Moving

Determining where you'll live after college is based on a variety of factors. Most likely this decision will be heavily focused on where your job is located. Consider the following when determining where you'll work and live:

- How does the cost of living compare with your projected wages?
- What type of climate do you want to live in?
- How long will your commute be?
- Do you want to be a renter or home-owner?
- Will you be living with roommates or moving back home?
- Does the community support your lifestyle?
- In what type of neighborhood do you want to live?

Once you've identified your target area, use online tools such as Apartment Finder, Zillow, Redfin, or Craigslist to research your housing options. In some instances, you may need to work with a realtor/property manager, while others may require coordinated directly with the owner. If working with a realtor to find a rental you may need to budget for a realtor's fee on top of paying for first and last month's rent and a security deposit.

Prior to moving in:

Set yourself up for success by planning for your move as soon as you know your move in date. You can tackle the move on your own or hire movers to help with everything from heavy lifting to packing. Before you arrive, find out if you can set up your utilities such as water, electricity, and gas ahead of time.

Renters ask your landlord or property management company who is responsible for utilities and if there is a preferred internet and TV provider for your rental.

Pro-tips:

- Pack in a way that is logical to you (by room, by item type, etc.) and label all your boxes
- Have a clearly labeled "essentials" box with the items you'll need to be up and running before unpacking
- Budget for your move, and plan for the unexpected
- Remember to share your new address with your family and friends and scope out the local eateries and grocery stores so you can fuel up after a strenuous day of moving.