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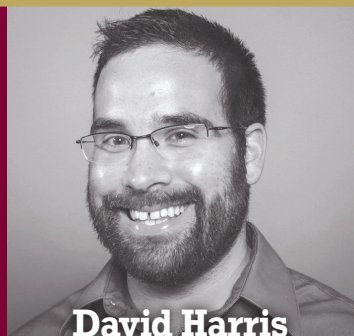
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**E. Jason Wambsgans**

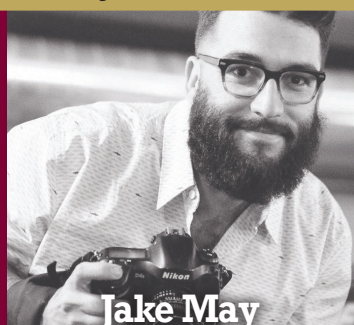
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Welcome to CHU

Minecraft edition!

By Cristin Coppess
Staff reporter

If you're reading this, then you may already know that being a first-year college student can be terrifying. When you get to Central Michigan University, there are so many things going on and there's so much you have to remember.

Everything is new and can be disorienting, and it's OK to be overwhelmed.

You're worried about getting along with your new roommates. You can't find any of your classes, and the dining hall food is making your stomach hurt a little bit.

And on top of everything else, people keep walking by screaming "Fire Up!" and it's a little scary because you have no idea what it means or why people are shouting it at you.

While your first few weeks on campus are going to be scary, it will get better. You'll find a groove with your roommates. After a few tries, you'll find your classes, and eventually your body will adjust to the new diet.

It's going to seem like everyone around you has it all figured out, and sometimes you'll feel like you are the only one having a hard time adjusting. But honestly, that's a myth.

No one comes to college for the

first time and knows exactly what they are doing. Everyone around you is faking it 'till they make it.

Your freshman year is going to be a lot of trial and error, but you won't be alone while you figure it out. Finding your place on campus takes time, and you don't have to rush into it.

So yes, you might change your major three times. You'll probably take classes you end up hating, and the clubs you joined at the beginning of the semester may not turn out to be the right places for you.

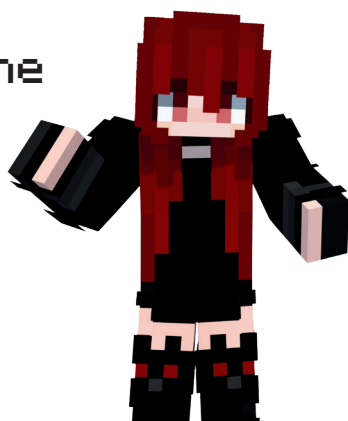
That's all OK.

Don't be afraid to try new things or discover what you're terrible at. That's what college is for. No matter how afraid you are of failing or not fitting in, don't let it stop you from enjoying your time on campus.

Just take a deep breath, buy yourself a sweet treat with your FLEX Dollars, and remind yourself that it's going to be OK. You will survive your first year.

And before you know it, you'll be the one shouting "Fire Up!" at the scared new students as they find their way around campus.

<Zoey> Can YOU find the hidden CMU players???



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INDEX

CHAPTER ONE



4

First we mine ...

Whether living with roommates or seeking a job, our experts share their best tips on building your campus world from the ground up.

CHAPTER TWO



12

Then we craft

Now that you know the lay of the CMU landscape, step off campus and get familiar with the greater Mount Pleasant community.

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On the cover: 3D model by Zoey Lawrence with photo assets by Jo Kenoshmeg.

CHAPTER ONE:

First we mine...



Roommate Living 101

Love 'em or not, roommates are part of the collegiate experience. Here is our advice for surviving the best and the worst of co-habitation

<Keara Banks> Patience and support make the roommate world go 'round

Going into my freshman year of college, I was told relentless roommate horror stories. People advised me: Don't pick messy roommates, don't pick ones who party, but also don't pick ones who hate fun ... and most of all, don't room with your friends from high school.

So I went in breaking the biggest rule that was preached to me. I live with my best friend from my high school, a friend from a high school leadership program and worst of all, my girlfriend.

And yet, the best part of my college experience has been living with my three favorite people. We tell each other everything, have movie nights, go out together and have dinner nights. They became my family at the time I needed it most because they already knew how to read me and how to interact with each other.

I won't lie, of course: We had many roommate discussions, but we solved things civilly because at the core, we really cared about one another.

With that being said, having roommates is never easy. I went from being an only child who never shared a room

to living basically in a four-by-four box. It takes a lot of adapting, but one thing nice about living with my high school friends was that we knew that this was different for all of us and that we had to give each other grace.

One thing you'll hear a lot while living on campus is that your friends' — or maybe even your — roommates don't do their chores, or their side of the room is messy.

The best advice I can give, and I'll keep preaching, is to give each other grace.

The transition from high school to college is difficult, and I know from my experience, and those of my roommates, it took a toll on our mental health. Rather than assuming the worst, have a conversation. The first few times, give up your ego and lend a hand. Do the dishes once or mop the floor, and help take the stress off their shoulders.

