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University of Florida and Santa Fe College students may not have a place to live for close to two weeks. Many apartment complexes in Gainesville have leases that will end prior to the time that summer classes will end.

Campus Club Apartments, one of Gainesville's apartment complexes most geared toward local college students, has a move-out date that will be the same for all of its current residents.

Andrew Abraham, who works in the leasing office at Campus Club as a customer service specialist, estimates that 90 to 95 percent of residents are UF or Santa Fe students.

On Aug. 5, residents with a 12-month lease and who do not plan on renewing the lease for the following year will have to pack their bags and find somewhere else to stay.

However, summer session classes for both UF and Santa Fe will end on Aug. 10.

"I signed my lease at Campus Club close to a year ago, so, naturally, I didn't have my move out date memorized. I just realized a couple of days ago that my lease ended before classes did when I heard my roommate talking about it," said Tanaya Rivera, microbiology major at UF.

Abraham says that it is company policy that no resident will be allowed to pay to stay longer than the move out date, unless the person renews the lease and plans to live in the exact same room that he or she is currently living in.

Campus Club, along with other apartment complexes, such as The Estates and The Courtyards, plans on using the time between leasing periods to close the complex for cleaning and preparation, according to leasing offices.

"For that time, there is nothing that we can really offer," Abraham said, "If they really need to stay in Gainesville during that time, I would suggest finding a friend to stay with. Also, some hotels in the area rent out rooms to anyone older than 18, so that could be another option."

Although his suggestions may be helpful to some residents, these may not be possible for everybody. Some people may not know any other people that they can stay with for those days. Also, hotels in Gainesville, such as Holiday Inn and Hampton Inn, which both rent rooms to anyone 18 years or older, are priced at over \$100 a night. This price range may not suit the needs of the majority of college students.

Rivera, who will be taking a summer B course, said, “If they really wanted to, apartment complexes could accommodate the needs of the student population. If they pride themselves on catering to the college community, then I don’t see why they would inconvenience us like this. They could always do the cleaning between Aug. 10 and Aug. 22, when classes end and start again, instead of kicking us out early.”

Amanda Bartmess, English major at UF, disagrees. “My roommate has a cat and it threw up in multiple places around our apartment on the carpet. So, I guess I can understand why it takes so long for the apartment complexes to clean up.”

Rivera does not think Abraham’s suggestions are the most logical for her situation. “I might be forced to go home to South Florida during those days and drive back up for the exam. It doesn’t seem right now like I have many other options.”

Gabriel Portillo, who will attend UF in the fall as a business major, said, “I have a full-time job here in Gainesville, so it’s not like I can go home. My only option is to find a place to stay here for those few days.”

Regardless of if people plan on staying in Gainesville for those days or going home, another thing to keep in mind would be where they plan on storing their items, especially if they own furniture. Whether they plan on staying with a friend, going home, or staying in a hotel, the added cost of a storage unit may need to be factored in as well.

Portillo said, “This is not only a problem for me this summer, but also for the future. Now, this is just like one more added amenity that I have to look for when signing my lease in the fall, so that I don’t get stuck in this same position next year. I will call places and say ‘Hi, I’m looking for a furnished apartment with a washer and dryer, oh, and I need to make sure my move-out date fits to the schedule of my classes.’ It wasn’t something that I had thought of before.”

However, this is not a new problem being seen in Gainesville. Last summer, Diana Lopez, journalism major at UF, encountered the same problem. “I lived at University Heights near Sorority Row, and my lease originally ended in July. I ended up renewing so that I could avoid that problem,” she said, “This summer, I’m intentionally not taking classes during summer B because I know that I would be “homeless” for two weeks after my lease ends July 31st.”

There are places that help people to avoid this. For example, Arlington Square Apartments allows future residents to move in early, however, there is a \$70 per day fee. Although this may seem pricy, it beats the prices of a hotel or storage unit.

Rivera said, “I haven’t seen any flyers and haven’t gotten any reminders about a move-out date. I’m just really glad I’m finding out about this now so that I can start making plans.”

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