

HOUSING RESOURCE



2011-2012

**THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS THE REVIEWS OF STUDENTS ATTENDING TEXAS TECH
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER'S PAUL L. FOSTER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE. THE
OPINIONS REPRESENTED DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF TEXAS TECH.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Things current students wish they had known	3
Statistics on the current student body.....	3
Housing Review.....	4
Apartments.....	4
Westside.....	4
Central	7
Eastside.....	7
House/Neighborhoods....	7
Helpful Realtors & Websites.....	8

Disclaimer: This review is a compilation of opinions expressed by current students. Accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Please use this review at your own risk and discretion.

Edited by Class of 2015 SGA members (Uejin Kim & Mark Hall)

THINGS CURRENT STUDENTS WISH THEY HAD KNOWN

- 1) "There is this thing in El Paso called evaporative cooling: an evaporative cooler (aka swamp cooler, desert cooler, and wet air cooler) is a device that cools air through the simple evaporation of water. For most people, "normal" air conditioning is called "refrigerated cooling" in El Paso. Evaporative cooling is especially well suited for climates where the air is hot and humidity is low. Advantage: it is less expensive to operate. Disadvantage: it does not work well on days with high humidity (rainy weather) and the air it provides will be humid. I have this and definitely had to buy a window unit to supplement and make my house comfortable."
- 2) "Housing in El Paso is not as expensive as in other cities. Coming from a city like Austin where rent for a small apartment can be well over \$1000 to El Paso is an adjustment. In El Paso, renting a two-bedroom house in a nice neighborhood can be done for well under \$1000. I wish I had looked at houses when I first started searching rather than moving in the middle of my first year. It is just good to know that houses *are* an affordable option. Be sure to ask about neighborhoods though to ensure you end up in a good area."
- 3) "El Paso is safe. People will ask you this question multiple times. The best piece of information to tell them is that the CIA, FBI, El Paso Police Department, US Military, and Border Patrol all protect and serve the city. We have one of the lowest homicide rates in the US for a city over 500, 000."
http://borderviolenceanalysis.typepad.com/mexicos_drug_war/2010/11/el-paso-ranks-safest-city-in-us.html

STATISTICS ON CURRENT STUDENT BODY

Class of	Apartments	Homes	Townhome/Duplex	@ Parents
2013	62%	30%	3%	5%
2014	72%	25%	3%	0%
2015	74.2%	12.1%	6.1%	7.6%

Class of	Westside	Eastside
2013	85%	15%
2014	91%	9%
2015	89.4%	10.6%

Class of	Lives alone	Lives with roommate/spouse/etc
2013	89%	11%
2014	80%	20%
2015	53%	47%