If the behavior continues, then ask what they need and if you can help them. I had points where I went weeks without doing my laundry or picking up my room, but so did my roommates. Instead of getting upset and making it an issue, we just gave each other support when we could. Your room will not always be spotless, and that's OK.

Your roommates are going to see you at your best and your worst. Trust me, those three girls have seen me throw parties and talk about being a week ahead on my homework; but they've also seen me sob over missing my mom and taking midday naps on the couch because I was too burnt out to go to class.

It's important to set boundaries, but don't go in with a negative mindset. Let your roommates be your best friends; tell them everything and support them the way you want to be supported. Let them be the family you need, and be their family because they also need it.

<Grace Walker> It's OK if moving is the only solution

Living with friends can be exciting. You spend your summer months on the internet creating mood boards of your future dorm, dreaming of the day you and your future roommates can go on late-night ice cream runs or stay up way too late yapping about things around campus.

But sometimes it doesn't work out that way, and that is OK.

After my first year at Central Michigan University, I wish I could say I had good memories of my first set of roommates.

One of my friends from high school and I transferred from the same college, and we decided to live together. Knowing I wouldn't be starting fresh at a completely new college on my own made me feel so much better.

As time went by, my friend and I started to clash. Our living expectations were different, we had different styles of communication and our friendship started to drift. We went from having small disagreements, like whether to keep the window open, to not even talking to each other most days.

The worst part was, my two other suitemates became good friends with my roommate.

Things kept getting worse. It got to the point where I would find excuses to stay out of my dorm. I felt so unwelcome, and I wanted to avoid conflicts at all costs.

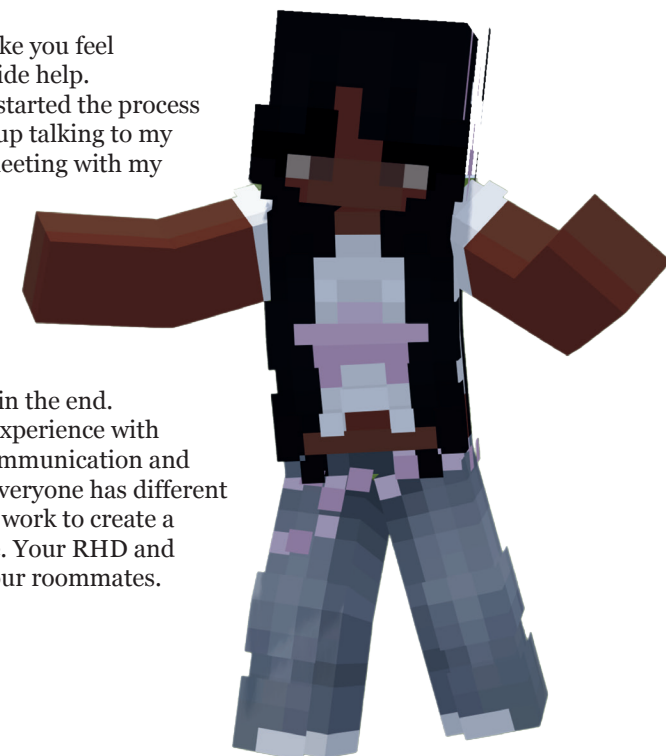
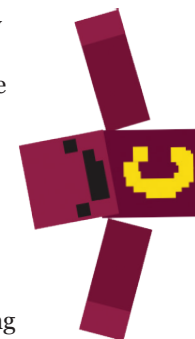
It's normal to have the occasional disagreement and argument with roommates,

but when those conflicts start to make you feel unwelcome, it's okay to ask for outside help.

Early into my second semester, I started the process of moving out of my dorm. I ended up talking to my Resident Assistant (RA) and then meeting with my Resident Hall Director (RHD), who helped me find roommates who lived similarly to me.

Though the moving out process was long and I had to meet a handful of people before finding my new roommates, everything worked out in the end.

Whether or not you have a good experience with your roommates, remember that communication and boundaries are always important. Everyone has different habits and needs, and it takes some work to create a living space that works for everyone. Your RHD and RAs are there to support you and your roommates.



Crushing loaf and saving coin

Managing finances as a new student

hrrm..

By Cristin Coppess
Staff reporter

One of the biggest challenges for new students is financial management. Coming to college is a huge step toward being independent, and knowing how to handle your money is crucial when you're paying thousands of dollars in tuition.

Here are a few big things that incoming students should keep in mind:

Spending FLEX Dollars

To start, FLEX Dollars are basically pre-paid funds that act like a debit card. You can use them at any dining location on campus, so if you want to grab a cup of coffee between classes, lunch at the Bovee University Center or a snack outside of the dining halls, this is where those funds could come into play.

The amount of FLEX dollars you have is tied to your meal plan. Coming to campus for the first time, you'll be surprised just how fast you can deplete your balance. Getting Starbucks or Einstein Bros. Bagels before every class might seem like a good idea, but trust me, you'll run out of funds before gentle break.

