BEFORE YOU BEGIN A SEARCH

What kind of rental unit do you want to live in?
☐ Studio, 1, 2, 3, or 4 bedroom apartment
☐ Suite or apartment in private home
☐ Room in a shared house
☐ Room in private home
☐ Single family home
☐ Fraternity house (as a member or non-member boarder)

What are your transportation needs?
☐ Within walking distance
☐ Within biking distance
☐ On a Shuttle-UM route
☐ On a MetroBus/Rail route
☐ Using carpool or vanpool
☐ Adequate parking available
☐ Proximity to a shopping center or a job site

What features are essential?
☐ Dishwasher
☐ Washer and dryer in the unit
☐ Air conditioning (room units or central air)
☐ Cable and internet capabilities
☐ Off-street parking
☐ Furniture included
☐ Handicapped accessibility
☐ Private room and/or bath
☐ Smoking (or not)
☐ Pets permitted

How much legal protection do you require?
☐ A lease offers a certain amount of legal protection.
☐ Units that do not carry a lease offer maximum flexibility but limited legal protection.

DURING YOUR HOUSING SEARCH

☐ Begin your search using the widest criteria possible. Narrow your choices by adding more features.
☐ Inspect the actual unit you intend to lease, and consider writing necessary repairs into the lease.
☐ Have the Student Legal Aid Office (3125 South Campus Dining Hall) review lease or boarder’s agreement.
☐ Check the security of the unit.
☐ Check the fire safety of the unit (a smoke detector is required by law).
☐ Be sure that there are two means of egress (exit) from the unit.
☐ Arrange for telephone service and utilities to be turned on by the time you move in.

AFTER YOU MOVE IN

☐ Complete a thorough inventory of your apartment.
☐ Give a copy of your inspection form to the landlord.
☐ Purchase renter’s insurance.
☐ Consider purchasing additional fire safety equipment (fire extinguisher, and/or smoke detectors).
☐ Always get a written receipt from your landlord when you pay rent or deposits.