HOUSING REVIEW

APARTMENTS							
NAME	LOCATION	BR /BA	RENT	★	PROS	CONS	CONTACT
TUSCANY	Westside	1/1	890	5	Good for pets. Large rooms and large closet. High shower pressure. Good location for food and quick highway access. I have never had any bug issues (they spray every few weeks) and they repair everything very fast. You definitely are getting top service and quality in appliances. My AC and heater work excellent, never any issues in 2 years. It's pretty quiet and has 2 pools that require a key to access. I think it's the best apartment complex.	Obviously the Price. Outrageous and not worth this much. Not the closest to school, but only a 15-20 min drive in rush hr. There are new places being built on Mesa; they are huge. I'd check those out ASAP, but they aren't built yet.	Chester.Donnally@ttuhsc.edu
		2/2	1070	5	Gas Stove, Washer/Dryer in unit at no extra cost; walk in closets, 2 sinks in the master! Great for married couples! Huge tub! It has a pantry, which is a big plus to find in apartments! Covered parking and a storage unit are included (no extra cost). Big balcony that is covered.	Kitchen is on the smaller side, but bigger than a ton of other apartments. We love it here!	amanda.jens on@ttuhsc.edu
THE CHIMNEY	Westside	1/1	678	4	Is quiet, reasonably spacious for a 1 bedroom place, pets welcome, maintenance is very fast and friendly, refrigerated a/c, w/d hookups, very convenient to I-10, near Sunland park restaurants, near EP fitness (I can walk to my gym). I really like this place and do not plan on moving until I graduate.	Complex is a bit older, but well maintained. The w/d room is a bit small so I had to take the door off, but might only be a problem in the 1 bedroom units. The complex gym only has one aerobic machine that works, but I just go next door to EP fitness, so all's good.	cindy.tsai@ttuhsc.edu
ACACIA PARK	Westside	1/1	~760	3	Acacia Park Apmnts are very quiet, pet friendly, and clean. The drive to school is the same as the Tuscany and all of the other apartments near Sunland park (~15 - 20minutes). I've been happy with my apartment and the neighbors are friendly when seen. I feel very safe in this complex even if I walk at night for a study break. It is refrigerated air, not swamp cooling. My apartment feels very new and clean. Maintenance is pretty fast in my opinion. These prices are after the student discount is applied. Just ask for it if you apply to live here.	The company who runs this place is horrible. I personally would never rent from Case & Associates (CaseUSA) ever again. When I forgot to make my payment over Christmas Break, I got an eviction notice. I did not get a warning, just a straight up threat that if I'm not out in 3 days they are going to court against me. About the complex: I have no complaints. I know the higher up buildings have a lot of speed bumps, but mine doesn't. There is no washer/dryer, but you can rent them for about \$35 a month. The dishwasher is really pretty loud, but I think all of them are in these complexes.	Lavender.jacob@gmail.com
		2/2	~785	3	Same as above. They are definitely quick to respond to work orders, which is great. I got a 2BR/2BA, but live alone. It's a great size apartment and I just turned the spare bedroom into an office.	If you can, I would recommend buying your own W/D....my rental is old and I plan to look for one to buy (save money in the long run). Also, most complexes are super crazy about payments, so if you	N.Haykal@ttuhsc.edu

					Also, depending on where your unit is, you can have a great view of the mountain. It's very easy to get to school (as above) and it's close to Starbucks, Target, Best Buy, Petsmart, and just a short ways from Albertson's. My water bill runs about \$23-28, so that's not bad at all and I clean a lot ;). I live at the top of the hill, and there are speed bumps, but you can take the main road up to that section and bypass them all together (which is faster anyway).	do live here, they have an online payment option and an automatic withdrawal option. Dishwasher is loud :) but I agree that it's probably pretty uniform across the other complexes. I did receive a noise complaint after having a post-summative party. The office called me to let me know and it goes on my "record". There a "3 strikes you're out" policy....so if you are a pretty loud person, I would take that into consideration.	
THE POINTE	Westside			5	One of more up-to-date apartments on the Westside. New black appliances, two-inch blinds, and most have new countertops. Apartment is impeccably maintained with great on-site office/repair staff. Also, complex features a lot of trees and plants (uncommon in El Paso). Since I have a dog, the grass was crucial. Very quiet and tends to be home to professionals and little old ladies. Love it! Personable and flexible staff. Close to the mountains (which keeps it cool during summer) and refrigerated cooling	N/A	tcosban@gmail.com
THE LEGEND	Westside	2/2	~1150	4	We love our apartment. It is very spacious and very clean. The bedrooms are big and the closets are big walk-ins. The kitchen is very nice with great appliances. Maintenance is excellent here, the best I have ever had. Close to the freeway/stores. Parking usually is not a problem even though we don't pay for the covered parking space. We pay a bit more than others here, but overall we really feel like we get what we pay for. There is a smaller option for 2 BR/2 BA that is about 100\$ cheaper.	The only negative I would really say is that the electric bill can be somewhat pricey, like sometimes close to 200\$. We didn't really look at too many options, because I stayed here when I interviewed and knew that my wife would like it, and I figured that it was worth it to me. I would say that it is more expensive, but you do get what you pay for, a very nice, big, clean apartment.	jeff.mohlman@ttuhsc.edu
		1/1	853	4	Complex built within the last few years. Garden size bathtub, large closets, crown molding in living room. Covered parking is \$20/mo, but there are uncovered spaces for free and convenient, depending on which building you live in. Management has always been extremely helpful and nice. W/D hookups in apartments and you can rent them if you don't own any. Fairly spacious. Refrigerated A/C. Well lit at night. VERY convenient access to grocery stores, the movie theater, restaurants, and I-10.	Gate was broken for the first couple of months that I moved in, but is now fixed. My kitchen is rather small to me since I love to cook, but is probably comparable or larger than most 1BR kitchens. They charge \$15/mo pet rent per pet and the pet deposit is \$500, I think \$350 is refundable or so. Have some weird policies, like the types of items that are allowed on the patio, in order to keep the complex looking nice. Could be seen as a pro or con, depending.	lindsey.m.haney@ttuhsc.edu
COLINAS DEL SOL	Westside	2/1	950	4	Spacious and clean looking apartment from the outside. Basic cable is provided. Apartment gym and swimming pool is perhaps the best among	For the price, the apartment seems a bit old. Washer and Dryer connections are present but they are not provided. As mentioned in the pro section,	tony.khang@ttuhsc.edu