If you want to make sure you have enough FLEX for the duration of the semester, here's an easy way to budget it out.

Divide your starting amount by the number of weeks per semester (16). The number you get is your weekly budget. If you limit your Flex spending to that amount every week, you will have more than enough to last you throughout the semester.



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For example:

- 600 Flex dollars = \$37.50 per week
- 400 Flex dollars = \$25 per week
- 300 Flex dollars = \$18.75 per week

Realistically, you probably won't spend the full amount of Flex per week, so you'll more than likely have some to spare when you want to treat yourself. Any leftover Flex you have at the end of the fall semester will roll over into spring.

However, fair warning: If you don't work through those funds by the end of the spring semester, you'll lose them by the start of the next academic year.

Student billing and financial aid – know what you owe

I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to check your billing statements. At the start of every month, students receive an email notifying them if a balance is due. Charges can include anything from tuition and fees to bookstore purchases.

It's very important for students to watch for these emails. College isn't cheap and it's no fun to be hit with a last-minute bill during the final week of the semester. If not paid on time, additional late charges will be added to the initial amount.

All of your billing information and financial aid can be found through your CMich account. The hyperlinks to those portals are easily visible once you sign in to the website. And if you're helplessly lost while navigating the website, there's always the search bar.

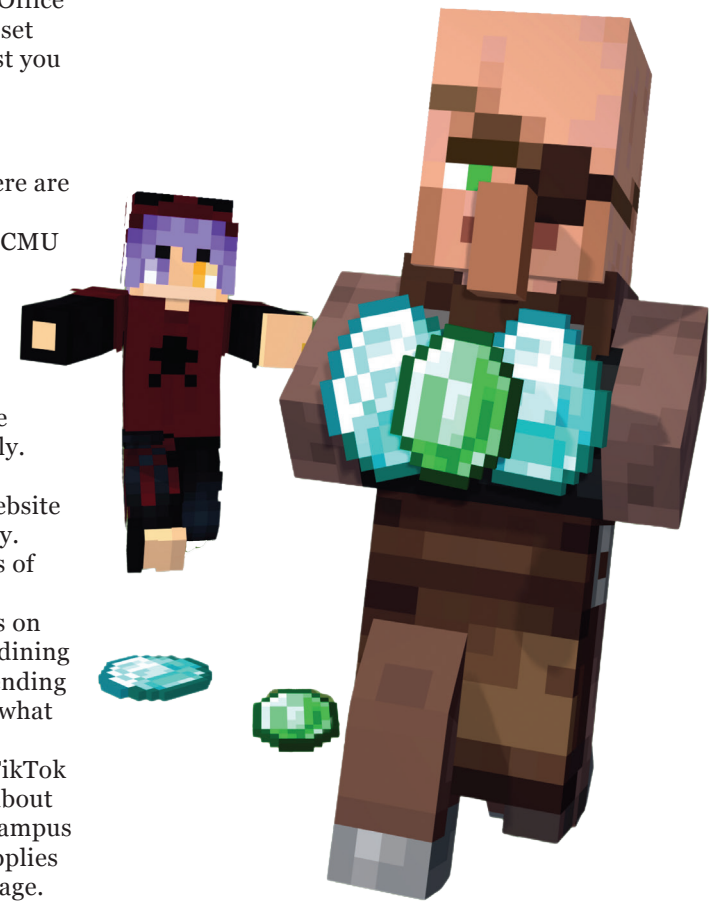
If you are really struggling, don't hesitate to visit the

Student Account Services and University Billing Office at Bovee University Center, Room 119C. You can set up an appointment, and a staff member will assist you with anything you need.

Saving money as a student

While being in college costs a pretty penny, there are a lot of tricks students can use to save money.

- Buying textbooks: Don't just buy from the CMU bookstore (but if you do, try and get them used). Shop around online at sites such as Amazon, Chegg and Thrift Books to find the best prices.
- Student discounts: Lots of companies, including Spotify, Amazon and Target have special promotions for college students only. Take advantage of them!
- Get a job on campus: Check the CMICH website for available jobs around campus and apply. There's something for everyone, regardless of whether you are work-study eligible.
- Dining out: There are plenty of restaurants on campus where you can use FLEX, and the dining halls only cost a meal swipe. Save your spending money for things that aren't food – that's what your meal swipes and Flex dollars are for.
- Dorms: Don't blindly buy the things that TikTok tells you that you need. If you are unsure about something, wait to buy it until you get to campus so you know for sure if you need it. This applies to anything from decor to furniture to storage.





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Shape your working world

How to find, and keep, a job while still being a student

By **Alexandrea Ladiski**
Staff reporter

A common question that many (if not all) college students ask themselves is: How will I pay for college?

Yes, there are loans, scholarships and grants to help pay for tuition. But what about life outside of academics? You probably want to have more than pocket change when you're going out with friends, or you may want to get food from someplace other than the dining hall. Maybe after taking out loans, you want to start saving, even while you're still in school.

