Housing Recommendations:**

- Dorchester House

#### **Closest Metro Stations:**



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

## Brookland, DC

Google Map: [Brookland](#)

**About the Area:** Brookland is located in Northeast DC and is about a 15-25 minute drive from College Park. The student who lives here chose the area due to cost and proximity to social life and College Park. Though it is close to campus, driving is the best option as public transportation would entail bus or Metro transfers and would take 30-45+ minutes. Drawbacks to this area are cost and lack of students or friends in the area.

**Who Lives Here:** 1% of students reported living in Brookland this past year.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on this survey, the monthly rent of a *one* bedroom apartment can range from \$1,500-\$1,750.

**Housing Recommendations:**

- Monroe street market

**Closest Metro Stations:**



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



## Deanwood, DC

### Google Map: [Deanwood](#)

**About the Area:** Deanwood is located in Northeast DC and is about a 15-25 minute drive from College Park. The student who lives here chose the area due to cost and proximity to public transportation. Though it is close to campus, driving is the best option as public transportation would entail bus or Metro transfers and would take 60+ minutes. The main drawbacks to this neighborhood can be lack of students or friends in the area.

**Who Lives Here:** 1% of students reported living in Deanwood this past year.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on this survey, the monthly rent of a *two* bedroom apartment can range from \$1,250-\$1,500.

### Closest Metro Stations:



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

## Mt Vernon Triangle/Chinatown, DC

### Google Map: [Mt Vernon/Chinatown](#)

**About the Area:** Mt Vernon Triangle and Chinatown are located in Northwest DC. These neighborhoods are in downtown DC and are well connected to public transportation. Mt Vernon Triangle is very close to the Gallery Place Chinatown Metro stop on the green line providing for a 35-45 commute to College Park. The student who lives here chose the area due to reputation of neighborhood, proximity to social life and public transportation.

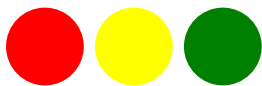
**Who Lives Here:** 1% of students reported living in Mt Vernon Triangle/Chinatown this past year.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on this survey, the monthly rent of a *one* bedroom apartment can range from \$1,750-\$2,000.

### Housing Recommendations:

- 425 Massachusetts Ave

### Closest Metro Stations:



**Website:** <http://www.mountvernontriangle.org/> or <http://dc.gov>

## Navy Yard, DC

Google Map: [Navy Yard](#)

**About the Area:** Navy Yard is located in Southeast DC. Though this neighborhood is located on the Metro green line, it could take 45+ minutes to travel via public transportation while driving takes 25-30 minutes. The student who lives here chose the area due to safety, proximity to social life and public transportation. The largest drawback of this area is cost.

**Who Lives Here:** 1% of students reported living in Navy Yard this past year.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on this survey, the monthly rent of a *one* bedroom apartment can range from \$2,250-\$2,500.

**Housing Recommendations:**

- Camden South Capitol

**Closest Metro Stations:**



**Website:** <http://www.capitolriverfront.org> or <http://dc.gov>

## Northwest, DC

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

**About the Area:** The Northwest area of DC includes many neighborhoods. Adams Morgan and U Street listed above, for example, are in this area of DC. Other neighborhoods in which current students do not live in but are located in Northwest DC include Dupont Circle, Cleveland Park, Georgetown, Van Ness UDC, and Woodley Park. 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.

**Who Lives Here:** 0% of respondents reported living in North West DC neighborhoods listed above this past year.

**Range and Average Rent:** Based on previous survey results, the monthly rent of a *one* bedroom apartment/studio ranges from \$1,700-\$2,700 and a *two* bedroom apartment ranges from \$3,000-\$3,400.

**Closest Metro Station:**



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

## 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 \$1,000-\$1,250.

### Closest Metro Station:



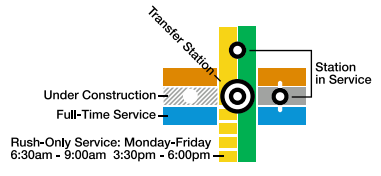
**Website:** <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov>

# M metro System 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
- VRE
  - MARC



**Metro**  
 Operating Times  
 Mon-Thu 5am-midnight  
 Fri 5am-3am  
 Sat 7am-3am  
 Sun 7am-midnight  
 Times are approximate

Metro is accessible.

Map is not to scale

- No Smoking
- No Eating or Drinking
- No Animals (except service animals)
- No Audio (without earphones)
- No Littering or Spitting
- No Dangerous or Flammable Items

Metro Map from <http://www.wmata.com>