

HOUSING RESOURCE



2013-2014

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.

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Disclaimer: This review is a compilation of opinions expressed by current students. Accuracy cannot be guaranteed as statistics can only be determined by those that responded to the requested survey information. Please use this review at your own risk and discretion.

Edited by Class of 2017 – Jeremy Stewart

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://www.elpasotimes.com/tablehome/ci_22523903/el-paso-ranked-safest-large-city-u-s
- 4) "Rental houses go really fast, if a place has been on the market for more than 20-30 days there is probably something wrong with it, and most places won't let you sign a lease until max like 10-14 days ahead of time. Don't rent sight unseen. There are tons of rental properties here. All areas are safe, central and close to the base are older areas, but you are going to be surrounded by soldiers, and really close to school, and the hospitals. Mesa hills is nice and safe but really really expensive."
- 5) "Bigger city (geographically) than I had originally thought. West side has MUCH more in terms of entertainment, shopping, restaurants. Distance from apartment to school will make a difference in how you manage your time and when/where you study. More things to do here on your free time than it might appear at first - multiple malls, hiking, skiing, caves, White Sands, etc."
- 6) "Apartment-wise (and house-wise), there are a lot of hidden gems in EP that you might not find online, so if you can come to EP, that would be in your best interest."
- 7) "I grew up and lived on the Westside for 20 years, but I'm really glad I moved to the eastside when school started. There's much more variety in stores and activities, and it's a lot closer to get to school easily."

STATISTICS ON CURRENT STUDENT BODY

Class of	Apartments	Homes	Townhome/Duplex/RV	w/Parents/family
2014	58%	42%	0%	0%
2015	73%	27%	0%	0%
2016	64%	14%	14%	7%
2017	72%	19%	3%	6%

Class of	Westside	Eastside	Central
2014	83%	0%	17%
2015	64%	9%	27%
2016	57%	14%	29%
2017	58%	14%	28%

Class of	Lives alone	Lives with roommate/spouse/etc
2014	8%	92%
2015	36%	64%
2016	29%	71%
2017	47%	53%

HOUSING REVIEW

APARTMENTS							
NAME	LOCATION	BR /BA	RENT (total)	★	PROS	CONS	CONTACT
TUSCANY AT MESA HILLS	Westside	1/1	775	4	Quiet, comfortable complex; gym, pools, basketball court if you have time for that stuff; polite office staff; close to the mall, restaurants, Sprouts, etc.	My loud upstairs neighbor can get annoying sometimes, but you'll get that everywhere, a bit pricey for the square footage.	jonathan.corpuz@ttuhsc.edu
		2/2	1150	5	Safe area, close to grocery stores, shopping centers, great restaurants nearby, movie theater, great new apartments, central A/C, great pool area, covered parking spaces, gated, nice activity center. comes with washer and dryer	Can run into traffic in the morning going to campus, apartment maintenance can be slow, rent is not cheap	N/A
THE CHIMNEY	Westside	1/1	850	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 washer/dryer 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	2/1	693	5	Good price (2 bed (although one of the bedrooms is not as big)/1 bath \$693) hopefully lease won't increase any more. Good grocery/shopping places (Sunland Park, Sprouts, Target); right next to a Planet Fitness gym. Beautiful landscape; nice view from the apartment. Quiet, family friendly neighborhood. Find unshaded parking spots near your apartment you don't have to pay for. Staff pretty nice. Didn't have to do much maintenance yet so I can't really speak for that.	No gates; although the area is pretty safe. 15-20 minutes away from school; it's not too bad for me	jean.paek@ttuhsc.edu
		1/1	703	5	Quiet. Nice Location. Neat balconies. Good price/value. Lovely pool.	Not a bad drive, but considering I'd prefer to bike to school, it's too far (NB: I don't actually bike from here). 13-14 min drive in light/no traffic, so way better than the ol' Houston commute. Can't complain!	Patrick.omalley@ttuhsc.edu
THE POINTE	Westside	2/2	810	4.5	It is green, well maintained, and up out of the way. Apartments are clean, and often when you move in they install new carpet and repaint the walls. Most the stoves, refrigerators are new.	It is up on the hill which means if you enjoy a run you will learn to love running up long and steep hills.	joshua.speirs@ttuhsc.edu

