

Site of the Day



CONCERT CALENDAR

- **Mishap**, 10:30 p.m., Oct. 2, Pavlovs
- **The Blue Dogs w/ Jack Ingram**, TBA, Oct. 9, Elbow Room
- **Fiona Apple w/ Hoover-phonics**, TBA, Oct. 10, Grady Cole Center (Charlotte, NC)
- **Elton John**, 8 p.m., Oct. 15, Carolina Coliseum
- **Blues Traveler w/ Jonny Lang**, 7:30 p.m., Nov. 10, Township Auditorium (tickets on sale Friday Oct. 3)

ETC. BRIEFS

Disk Makers accepting band demos for prizes, CD

Disc Makers is now accepting demos for the first *Southern Independent Music World Series*. Indie bands playing original music will compete for prizes worth more than \$35,000. Six finalists will be chosen to showcase for industry professionals Thursday, Dec. 11 at The Cotton Club in Atlanta.

The winning act will win prizes ranging from the recording, mastering, manufacturing and promotion of a major label quality CD. This competition is open to all original, independent acts based in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Alabama.

The processing fee is \$15 and must be sent with a demo tape or CD by Oct. 24 to Disc Makers IMWS, 7905 N Rt. 130, Pennsauken, NJ 08110. Visit [www.discmakers.com](http://www.discmakers.com) for more information.

# Students compare dorm, apartment life

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Staff Writer

There are three very important decisions every college student must make in their college career: what to major in, what courses to take and whether to live on or off campus.

The first decision is easy. A student can start with a major of undecided, move on to the ever-popular English major and then change it several times over the next four years.

In fact, the average college student changes their major at least five times in four years, so if they don't like their first major, a student can just pick another one!

Choosing classes isn't a hard decision to make, either. There are advisors all over campus to help students plan their schedules.

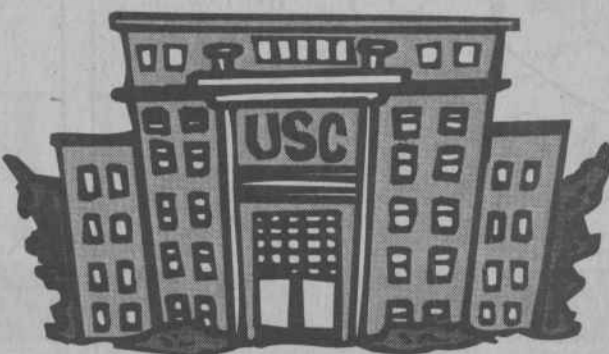
The toughest of these three decisions is whether a student is going to live on campus in a dorm or off campus in a dorm or house. Which one is best for a college student? That's where the tough decision making comes in.

First, of course, there are dorms. Dorm life is something nearly every student has been hearing about since he or she first started hearing about college.

Living in a dorm is all part of the typical college experience. Students are assigned to rooms and roommates and have classmates living right next door.

Though dorm life may not be for everyone, many see it as being essential for freshmen to live in dorms for their first year on campus. Some freshmen may have a hard time adjusting to college life, and it's much easier when they are surrounded by others in their same situation.

"Dorms are a good place to meet people and establish yourself," said senior Amanda Esch, who lived in Wade Hampton her freshman year at USC and now lives in an off-campus duplex. "It's very important to live on campus first year."



Many freshmen share Esch's sentiment.

"There are a lot of people to study and socialize with," said freshman Betsy Johnson, who lives in Maxcy Hall.

Socialization is a very important part of dorm life, but it's not the only thing that students like about dorm life.

A major advantage to campus life is the proximity of a student's classes to his or her dorm. This allows the student to sleep in a little longer (and everyone knows how precious sleep is in college).

This also saves students the hassle of having to ride their bikes all the way to campus in the morning or from having to drive their cars to school and then having to spend time finding a parking space and then going back and feeding the meter to avoid getting a ticket.

This also works in reverse. If a student has a class that ends at 11:00 a.m. and then doesn't have another class until 1:25 p.m., he or she can return to his or her dorm and get some rest or do

some work until his or her next class starts.

Students who live off campus don't have enough time to get home and end up wasting this valuable time just hanging out.

Security also is something that's a plus. Unless a student can afford to live in an incredibly nice apartment with a doorman and several security doors, they're not going to have the same sense of safety as a student in a dorm.

In Maxcy Hall, for example, students have to show their IDs at the front

desk, sign in all visitors, swipe their IDs just to get into the living section of the dorm and use their key to open a door that, in many cases, will only open with a key.

Some students like the sense of camaraderie they get in dorms. In a dorm, there is almost always someone else taking the same course they are.

"There's always someone to help you with your homework, someone who will let you borrow their computer and printer or just someone who will lend you a CD you were thinking about buying," said freshman Sona Shah, who also resides in Maxcy. "You can meet lots of new people in the same situation as you."

Freshman Angi Biggs said there is a "real sense of friendship in McClintock.

"If we need something, we can just go next door and borrow it," she said. "It's like having a really big closet."

Dorm life does have its downsides, however. Many students see a lack of privacy as a big problem with living in a dorm.

With two people stuck in one tiny room for an entire school year, there's not usually much of a chance of getting some space of your own. About the only place someone can go for privacy in a dorm is the bathroom.

Also, many students have a problem with the visitation policies in their dorms.

"The dorms have unreasonably strict rules about visiting members of the opposite sex," Esch said.

who remembered having to do work in her hallway sometimes to escape the noise and distractions of her own room.

The very popular alternative to living in an on-campus dorm is living in an off-campus apartment, which many students consider after (and some during) their freshman year.

Many students see a lot of positive aspects of living off campus. The biggest reason students have for wanting to live off campus is having more freedom. There are no visitation policies or "quiet times" in off-campus housing.

Some freshmen at the University are already looking forward to living off of campus.

"You have more freedom, more space, more of a sense of the real world," Johnson said.

Freedom and privacy. What more could a student want?

It's not always so nice to live off campus. In fact, sometimes it's just really inconvenient.

"You'd have to get up earlier in the morning and drive all the way to campus and try to find parking," Shah said.

The lack of convenience is something people dislike about off-campus living. Another problem students had with it was the social aspect.

"You would be lonely," Shah said. "There might not be anyone from school or any of your friends nearby."

Choosing courses and choosing a major are nothing. Privacy and camaraderie are tough.

And with this decision, there really isn't a wrong choice. Each student just has to look at their options and choose what is best for them.

VS.



"Every time someone wants to come into your room, they have to sign in and leave their ID at the front desk, and you have to give them your name, social security number and room number," Johnson said. "It's all just a big hassle."

The noise levels in dorms are what annoys other students.

"There's always commotion you can't control," Shah said. "There are just too many distractions when you're trying to get your work done."

"There's never a quiet place to study when you need one," said Esch,

Tired of reading the same old stuff?

Then do something to change it.

Anyone interested in writing for ETC.?

weekly meeting  
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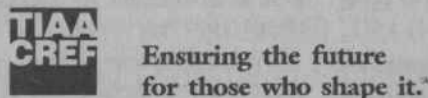
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