So what's a good way to make the money to fit your college lifestyle?

The simple-yet-effective answer is, get a job.

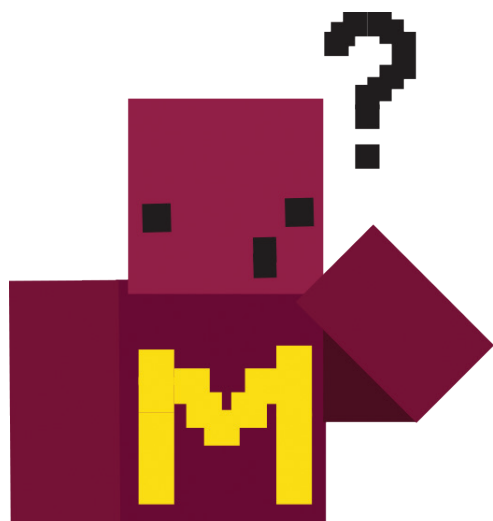
Then the questions become: Where do I find that job? Better yet, as a college student where do I find one that works around my schedule?

Central Michigan University has information on current vacant positions on-and-off campus that offer a range of opportunities to work around your class schedule. They just might also help fund your college life.

Where do I find a job?

You can find job openings through three key sections on the Student Employment Services Current Vacant Positions page (scan the QR code to see for yourself). These sections provide a list of available positions, with each one tailored to different time frames and job types, so you can easily find a gig that fits your schedule. They are:

- Academic year job postings
- Off-Campus job postings
- Summer job postings



Academic year job postings

This section shows a list of on-campus jobs.

For the 2024-2025 academic year, students can apply for General Student Assistance (GSA) positions, which are open to all students. Work-study positions are available, but only to students who have been awarded work-study on their Financial Aid award letter.

On-campus jobs are required to work around your class schedule. As a full-time college student, I have worked at an on-campus job for the past two years and will continue to do so going into my senior year of college.

Not having to worry about work interfering with my classes has been an immense relief. If this is a concern, an on-campus job is one of the best options for a good

work-life balance.

Students should contact departments directly to inquire about and pursue academic-year positions.

Off-campus job postings

For off-campus positions — those unaffiliated with the university and located around town — students should reach out to employers directly for applications and follow-ups. Employers expect personal contact for inquiries, so be proactive in reaching out. These jobs are not eligible for work-study or GSA funding.

Off-campus jobs are also posted on websites such as Indeed, ZipRecruiter and Glassdoor. You can also search for job openings on Google and a list of postings will pop up.

Summer job postings

All students can apply for GSA positions during the summer. Enrollment in summer classes is not required to apply for Summer work-study, but eligibility is limited to students who are enrolled in CMU and have been awarded work-study.

As with academic year jobs, students should contact departments directly to pursue summer positions.

Interview, resume and outfit prep

CMU has many resources that help students prepare before going into a job. This includes free professional attire, a resume review and a mock interview.

First impressions matter, and CMU students can take advantage of First Impressions, a university-affiliated program that provides free professional attire for interviews, job fairs and other events (You can check out their storefront on the ground floor of the Bovee University Center). All CMU students are eligible to receive one free outfit per semester, ensuring you look polished and confident when stepping into your next professional opportunity.

To schedule a resume review or mock interview, simply log into Career Central (cmich.12twenty.com/Login) and select a convenient time for your appointment. It's a great way to boost your chances of landing a job.

Before stepping into an interview, it's crucial to

have a strong resume that highlights your skills and experiences. Career peers at CMU are available to help students craft standout resumes and other application materials. They provide personalized tips and strategies, ensuring that your documents are tailored to the specific job you're targeting.

Career Peers are also available to help students practice their interview skills through mock interviews. During these sessions, you will practice your interview skills with a trained peer interviewer. These mock interviews are tailored to simulate real-world interview scenarios, so you can gain confidence and refine your responses.

Whether you're preparing for an academic-year job, summer position or an off-campus opportunity, scheduling a mock interview can help you go in feeling more confident.

Important steps before working

You've done the interview, and landed your campus-based dream job. Now what? Here are some steps to complete before beginning work:

Domestic students:

- Fill out tax forms and I-9 documents in person with Student Employment Services (Bovee U.C., Room 121).
- Bring two forms of ID (a photo identification like your CentralCard and your Social Security card are great options). No copies will be accepted.
- Once completed, you'll receive the Hire

Authorization Card (red card) to give to your supervisor.

International students:

- In addition to the above, bring forms I-94, I-20 and your passport.
- Follow the same steps as domestic students to complete paperwork and receive the red card.

Final thoughts: Finding a job that fits your college lifestyle

At the end of the day, finding a job that fits your college lifestyle is all about balance. Whether you're looking for something flexible to work around your class schedule, aiming to gain experience or simply wanting to earn a bit extra to enjoy those weekend outings, CMU offers plenty of resources to help you succeed.

By taking advantage of the job postings, interview prep, resume reviews and professional attire resources, you can confidently secure a position that supports both your financial goals and academic success.



