

Housing Recommendations – Ames, IA

Please mention Iowa State Housing Facebook pages to new students. Notice that only people with iastate.edu email with their Facebook can be added:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1559947094257323/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/400669906623596/>

University Village (ISU Housing) is recommended. Cheap and close to campus. You can walk to school. But it might be hard to get one because of so many applications.

My landlord posts apartments on www.amesrent.com

For new coming students, I assume they do not have a car, so it is better for them to live in the North, close to North Grand Mall. Then they do not need to drive to buy grocery or go shopping. However, the rent is more expensive compared to that of the apartments with similar setup in the west.

One of the things I did (besides looking on www.amesrent.com) was to study the CyRide bus maps. I concentrated my search on neighborhoods located along the bus lines that had reasonably straightforward access to bus services. While this would seem to cover all of Ames, it actually rules out a large portion of S. Duff and some of the extremes in northwest and southwest Ames, too. For example, the apartments out on Mortensen are predominantly student housing, but it's nearly a half-hour by bus to get to the outskirts of campus from there. By contrast, the northern portion of West Ames (where I currently live, incidentally) is more closely connected to campus.

When looking for housing options, I would recommend considering the following factors besides the cost:

1) Bus Line: Some bus lines run more often and later. If the student plans on taking the bus, it is important to take into account how often and until what time the bus runs. Students can check this information on <http://www.cyride.com/>

2) Laundry: Laundry facilities can be located inside the apt, on a specific floor of a building, or even outside. Also, if the laundry is located on a specific floor, make sure it is not located just above your apartment as the noise could become annoying. lastly, check whether you have to pay for laundry and how much it costs.

3) Flooding area: When it rains a lot during the Spring and Summer, it is possible that some rivers and/or creeks flood. There are certain areas that are more prone to flooding. Students should check if their apartments are in such locations and if they choose to live there, do not choose the first floor.

4) Welch Ave location. Apartments located near Welch Avenue are very close to campus but the area could be noisy as most bars are located around there.

The further from campus you are, apartments get nicer, cheaper, and are in relatively quiet neighborhoods. I recommend looking at the bus routes on www.cyride.com to find your most liked place. Otherwise, there are a lot of property management places in town. The bicycle routes in Ames are very good, if you like to bike, you can find a bike path to get to campus.

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Property Managers:

Hunziker: <http://www.hunziker.com/>

First Property Management: <https://fpmofames.com/>

Martin: www.martinpropertymanagement.com

Jensen: www.jensengroup.net

Professional: www.ppm-inc.com

Triplett: <http://www.triplettcompanies.com/>