

Housing Guide

July 17, 2023

Overview

There are lots of good housing options available near CWRU, but it can be hard to decide where exactly to move. We've created this guide to help you find somewhere to live that fits your needs. A good place to start looking is the Case housing info website <https://offcampus.case.edu/>. Remember to beware of scams wherever you end up looking, including on the Case site.

Affordability

Luckily, Cleveland has a lower cost of living than a lot of major cities. There's a good chance you'll find something in your budget (especially with this guide). That being said, when you are comparing places, try and keep in mind that some will include certain utilities in the rental price and some won't. BTW, It's often recommended you not spend more than ~30% of your monthly income on rent.

Food deserts

We should really point out that some neighborhoods near CWRU are food deserts. For this reason, we've noted what grocery options are available in the different neighborhoods. For example, to the East and North of campus are systematically redlined neighborhoods in the city of East Cleveland. It's possible that this may improve in coming years, in particular along Euclid, but these places have been pushed down for decades and are struggling with numerous problems.

Safety

Campus is mostly integrated with the public, so it should be treated like an urban public space. If any student is uncomfortable traveling alone at night, escort and safe ride services are available from the university. Staying aware of your surroundings and avoiding walking in dark areas with no other people in them is a good idea. Those disenfranchised neighborhoods mentioned above under “Food deserts” are often considered dangerous by CWRU students. In general the campus community avoids these, likely due to implicit bias, but they are not inherently dangerous particularly if you are in areas with plenty of people around.

Cleveland Heights

This city is kind of a "streetcar suburb" (by design but the streetcars are now buses). It's not super dense but it does have a variety of housing options from apartments in large buildings to triplexes to single family houses all mixed together along with several nice entertainment/food districts (Coventry, Cedar-Fairmount, and Cedar-Lee are best). You'll likely be in or be able to walk to one of those if you live there. It is also close to campus (part of campus is actually technically in Cleveland Heights), but as the name suggests it is up a hill so that makes walking and biking home a bit more of a workout. It stretches on out of walking distance though, Coventry and Cedar-Fairmount are the closest to campus.

Coventry has a grocery store, Cedar-Fairmount has a space for one that is vacant and supposed to be filled, and Cedar-Lee has a grocery store nearby. Besides walking, Coventry is connected to campus by the RTA #9 and a CWRU commuter shuttle. Cedar-Fairmount is connected to campus by the RTA #11 and a CWRU commuter shuttle. Cedar-Lee is connected by the RTA #11.

Right by Campus

The absolute closest places to campus are Cleveland neighborhoods: Little Italy and University Circle. Both have some fancy new residential buildings, but Little Italy also has older cheaper apartments if you look on craigslist or in person for postings. Those older ones can be a bit rough. These also have better public transit options between the Red Line train (which goes through downtown all the way to the airport) and the Healthline.

There are good groceries if you take a bus or train, West Side Market, Aldi, Walmart, but in walking distance the only place is Plum Market and a few small Little Italy markets. These aren't the cheapest options for groceries.

Shaker Square/Larchmere

This area is a little further from campus like Cleveland Heights but still within walking or biking distance. This is also laid out like Cleveland heights and it's another nice area with food and entertainment, and there is light rail to downtown. There is a grocery store at Shaker Square. Again like Cleveland Heights there are a variety of housing options including apartments, triplexes, and single family houses

Downtown/Near West Side

There are plenty of nice neighborhoods to the west of campus, and a lot of options along the RTA red line or the Healthline which both run every 15 minutes. Ohio City near Westside Market, and Playhouse Square in downtown are great, have groceries, and are easily accessible by transit, car, and bike.