					apartment complexes. The staff used to be really bad concerning maintenance, but has recently improved a lot and usually gets everything fixed within 24 hours. Insides are fairly clean and spacious as well. Is located right next to shopping centers and entrance to 1-10 which cuts transit time greatly (usually about 12~15 minutes in the morning with traffic) For those of you who like shopping, Target/marshall/best buy is 3~5 minutes walking distance, and Academy/Sunland park mall is 5~10 minutes walking distance depending upon your walking velocity.	maintenance when I first moved in was horrendous as it took several attempts to get them to even start listening, but some of the staff members were switched and have had no problem since then. UTEP students sometimes party really loudly and can get distracting if the apartment complex is located next to the swimming pool (like mine)	
				4	They have new machines in the gym which is nice because the old ones were extremely old and not very useful. They are actually not bad on maintenance: they will usually come in within a day or two of when you call in. But I have heard that they haven't been good from other people, so I am not sure about this. It basically looks like a Cali-resort of some kind. This will make you depressed because you will most likely be indoors studying a whole bunch. It isn't scary at night. If you live in 2/2 with a roommate, rent is cheap. It is near a lot of stores.	Someone backed into my car when it was parked and left a pretty sizeable dent in it. It is kind of pricey and you can probably get a place for less in the same area. Sometimes the water will get cold when you are taking a shower in the morning	apatluru@gmail.com
MOUNTAIN VILLAGE	Westside	1/1	639	4	Quiet neighborhood, mountain view, pretty decent appliances, W/D hook-ups (rental avail I believe), refrigerated air, leasing office staff changed few times but recent one is nice/punctual, maintenance is not too bad, PRICE/SQ FT hard to beat	THE DISTANCE! It's way up in the mountains... but with my driving it takes 20-30 mins to get to school (similar to other west side apt dwellers). It's a nice relaxing drive though... If you don't mind that, this is your place. Also the building is not new... I bet it doesn't have the most energy-efficient insulation so energy bill is bit higher than newer apartments	uejin.kim@ttuhsc.edu
THE CREST	Westside	1/1	684	3	Quiet, clean. The area is clean. Amenities include a pool and workout facility and basketball court. The floor plan is nice and there are lots of mirrors that make the place look bigger than normal and has lots of closet space. Refrigerated A/C. Parking is very convenient, haven't had any problems. Easy to host people because you can park anywhere. Lots of cabinet space, well lit complex.	There is a fan problem that a lot of people have had problems with. It is a dull, low frequency buzzing noise that can't be fixed. In some of the units, you can hear it in the bedroom. No washer or dryer hookups in the 1x1s	hannah.lee@ttuhsc.edu
CAMBRIA	Westside	2/1	720	5	Brand new (2yrs old), refrigerated A/C, gas stove, great maintenance and office staff, good quality neighbors and quiet, best bang for your buck, takes me 17 mins to get to school (right next to I-10 and Artcraft)	About 5-10 mins farther north than most of the other westside apartments but worth it for paying less in my opinion. No W/D hookups and complex W/Ds are pricey.	colton.ragsdale@ttuhsc.edu

