

Class of 2019 MBA Housing Recommendations

The following is a list of housing search tips, neighborhood details, and feedback made by current 2017 & 2018 MBA students from the Robert H. Smith School of Business.

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 2019 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:

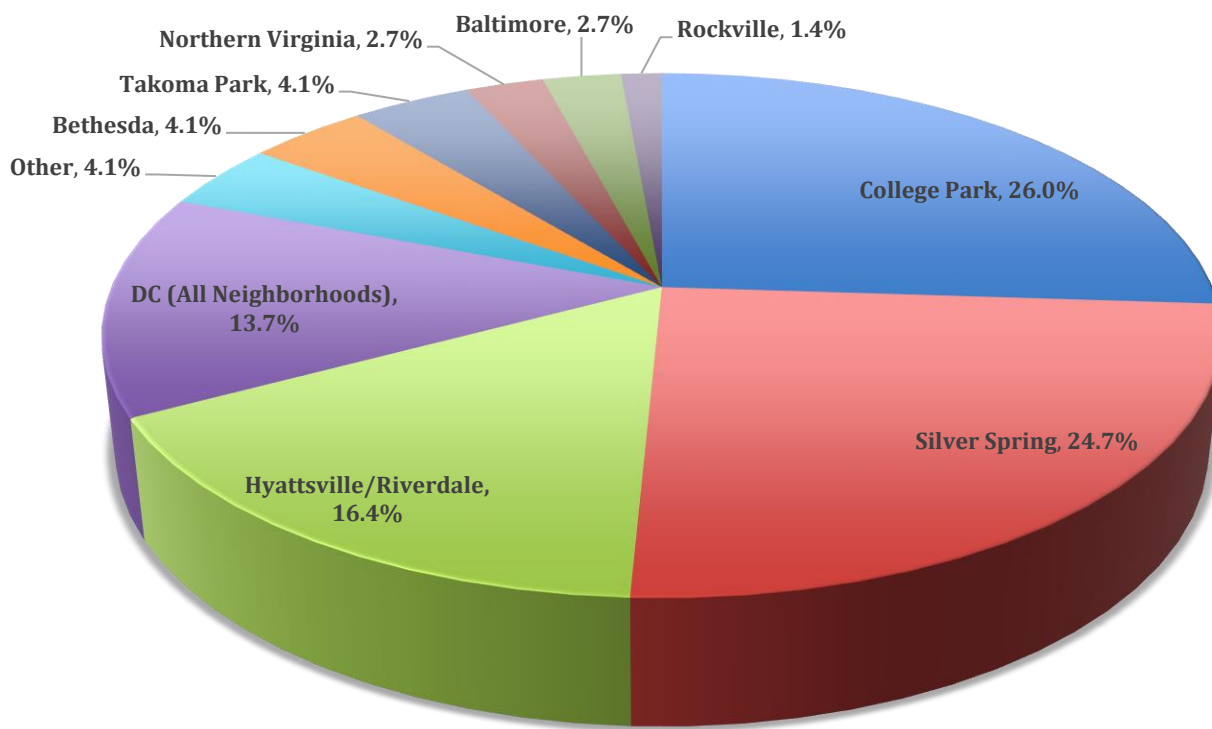
- www.craigslist.org (most popular)
- www.padmapper.com (easy way to visualize craigslist ads)
- www.airbnb.com (temporary housing resource)
- www.apartments.com
- www.apartmentfinder.com
- www.rent.com
- www.zillow.com
- www.roomster.com
- www.roommates.com