Building blocks

Scan the QR code to check out Student Employment Services' job vacancies list.

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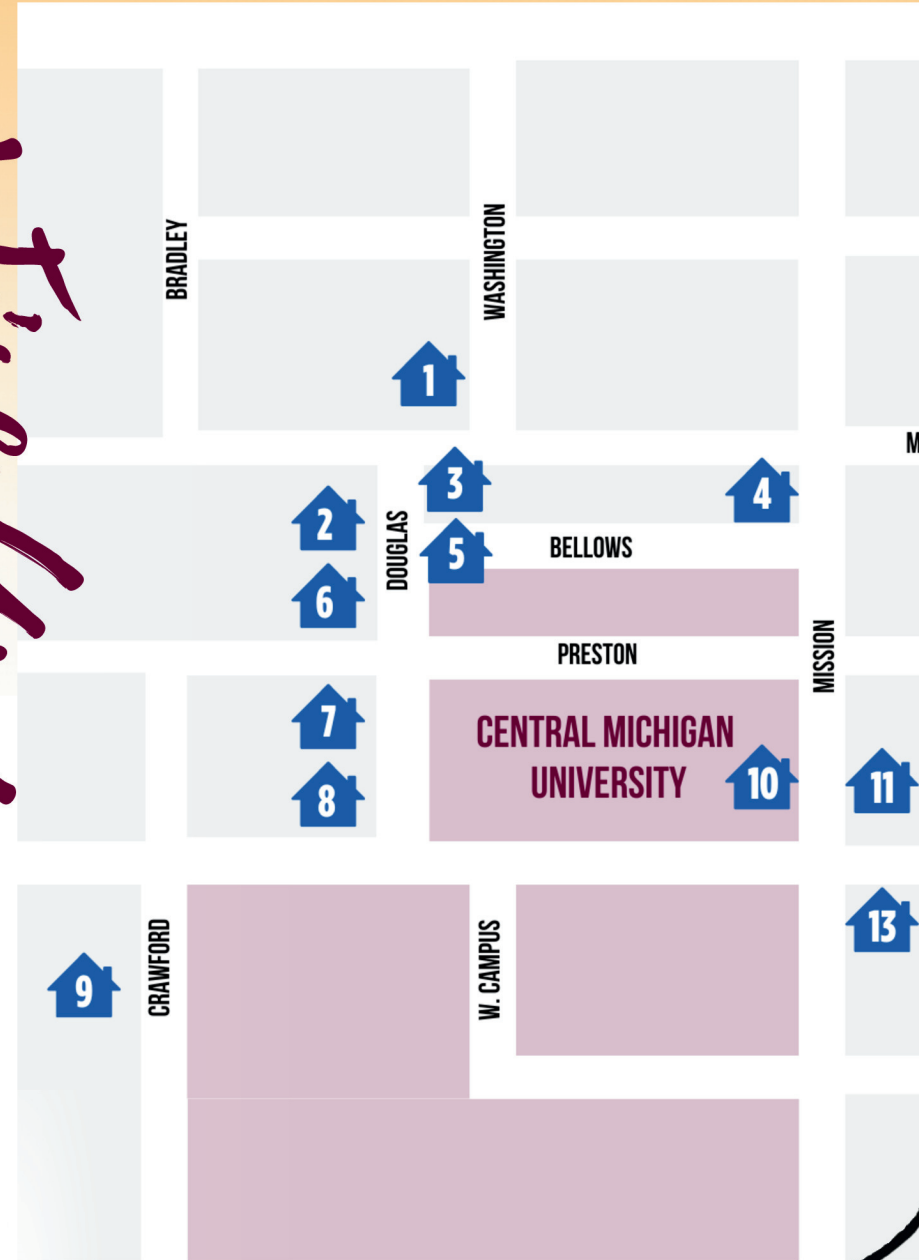
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CHAPTER TWO: Then we craft



New gameplan: Creative

Tips for finding the perfect off-campus home

By Mia Kerner
Staff reporter

Looking to move off campus? Here are our top five most important things to consider when searching for a rental.

1. Budget

Living on your own can be expensive, even with roommates. It is important to calculate how much you can realistically afford to spend on rent each month, especially factoring in utilities and food. A general rule of thumb to follow is not to spend more than 30% of your monthly income on rent. When in doubt, the more roommates, the cheaper the rent.

2. Location

If you don't have a vehicle on campus, be sure to narrow your apartment search to those in a walkable distance to campus, or search for a nearby bus stop. The Isabella County Transportation

Commission busing system, I-Ride, offers a free shuttle service to and from campus, from many of the community's apartment complexes.

3. Know what you're looking for (and what you're trying to avoid)

If there are specific amenities that you are looking for in an apartment, be sure to make a list of all of your non-negotiable items before scheduling a tour. The *Central Michigan Life* online apartment guide (centralmichiganapartments.com) offers a one-stop means of preliminary comparison shopping. Whether you need accessible entrances, have a beloved pet or can't live without an in-unit washer and dryer, don't be afraid to ask questions and advocate for your needs!