LEGENDS OF EL PASO	Westside	2/2	1135	4	Gated, easy and quick access to the interstate, quiet complex, relatively new complex. Large Kitchen, Large Baths, Well Kept, Very nice.	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
COLINAS DEL SOL	Westside	1/1	645	4	Okay rent for a small room. Free cable. Really nice amenities – multiple pools, tennis courts, volleyball courts, gym. Close to groceries, restaurants, other stores. Close to freeway, so commute isn't terrible. Pretty quiet complex. Responsive apartment manager/staff. restaurants, and I-10.	This isn't necessarily a con, but the complex is huge, and the apartments range from brand new and really nice to older and okay. The cheaper ones, like mine, are older. I don't have any problems with mine, but you should probably keep in mind that there's a lot of variance in price and quality across the complex. Also, like everywhere else on the west side it is an irritating commute to school -- probably ~20-30 minutes during rush hour. Honestly, though, even if it's not the cheapest place I've ever stayed at, it's a decent deal for a 1/1. If you have a roommate it's very, very affordable.	lindsey.m.haney@ttuhsc.edu
		2/2	1265	4	Great location! Sprouts, Target, Bestbuy, Ulta, and a bunch of other stores/restaurants are right across the street. They have a gated side and a non-gated side. The gated side is pretty quiet and I never have a problem with parking. The grounds are VERY well kept with a lot of grass... Great for my dog! They have a lot of amenities- several pools, nice gyms, tennis courts, sand volleyball, etc. The management is very friendly. The apartment itself has a little sun room (solarium), garden tub, tall ceilings, walk-in closets, and is pretty roomy (about 1300 sqft).	During the summer/monsoon season, the windows leaked quite a bit! This was a problem throughout the entire complex and with this being the biggest complex in EP, it definitely took some time for them to get it fixed. Aside from that situation, maintenance has been great. I do recommend getting a top floor unit because I can hear my upstairs neighbors walking around.	bethany.janssen@ttuhsc.edu
		2/2	935	5	Great location, repairs are made the same day or next	Kitchen is a little small	turner.anthony
		1/1	790	4	Location is right next to I-10 so it's easy to get on and off, but you don't hear the traffic. The bathrooms are spacious (I quickly found out from my previous place that I need a large bathroom). Very few maintenance problems thus far.	Had a roof leak during a downpour.	N/A
		2/2		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

PUERTA VILLA AT CIMARRON	Westside	2/2	950	5	A very professional neighborhood; most of the residents are career oriented which makes for a quieter atmosphere. The community is gated (you have your own keyless access remote), which makes for a more private atmosphere. The apartments are newer, and so the appliances and furnishings are modern and up to date. There are a variety of different floor layouts and apartment setups to choose from. The landscaping is magnificent. There is trimmed, thick green grass all year long. The management staff is extremely helpful and professional, we have not had a single complaint that they have not handled quickly. -The apartments are in a beautiful location, outside of the city with an amazing two-lane jogging/walking path. Because the complex is so new, it is very energy efficient. All of my electric bills have been extremely reasonable. I have never had a problem with finding parking spaces. One of the best gyms (24/7, again the keyless remote), and an amazing (and massive) pool. Plenty of grills located outside and places with grass for animals to run around. Close to the mountains - nice accessible trails nearby (less than a mile) for biking/hiking. Quick access to I-10 (the highway that will take you to school). Quick access to Transmountain (another major road) and not far from restaurants/food/groceries/gas.	It is further away from school compared to most of the other apartment complexes. At certain times in the morning and in the afternoon traffic can be a pain (I try to just avoid those times). I believe spots do fill up rapidly, so you must start the application early to get in.	klubsmith@gmail.com
THE CREST	Westside	1/1	610	4	Great location right on Sunland Park, one of the more affordable locations on the Westside. Friendly staff (management), very clean apartments. Residents are generally very quiet, most go to UTEP or work at Fort Bliss. Easy highway access, pool, small gym, and washer/dryer facility on site if you don't have a washer/dryer. Largest rooms for the price.	Not the newest property on the Westside but very comfortable living arrangements. Can only get Time Warner Cable or ATT Uverse internet.	N/A
CAMBRIA	Westside	2/1	730	5	Best Value (Good quality for cheap, apartments only 4 yrs old) Free Cable, Water, Trash (Just pay gas/electric + internet) Refrigerated air, Gas stoves Excellent front office & repair staff. Quiet	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	Central	1/1	770	4	It's very close to school and because it's central, it's pretty close to everything. The apartment is nice (pretty generic, but well kept) and a decent size. I never hear any noise from my neighbors. I can always count on maintenance being done quick and correctly. Has it's own washer and dryer in each apartment!!!	I hear a lot of sirens, which doesn't really bother me, but if you are a light sleeper you might occasionally wake up. The air quality is not so great in this area. I had my filters changed, but it still gets dusty unusually fast. I pay \$770 a month, which to me is a little high for EP, but I also only get gas every three weeks or so. My biggest con is that the grocery store (the only one I find worthy of going to anyways, Sprouts) is ~15-20 minutes away, but it's either be far from school or far from the grocery store.	viktoria.stewart@ttuhsc.edu
		2/2.5	960	3.5	Proximity to school - ~7 min drive New(ish) apartments. Great/friendly apt managers, good about fixing things. Not too expensive (480+utilities). Close to everywhere (7 min to UTEP, 15 min to West side, 15 min to east/airport). Gated Attached washer and dryer	Noisy Dusty Only 1 parking spot per apt Not the best area Lacks pool, fancy stuff	Brianstephenwong@gmail.com
		2/2.5	950	5	Proximity to school (3 miles) Newer building and facilities. Washer/Dryer included in every unit.	Only one assigned parking spot per apartment within gate. (Only a problem if you have a roommate). Not much extra facilities. (No pool or basketball court, etc.)	philip.paul@ttuhsc.edu
IMPERIAL ARMS	Central	1/1	1100	5	It's within 10min of the school. The location is great if you're looking for food and fun. The apt itself has real wood flooring, vaulted ceilings, and a great view. Close to school. Easy access to interstate. Close to good eateries and bars.	Not so great if you're looking for malls and wal-marts Expensive groceries (in the Kern place area), ie no Wal-mart.	susana.lampley@ttuhsc.edu
		1/1	950	5	10 mins from hospital/campus, Close to bars/restaurants/downtown, quick freeway access	Expensive for singles	joshua.lampley@ttuhsc.edu Samuel.weimer@ttuhsc.edu
SHADOW RIDGE	Eastside	1/1	560	5	Lower rent, safe premises (lots of military), pet friendly, quick repairs, 5 minutes from school and traffic isn't bad in the morning coming from this direction compared to the west side.	Doesn't have that shiny new appearance but it still well maintained.	david.rafferty@ttuhsc.edu
SIERRA VISTA	Eastside	1/1	840	3	Close to school, good amount of space, exercise facility, nice view, safe, close to the Aerial Tramway, close to Walmart, pet-friendly, pool, close to the highway	A bit low water pressure, maintenance is a little slow, can be loud outside, insufficient air conditioning (had to buy an extra A/C unit), water turned off a few times, windows let a lot of dirt into the house, a bit of a bug problem, old appliances, far from shopping centers, far from fitness center chains, far from restaurants	N/A
DESERT TREE	Eastside	1/1	500-550	5	- 10-15 minutes from school - 3 minutes from airport - amazing resident care and maintenance staff - small pets allowed - free cable TV	- no in-unit washer/dryer connections - only 1 bed/1 bath units available	adarsh.saheba@ttuhsc.edu