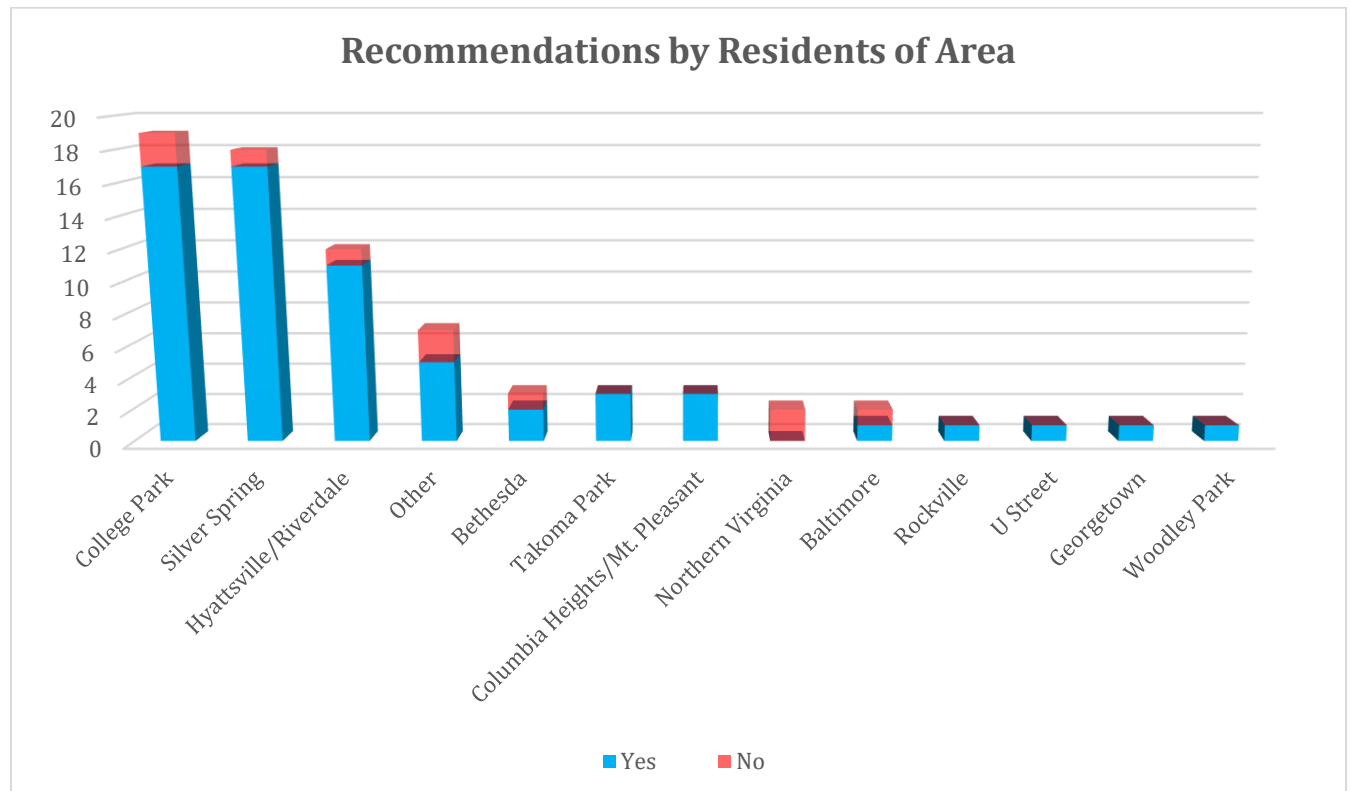
Check sites often as apartments go quickly, especially at the beginning of the school year.

- UMD's off campus housing website: www.och.umd.edu/OCH/Default.aspx
 - 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). Be sure to plan accordingly.
- If you can, visit the different neighborhoods and apartments to get an idea of the surroundings and commute times before deciding.
- 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 this is one of the main highways in and around the DC area
- A full list of Maryland counties can be found here:
<http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/01glance/html/county.html>

