

A stylized teal illustration of a multi-story building with many windows, positioned on the left side of the page.

FINDING THE PERFECT APARTMENT

a frugal guide to apartment finding in the city.

1

FIND A ROOMMATE

Living with roommates will decrease your rent and help you save money.

2

SET THE BUDGET

Talk with your parents, roommates, and DePaul Financial Fitness to see what you can comfortably afford each month.

3

BEGIN THE SEARCH

There are many free apartment search services available to you online (see next page for websites).

4

SHOP SMART

Select apartments and arrange walkthroughs. Take photos during the viewing and ask as many questions as you have concerning the unit and the terms and/or conditions.

5

APPROACH THE LANDLORD

Approach the landlord or the leasing company and express interest in moving forward.

6

BE CRITICAL

Read the lease from beginning to end and make sure you understand everything!

7

YOUR CREDIT SCORE

Prepare for a credit check. If you don't have great credit, you may need a cosigner. Talk with Financial Fitness to learn more about how to check your credit score and how to build good credit.

8

SIGN & MOVE IN

Sign the lease and put down a security deposit, along with the first month's rent. Move in, decorate, and call it a day!

REMEMBER: IF IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT PROBABLY IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!