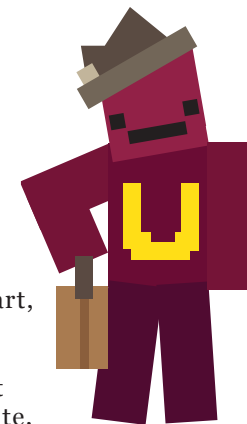
4. Roommates

If you're having trouble finding roommates, there are plenty of ways to find your perfect match(es).

Sites such as Roomster and Roomies are great places to start, and CMU social media groups offer places to post and find roommate listings. If you don't want to find your own roommate, many apartment complexes in Mount Pleasant offer roommate-matching services based on your personal preferences.

5. Enjoy the process

Everybody remembers their first apartment, regardless of the experience that they had. Even setbacks can lead you toward a better fit. Embracing the journey will help you to stay open-minded, patient and optimistic about finding a place that truly feels like home.



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Check out our playlists!



To build a Village

Our list of must-hit destinations on campus and beyond

By Blace Carpenter
Staff reporter

College is often said to be the time when students can find connections and make lasting friendships with others who share the goal of earning a degree in their desired field. However, since I started my path to getting a degree, I've found that I have a lot of time to myself, and have had the opportunity to learn more about Central Michigan University and the surrounding area.

Whenever you aren't studying for a test or preparing for an assignment, here are some "must-dos" on campus and beyond.

Exploring campus

One of the first things I did when I got to campus was try to check out everything I could. CMU's campus is over 400 acres, and there is plenty to see. Some of my favorites were:

- Looking at the fish tank in the Biosciences Building
- Walking around the CMU Greenhouse, which houses plants from around the world
- Checking out the different exhibitions that the Baber Room Gallery and the Clark Exhibit Gallery host throughout the year at the Charles V. Park Library.
- Looking at the different sculptures, memorials and pieces of art scattered around the campus grounds.

In my opinion, each building on campus has its own personality.

Whether it's the décor in the music building, the photos from previous shows at Bush Theatre or the different display cases throughout Brooks and Anspach Halls, each space has its own charm. I highly recommend checking out the entirety of CMU's campus.

Attending different events around campus

I've been to several events, both as a reporter and a student. CMU hosts hundreds of them each year, and they are led by various organizations and departments.

They could be discussions on different topics, lectures from professionals in various workforces, hands-on arts and crafts opportunities, watch parties for movies or political events, and cultural celebrations and holidays.

I had the opportunity to try foods I've never had before and learn about subjects I was unfamiliar with.

CMU also hosts several shows. Make sure to catch a play at the Bush Theatre, a concert by the CMU School of Music and the student-led Threads Fashion Show.

Information for upcoming events can be found on Engage Central.



Checking out Mount Pleasant and the local area

For the students who didn't grow up in Mount Pleasant, this city is our home-away-from-home. And just like campus, there is plenty to experience.

Personally, I love going on a nice walk while listening to some music, and there are a number of different trails and parks to explore. If you're up for a hike, make sure to check out:

- Chipp-A-Waters Park
- Deerfield Nature Park
- Viet Woods CMU Park
- Island Park
- Nelson Park

If walking through the woods isn't your thing, or if you just like to do some shopping, there are also stores all around Mission Street and downtown, offering everything from opportunities to create (like For Art's Sake) to make some music (we're looking at you, B's Music Shop) and more. One of my favorite things to do during the fall semester is get some coffee and look around Sleepy Dog Books and the different thrift and antique stores around town.

Our time at CMU as students is limited, so don't be afraid to get out and explore the area.

Building blocks of connection

Gain EXP at these attractions

By Mia Kerner
Staff reporter

Moving to a new city can be daunting, especially if it's far from home. Luckily, there are an abundance of things to do in Mount Pleasant to keep you connected and entertained.

Make your mark

For the artistic bunch, Art Reach of Mid Michigan is just the place. Art Reach offers a variety of classes in painting, drawing, ceramics, bookbinding, jewelry making, writing and so much more. Even if you don't consider yourself artistic, it may be fun to try out a new hobby!

Park it

The outdoorsy adventurers will definitely enjoy the numerous parks in Mount Pleasant, such as Mill Pond, Nelson, Island, Deerfield and Chipp-A-Waters. With walkable trails and beautiful scenery, it's hard to pass up the opportunity to get outside and touch some grass after a few hours of studying.