Quick Statistics:**Residency of Current Students**



	Baltimore ¹	Bethesda ²	College Park ³	DC ⁴	Northern Virginia ⁵	Rockville	Silver Spring	Takoma Park
Response %	5.48%	4.11%	43.84%	13.70%	2.74%	1.37%	24.66%	4.11%
Commute by Car	100%	100%	42%	61%	50%	100%	67%	100%
Residents with Children	0%	33%	3%	0%	0%	100%	5%	0%
Avg. Commute by Metro/Shuttle	N/A	>45 minutes	10-20 minutes	25-45 minutes	>45 minutes	>45 minutes	25-35 minutes	25-35 minutes
Avg. Commute by Car	>45 minutes	25-35 minutes	5-15 minutes	25-35 minutes	35-45 minutes	35-45 minutes	15-25 minutes	15-25 minutes
Avg. Rent or Mortgage	\$1750-\$1999	\$2000-\$2249	\$1250-\$1499	\$1750-\$1999	\$2250-\$2499	\$1750-\$1999	\$1500-\$1749	\$1000-\$1249
% Relocated for School	100%	66%	94%	50%	50%	100%	89%	33%
% Recommend the Area	50%	66%	91%	90%	0%	100%	94%	100%
Closest Metro Line	N/A		 	 	 			

¹Includes Baltimore, MD; Columbia, MD; Annapolis, MD; Arnold, MD
²Includes Bethesda, MD; Chevy Chase, MD
³Includes College Park, MD; Hyattsville, MD; Greenbelt, MD; Riverdale, MD

⁴Includes Adams Morgan, Brookland, Bloomingdale/Eckington, Capitol Hill, Cleveland Park, Columbia Heights, Deanwood, Mt Vernon Triangle/Chinatown, Navy Yard, Penn Quarter, U Street/Shaw
⁵Includes 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, a major of respondents stated that they relocated to attend school. Based on survey results, students chose to live in these areas primarily due to low cost, reputation of the location, and social life. Baltimore is an urban area with many bars and restaurants, including a popular region named Inner Harbor. Students say they enjoy the area but it can be a long drive from classmates in DC and College Park. 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, which also offers a variety of bars, restaurants, and many boutiques for shopping. The main drawback is the approximate 45+ minute drive to campus (all students use cars as their mode of transportation) and distance from other classmates living closer to DC and campus.

Who Lives Here: 5% of respondents said that they live in Baltimore, Columbia, Annapolis, or Arnold. Of those respondents, 100% relocated to the area before starting school, however other students were known to have lived in the area before attending school as well. In addition, 50% are single, 25% are in a relationship but not married, 25% are married, and 0% have children.

Range and Average Rent: Based on the survey, the monthly rent of a three bedroom apartment ranges from \$1,750-\$1,999. Students reported paying approximately \$1750-\$1999 for a two 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, as well as the proximity to public transportation, College Park, and social life. These areas are close to the beltway and allow for easy access to DC and the surrounding area. There are also several restaurants and shopping options. Some drawbacks include the distance to social life, lack of classmates or friends in the area, and price. The average commute to school by car is about 25-35 minutes as all students commute via car from this neighborhood. Traffic can vary on the beltway from Bethesda/Chevy Chase and should be considered when preparing to commute.

Who Lives Here: 4% of respondents said that they live in Bethesda or Chevy Chase. Of those respondents, 66% relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, 66% are married, and 33% have children.

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
- Bainsbridge Bethesda
- The Promenade
- Upstairs at Bethesda Row
- 8200 Wisconsin

Closest Metro Station:



Website: <http://www.bethesda.org/> and <http://www.townofchevyCHASE.org>,

College Park/Hyattsville/Greenbelt

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

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 costs, proximity to the school, and public transportation. 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 to have a car. More information about the UMD shuttle is on the following website: <http://www.transportation.umd.edu/schedules.html>. Some dislikes include distance to social life and safety.

Who Lives Here: 44% of respondents said that they live in College Park, Hyattsville, Greenbelt, or Riverdale. Of those respondents, 94% relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, 78% are single, 16% are in a relationship, 6% are married, and 3% have children.

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-\$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)
- Parkside
- Westchester Towers
- Post Park
- Graduate Gardens (contact early to book, approved on waitlist as a graduate student, applications start in January)
- Campus Gardens
- University View
- Terrapin Row
- Domain (must contact 60 days before preferred move-in date, only do 12-14 month leases)
- 3350 at Alterra

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 recommendations, safety, and cost. The main drawbacks for students is the distance from College Park and the lack of students or friends in the area. Most students drive to school and the average commute time is 35-45 minutes. Traffic can vary on the beltway from Rockville and should be considered when preparing to commute.