HOUSES							
Rent	Westside	2/2	795	4	It is a quiet area and much less traffic than when we lived in an apartment. The drive to school is quite short (<15min) and we don't have any traffic issues. We live close to multiple parks and good restaurants.	We live in an area with older homes so our place is a little old. With that being said, our landlords have replaced the water heater, swamp cooler (evaporative cooler), and dishwasher. It took us quite a while of searching online to find the place and within a day of its posting there were multiple people interested so we had to be quick to view openings.	N/A
Own	Westside	3/2	1250	5	My spouse and I bought a house on the west side off Bartlett near Mesa. It is affordable and is about 10 miles from campus. It is also a short distance to everything on the west side and central.	Maintenance costs & upkeep but would still choose owning over renting.	meredith.wittie@ttuhsc.edu
Rent	Central	3/2	750	5	Manhattan heights area. 5-10 minute drive to hospital/ school. Easy access to both sides of town. No traffic. Great local restaurants. Nice park, swimming pool and library. Friendly urban neighborhood. Low prices.	Train can be loud on occasion. Not close to strip mall type stores and restaurants if that's what you like.	catherine.powell@ttuhsc.edu
Rent	Central	2/1	900	5	I live in the Kern area, which is close to downtown and all of the bars and restaurants. It takes me about 8 minutes to get to campus and I have a beautiful view of the city. This is the oldest neighborhood in El Paso, so I get cool things in my house that most people don't have that live here. I have a basement, heated floors in the bathroom, and real wood floors. If you want a decent location for driving to campus and don't want to live in an apartment, look at houses in Kern.	I live far away from most grocery stores, the only thing we have in the central area is a pretty terrible Albertson's. Also, since I live in the oldest neighborhood in El Paso, some of the houses are not kept up well	casey.finch@ttuhsc.edu
With family	Eastside	4/2	N/A	4	The eastside of town is full of things to do. The eastside has plenty of great malls, movie theaters, and a fairly good night scene. Housing I believe is also cheaper on the eastside, but equally as nice. The eastside is also a lot more community based so you never have to drive outside of a 2 mile radius to get anything you need because the stores, restaurants, etc are spread out really well in the area. The public schools in the area are really nice as well if you have kids.	A lot of students live on the westside which makes it a hassle to meet up with them because its a bit far to drive.	gabe.scott@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.capitolpropertieseelpaso.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.samsellselpaso.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)
- **Maureen Lam** - 210-253-9339
- **Caroline Camfield** 915-549-7432
"We purchased our home and found Caroline to be an unassuming and knowledgeable realtor. Didn't feel pushed into anything. She did a good job of listening to what we were looking for and focusing on that."
- **Shannon Drake** (Max Real Estate) 915-581-3700
"She mostly works with houses for sale but also has listings for houses for rent. She was pretty flexible with us since we were looking for places while we were out of town."
- **Sandy Messer Realty** - relo@sandymesser.com 915-833-6111
<http://sandymesser.com/>

HELPFUL WEBSITES

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