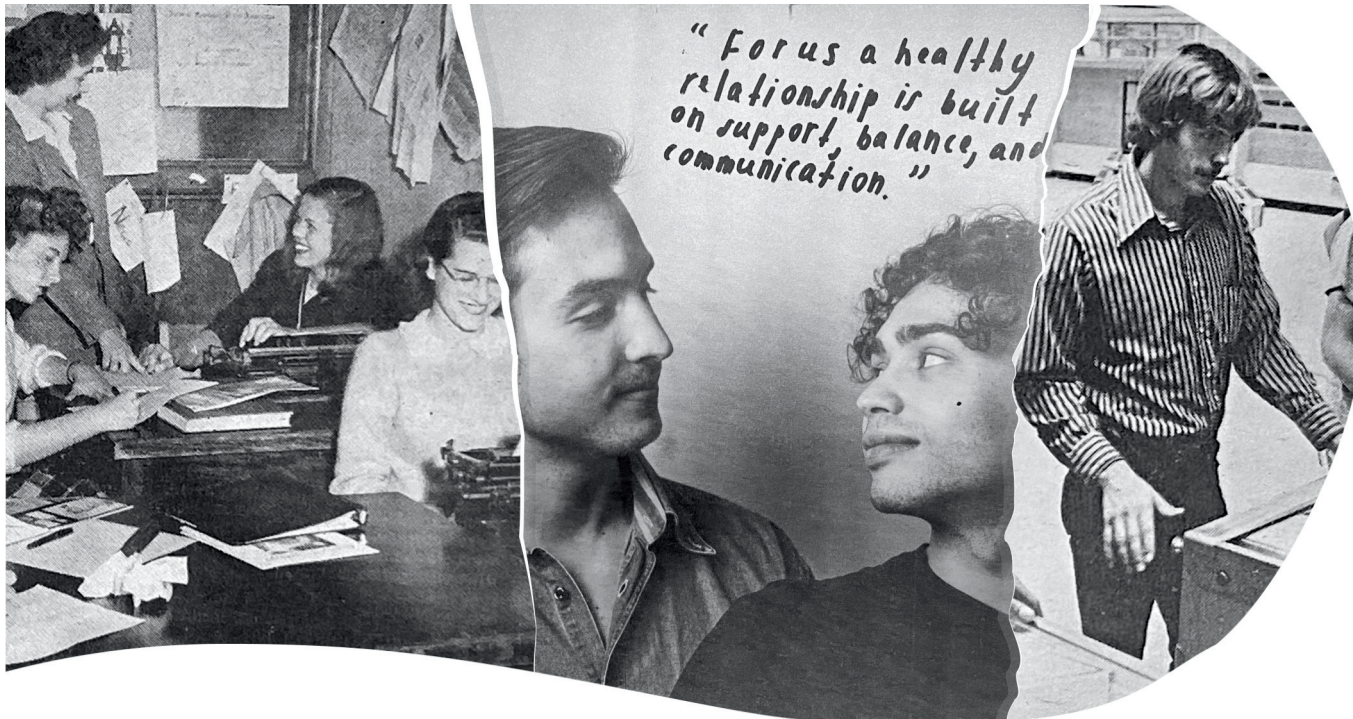
Take it down a notch

For a chill vibe and tasty treats, cafes such as Ponder Coffee, Creation Coffee and Taichi Bubble Tea are great spaces to unwind and take a moment for yourself. Whether you need a change of scenery while studying or just want to take yourself out on a date, Mount Pleasant's cafes are the way to go.

Phone a friend

If you're looking for some buddies to explore the city with, Central Michigan University also houses hundreds of registered student organizations (RSOs) that can help you make fast, life-long friends.

Don't be afraid to get out of your comfort zone at CMU! There are endless opportunities to try new things and make memories during your time in Mount Pleasant.



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Major changes

Not sure what to study or what groups to join?
You're not alone and it's totally OK.

By Keara Banks
Staff reporter

I'm Keara Banks, a rising sophomore at Central Michigan University majoring in political science and journalism, with minors in leadership and public law.

Well, kind of... I haven't officially declared my major, or any of my minors, and I'm still not 100% about this double-major thing. But this is the spiel that I say when someone asks me who I am.

What I should probably say is: "I'm Keara Banks, a rising sophomore at Central Michigan University who is only for sure about political science and is just trying to make herself sound less unqualified and more successful."

Here's the truth: I have my whole life planned out; however, each year those plans change a bit, and my first year of college put them to the test. I am an overly passionate person; I can truly see myself in so many career fields, but political science and law always stood out to me.

Then, a month ago, I was told that even with my major and two minors, I would need another minor or major to have enough credits to graduate in four years.

That was not what I wanted.

I planned on finishing my degree in three years so I could start law school early. I was genuinely upset, but what I didn't see at the moment was that this was opening another door for me.

I've been doing journalism since middle school, but didn't think I would have the time to major in it and it felt like a waste of money. Now, I have the ability to continue something I love and spend my senior year on campus instead of trying to speed up my college experience.

I'm Keara Banks, a rising sophomore at Central Michigan University who still hasn't declared her major.

I learned that I do not have to know the answers to everything, and get this: Neither do you.

Some of you spent the last year making the hardest choices of your life, so feel free to give yourself a break. Let your first year of college be the time where you finish your prerequisites, try new classes and maybe find a new passion that you didn't have the opportunity to explore before.

I'm Keara Banks, a rising sophomore at Central Michigan University who joined 20 clubs at the start of the year and am now only a part of five.