Who Lives Here: 1% of respondents said that they live in Rockville. Of those respondents, 100% relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, most respondents reported they were married and had children.

Range and Average Rent: Based on the survey, the monthly rent of a *two* bedroom apartment ranges from \$1,750-\$2,249 while shared housing usually ranges from \$750-\$999 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, social life, 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 in the downtown area. Most students drive to school from Silver Spring with an average commute time of 15-25 minutes. Another popular option is the UMD shuttle (stops at the Silver Spring bus/metro station), which runs on the weekdays free of charge for students and takes 25-35 minutes to commute to campus. Drawbacks to Silver Spring include distance to social life, distance to campus, and cost.

Who Lives Here: 25% of respondents said that they live in Silver Spring. Of those respondents, 89% relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, 11% are single, 50% are in a relationship but not married, 39% are married, and 5% have children.

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-\$1,249 per room.

Apartment Building Recommendations:

- The Veridian
- Alexander House
- Solaire
- Lofts at 8045 Newell
- 1200 East West
- Montgomery Chase
- The Fenwick
- Eleven55
- The Enclave
- 1155 Ripley
- Citron
- Falkland Chase
- Lenox Park
- The Blairs

Closest Metro Station:



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

Takoma Park, MD

Google Map: [Takoma Park](#)

About the Area: Takoma Park, Maryland is situated between Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and Washington, DC. Students chose 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 but does not have much of a night life. Most students drive to school from Takoma Park, which takes about 5-15 minutes. The UMD shuttle does stop there but students say the shuttle route takes longer to get to campus. (website: <http://www.transportation.umd.edu/schedules.html>)

Who Lives Here: 4% of respondents said that they live in the area. Of those respondents, 33% relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, 100% were in relationships and 0% had children.

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

Apartment Building Recommendations:

- Piney Towers
- Paragon

Closest Metro Station:



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

Washington, District of Columbia (DC)

Brookland, DC

Google Map: [Brookland](#)

About the Area: Brookland is located in Northeast DC and had an average commute time of 15-25 minutes from College Park. The respondents who live here chose the area due to cost, proximity to College Park, and public transportation. Though it is close to campus, driving is the best option as public transportation entails bus or Metro transfers and would take 35-45+ minutes. Drawbacks to this area are cost and lack of students or friends in the area.

Who Lives Here: 1% of respondents said that they live in the Brookland area. Of those that responded, 100% stated that they relocated to the area before starting school and were in a relationship.

Range and Average Rent: Based on this survey, the monthly rent of a *one* bedroom apartment can range from \$1,750-\$1,999.

Housing Recommendations:

- Monroe Street Market

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 neighborhoods in the city, this is one of the more popular for students due to its reputation, social scene, proximity to school, and public transportation. The neighborhood is home to a large variety of restaurants and night life that students enjoy as well. On average, the commute is about 25-35 minutes by car in which 66% 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: 4% of respondents said that they live in Columbia Heights or Mount Pleasant. Of those respondents, 66% relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, 33% are single, 0% are in a relationship, 66% are married, and none have children.

Range and Average Rent: Based on the survey, the monthly rent of a *one* bedroom apartment ranges from \$1,500-\$1,999 and a *two* bedroom apartment ranges from \$2,000-\$2,499.

Housing Recommendations:

- Allegro
- Griffin Apartments
- The Chalfonte

Closest Metro Stations:



Website: <http://dc.gov>

Cleveland Park, DC

Google Map: [Cleveland Park](#)

About the Area: This neighborhood is located in Northwest DC. Located in a more isolated region of the city, students have chosen to live in this area primarily due to the reputation of the location, safety of the area, and access to public transportation. This area of the city also is home to the Smithsonian Zoo, a popular attraction in Washington. Some dislikes include lack of friends or classmates in the area, distance to campus, and cost of living.

