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### Weighing Options Living-on Campus vs. Living-off Campus

Transition to college life requires every student to make several decisions on the subject to major in, the courses to register, and extracurricular activities to participate in, and where to live. One of the most crucial decision is where to live; either on-campus in dorms or off-campus in apartments. The two options have their set of pros and cons. It is vital to weigh the available options before making a final decision. Choosing between the two options can be a difficult task, but can be much simpler depending on the college experience a student prefers and their budget. To help make a better decision on the living on-campus or living-off campus, this paper discusses the similarities and differences in cost, level of privacy and convenience for living on campus or living off campus.

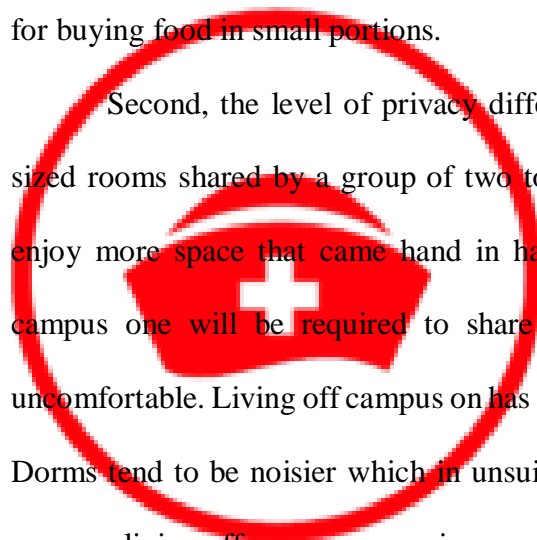
First, on-campus accommodation and off-campus accommodation differ in cost related to the price of board and room. Living on campus dorms is cheaper compared to leasing an apartment considering the price for the room, board, dining hall, and other utilities. Whereas living on

campus, one gets a lower price for the room and board, living in an apartment one has to cater for the rent and other additional expenses such as transportation costs depending on the location of the apartment. Besides, most off-campus apartments lack utilities such as food, garbage, and internet services. The cost of living off campus varies depending on the choice to rent a whole apartment, a single room or share the apartment. Whereas one may negotiate the rent price for an apartment, rent on campus is set at a fixed rate. Besides, on-campus dorms lack a kitchen; thus students are required to purchase costly meal plans or food. Living off campus, one can purchase food in bulk and prepare in the apartment kitchens, which is cheaper than the on-campus option for buying food in small portions.

Second, the level of privacy differs. In most cases, on-campus housing offers modestly sized rooms shared by a group of two to four students. Meanwhile, students living off campus enjoy more space that came hand in hand with freedom and privacy. Additionally, living on campus one will be required to share public bathrooms with 10 or more people which is uncomfortable. Living off campus one has space to spread out and enjoy the calmness in apartments. Dorms tend to be noisier which is unsuitable for students who need to study in their dorms. In essence, living off campus one enjoys more privacy, more space, and calmness compared to living on campus.

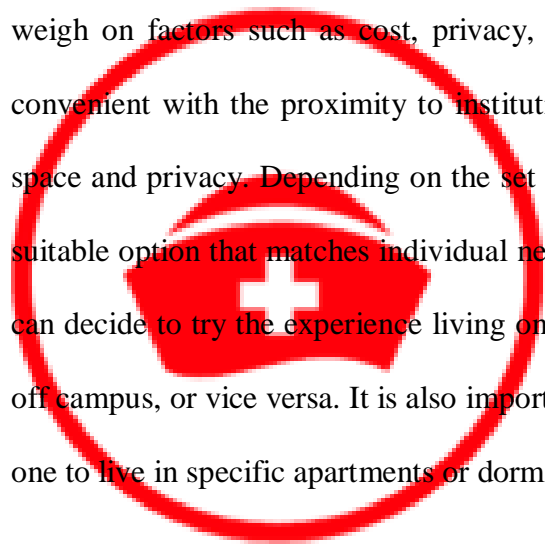
Lastly, the convenience levels vary between off-campus accommodation and on-campus accommodation. Although living on campus, one has limited space and privacy; it is incredibly convenient. The school amenities such as libraries, laboratories, offices, dispensaries, and classes are in proximity to the dorms. Consider a situation whereby a student forgets something in the dorm or wakes up late; apparently, it is convenient to get back to the room and get to class on time. Students living off campus incur transportation costs and other charges such as parking fees-for

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those that own cars. Besides, students living in apartments commute to attend classes or events within the school compound. Students who live far away from the school have to plan for the commuting time to arrive in class on time, which may be challenging, particularly during bad weather. Additionally, students living on campus are relieved of the stress for activating for utilities such as internet and power services that are provided by the institution. Living off campus on has more space to clean and ultimate responsibility for arranging for their utilities.

Conclusively, the two accommodation options while attending college have their advantages and disadvantages. Choosing between the living on campus or off campus, one should weigh on factors such as cost, privacy, and convenience. Whereas living on campus is more convenient with the proximity to institutional amenities, students living off campus have more space and privacy. Depending on the set of pro and cons of the two options, one can choose the suitable option that matches individual needs and preferences, as well as budget. Essentially, one can decide to try the experience living on campus while in the first year of college and later live off campus, or vice versa. It is also important to consider the campus regulations that may restrict one to live in specific apartments or dorms depending on the year of study and other factors.



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