MAGOFFIN PARK Contact MS1 Jhanina Dioso 956-533-1858	Central	1/1	730	5	Love this place! This apartment complex was built in September 2011. Everything is new! It takes me 6 minutes to go to school. They have a gym with new equipment and TV. The full-size washer and dryer are in every apartment. The apartment complex is gated, and you need a gate card to open it. Assigned parking included in the rent. It's spacious! Love the closet! Love the bathroom size!	Since you are in Central El Paso, driving to the West-side is about a 5-10 minute drive (obviously, depending on where you go to the West-side). It's not a bad drive at all, especially since I use to drive from the East side to the West side. Now, that's a long drive!	j.dioso@ttuhs.c.edu
IMPERIAL ARMS	Central	1/1	1050	5	Remodeled building form 1920's - 18 units - hardwood floors (if you care about that stuff)	10 minutes from school - Kern Area (by UTEP) - shops and bars nearby are walkable	r.mauricio@ttuhsc.edu
SHADOW RIDGE	Eastside	1/1	650	4	Close to school (10 min drive with traffic). Easy access to I-10. Cheaper than most places on Westside. Office staff is nice and my maintenance requests were always taken care of in <24 hours. AC and heat worked great. W/D hookups, dishwasher, and balcony in every unit. Lots of closet space.	A little noisy (lots of young, single ft bliss guys having parties all the time and moving frequently - this may be less of a problem in the bigger units where there are more families. I am sensitive to noise... You also can't get Uverse in some units.	catherine.powell@ttuhsc.edu
		1/1	639	4	Swimming pool is not really busy in the summer. They have ceiling fans so you save money during summer. Washer/Dryer connections: having W/D is so convenient! Installed bookshelves. Low price. And LOCATION (So close to everything and school)	U-verse is not offered in this neighborhood	

HOUSE

TYPE	LOCATION	BR /BA	RENT	★	PROS	CONS	CONTACT
Rent	Westside	3/2	1200	4	~2000 sq ft home across the border in Santa Teresa. So long as you have perm address in TX (eg parents) you're fine. Gated community, beautiful home with tile & hardwoods & refrig air. 22 mins to school taking McNutt to Executive & getting on 10 there (miss all the traffic @ Mesa to Sunland Park)	There's no grocery stores close by; takes 10-15 mins to get to everything at Hwy 10/Mesa (Walmart, restaurants, Walgreens...) and that almost made us not rent here. But now that we've been here awhile, we love it. The distance is a very minor inconvenience.	
Rent	Central	2/1	800	3	~1500 sq ft house with garage, basement, and huge backyard. House is old (built in 1940's) so has some quirks, but the price is awesome and location can't be beat (5 mins from school).	Biggest problem is noise from trains - so be careful how close you are to the train tracks if you are looking for a place near 54! Also, property management (Benchmark Realty) company sucks. But we're staying and just dealing with them because the house, location, and price are so great.	catherine.powell@ttuhsc.edu
Own	Eastside	3/2	850	3	Eastside is cheaper. Close to restaurants, mall, shopping centers, etc. I enjoy having the space and privacy of living in a house. I can park my car in a garage and my dog can play in the backyard. Buying a house is actually affordable in El Paso	It's a hassle to visit friends on the Westside. Most houses in the eastside are older with the exception of the far eastside which has great new house for cheap but the drive to school is considerably longer (30+ minutes). Many newer restaurants and bars are downtown or along Mesa, which is more easily accessible from the west	Jennifer.a.lopez@ttuhsc.edu

HELPFUL REALTORS

- Capitol Properties: This company manages many rental properties in El Paso. They frequently have smaller homes in the Kern Area (central or west). They put the properties on their website along with pictures (www.capitolpropertiestepaso.com/Showcase14.htm)
- Sam Triamble: Great for buying or renting. He gets commission from the properties owners so his services are free. I went through two realtors before finding him. He is on time, responsive and very helpful. Sam is in his late twenties and is energetic and understanding of medical students' needs. He has a website with his listings but is also able to open rental properties of other agencies. After the agency listing, the home I wanted failed to make my appointment. I contacted him and he had me in to see the home that day and then turned in my rental application (www.samsellstepaso.com)
- Brenda Rogers: Great for buying a home on the west side. She is very prompt and a good communicator (brendaorogers@gmail.com; 915-494-6004)
- Tanya Ocampo: Helpful for students who found a duplex on the Westside (915-585-8950)

HELPFUL WEBSITES

- www.hotpads.com
- www.apartmentratings.com
- www.apartmentfinder.com
- www.apartmentguide.com