Who Lives Here: 1% of respondents stated that they live in Cleveland Park. Of those respondents, 100% had already lived in the area prior to started school at College Park. Additionally, 100% of those that responded were in a relationship.

Range and Average Rent: Based on previous survey results, the monthly rent of a *one* bedroom apartment/studio ranges from \$1,500-\$1,749 and a *two* bedroom apartment ranges from \$1,750-\$1,999.

Closest Metro Station:



Website: <http://dc.gov>

U Street Corridor/Shaw Neighborhood

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

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 life, 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 25-35 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: 4% of survey respondents said that they live in U Street neighborhood. In previous years, 33% respondents relocated to the area before starting school. Additionally, 33% of respondents were single, 66% respondents stated they were in relationship or married, and none had children.

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 Harper
- Somerset House
- Row houses and basement apartments

Closest Metro Stations:



Website: <http://dc.gov>

Northern Virginia

Google Map: [Arlington](#); [Alexandria](#); [Crystal City](#); [Reston](#)

About the Area: Northern Virginia (mainly includes Crystal City, Reston, Arlington, and Alexandria) is located across the Potomac River to the south and 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.

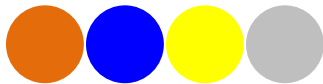
Who Lives Here: 3% of respondents said that they live in Northern Virginia. Of those respondents, 50% relocated to the area before starting school. In addition, 0% are single, 50% are in a relationship, 50% are married, and 0% had children.

Range and Average Rent: Based on the survey, the monthly rent of a *two* bedroom apartment ranges from \$2250-\$2499 and 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 an active nightlife and social 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.

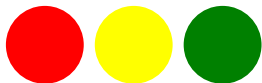
Who Lives Here: 1% of students reported living in Adams Morgan within the past year.

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>

Capitol Hill, DC

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, reputation of the neighborhood, and proximity to social life. Dislikes of the area include distance to campus. Home to popular sights such as the U.S. Capital Building, Pennsylvania Ave., and Eastern Market, there is a large variety of shops and restaurants for students to enjoy. Commute to school by public transportation takes 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 in the past year. Of those previous respondents, none relocated to the area before starting school. Additionally, previous respondents were an equal mix of single, in a relationship, and married. Some respondents had children as well.

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-\$999 per room.

Housing Recommendations:

- Kennedy Row
- Lovejoy Lofts

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. Home to the Verizon Center, this neighborhood is home to many sporting events, concerts, restaurants, and night life. Mt. Vernon Triangle is within walking distance of the Gallery Place Chinatown Metro stop on the green, yellow, and red lines, providing a 35-45 minute commute to College Park. The students who lived 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 area within the 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. Although this neighborhood is located on the Metro green line, it could take 45+ minutes to travel via public transportation while driving takes 35-45 minutes. The respondents who lived here chose the area due to safety, proximity to social life, and public transportation. This neighborhood is home to the Washington National baseball team and has a large variety of restaurants and bars. The largest drawback of this area is cost and distance from College Park.

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

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

Housing Recommendations:

- Camden South Capitol

Closest Metro Stations:



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



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

Legend

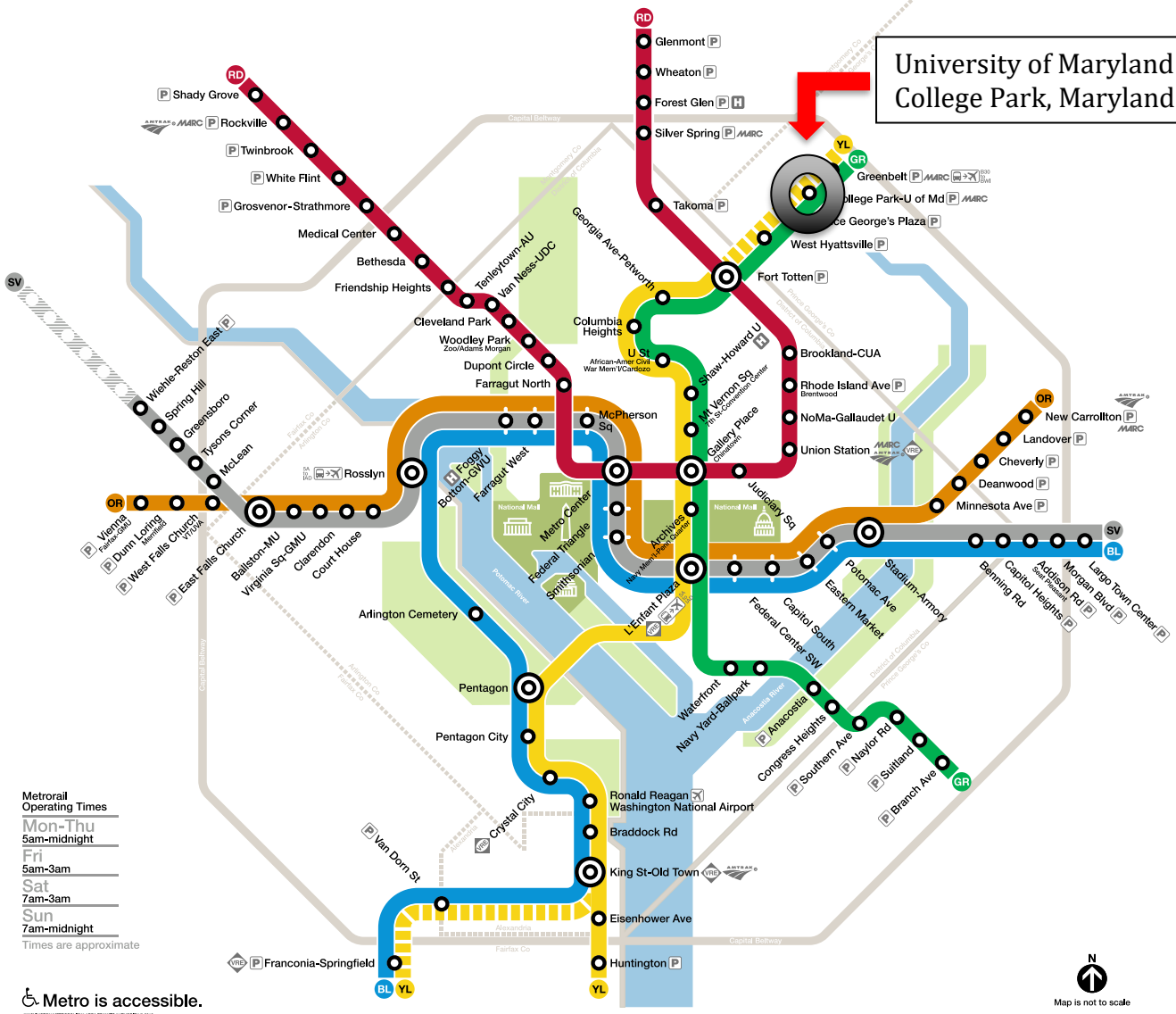
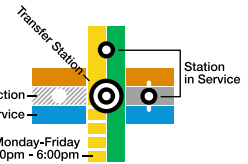
- RD Red Line • Glenmont / Shady Grove
- OR Orange Line • New Carrollton / Vienna
- BL Blue Line • Franconia-Springfield / Largo Town Center
- GR Green Line • Branch Ave / Greenbelt
- YL Yellow Line • Huntington / Fort Totten
- SV Silver Line • Wiehle-Reston East / Largo Town Center

Station Features

- Bus to Airport
- Parking
- Hospital
- Airport

Connecting Rail Systems

Rush-Only Service: Monday-Friday
 6:30am - 9:00am 3:30pm - 6:00pm



University of Maryland
 College Park, Maryland

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

Metro is accessible.
WASHINGTON METRO/RTD/VEA TRAVEL AGENCY © 2011

N
 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>