Let me reiterate: you do not have to know the answers to everything at this point of your academic career.

This first year of college is the best time to get out of your comfort zone. When MainStage rolls around in the fall (for your calendars, it's the Sunday before classes start, on Franklin Street between Preston and Bellows), go up to every table that even mildly interests you and sign up, then go to a meeting or two.

You don't have to fully commit to these clubs, groups or organizations; instead just try out a few. I still get emails from the poetry club on campus, even though I never went, and that's fine: I enjoy seeing what events they're running and what they're working on. Plus, I found registered student organizations (RSOs) that I love

because I took the first step of putting myself out there.

You do not have to be a part of 70 RSOs. It can be hard to understand that when some people list the handfuls of organizations that they're a part of. But do yourself a favor and leave comparing yourself to others in high school.

Our journeys in college are not linear, and being actively involved in one or two RSOs is better than spreading your energy thinly across 20.

So when am I?

I'm Keara Banks, a rising sophomore at Central Michigan University who still doesn't fully know what she is doing, but knows an undeclared major doesn't mean failure. She knows that it's important to let yourself have a year to fully experience college before making big decisions.

Defeating loneliness

It can take some time to find your stride. Support and resources are here to help.

By Grace Walker
Staff reporter

It's a Friday night, and you're sitting alone in your room listening to the music and laughter coming from the surrounding dorms. Maybe you're feeling homesick for your friends and family far away.

Loneliness can sometimes feel inescapable. It can appear while scrolling through Instagram and looking at the things your old high school friends are doing. It can appear when you're feeling alone in the dining hall, even though you're surrounded by groups of people enjoying each other's company.

When I first started college, no one told me how much time it would take to get comfortable with living on my own and finding my community. It took me a long time to adjust to an environment I barely knew. While socializing and finding a group of friends may come easily for some people, it definitely wasn't easy for me.

One key way to find your way is to join groups and clubs on campus. Joining *Central Michigan Life* and the Society

of Professional Journalists really helped me come out of my shell and meet people with similar interests to mine. Even during the times I felt lonelier than ever, I always looked forward to the days I would come into the CM Life office and talk to my coworkers.

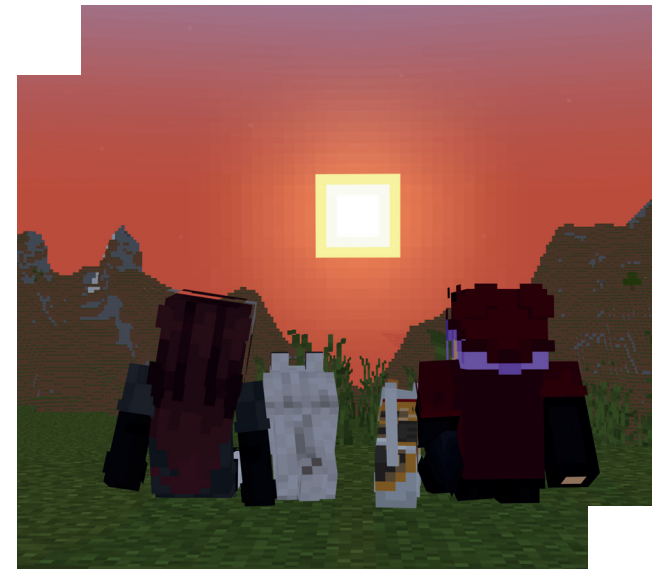
If this is intimidating, try interacting with the people in your classes. I found classes more enjoyable when I had a peer to talk with after class or ask questions. You may find new friends or be introduced to new groups by those peers.

Loneliness can be a difficult feeling to manage, but it's a normal one. According to the nonprofit group Active Minds, around 65% of college students reported feelings of loneliness, out of a survey of around 1,100 respondents.

Nonetheless, it's always important to reach out to others for support.

Central Michigan University's Counseling Center can be a great resource. Services are often free and include counseling, group therapy and 24/7 hotlines. You can reach them at 989-774-3381 or counsel@cmich.edu.

Loneliness can be difficult to manage, but finding



fun ways to spend time on your own can be extremely beneficial. Try to get coffee by yourself, take walks or even go to events on your own. I know it may seem intimidating at first, but it will get easier with practice.



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Practical parking

A first-timer's tips for avoiding the ticket tally

By Keara Banks
Staff reporter

A whopping \$150. That's not how much I paid to park on campus, it's how much I paid in parking tickets my freshman year. Take it from me, they add up quickly.

It didn't start off like this. At the start of my freshman year, I paid the school for my parking pass. I was a hardcore rule follower who had never even been pulled over. But then I found out I had to walk 10 minutes to get to my car, and suddenly I decided rules were for those who got caught.

At one point, I made it three days in the Merrill parking lot without getting a ticket. Then there were other times when I was less than lucky and got three tickets in a day.

On-campus parking permits are required Monday through Friday, from 2 a.m. to 5 p.m. Overnight parking is allowed only in certain lots — namely those reserved for residence halls and on-campus residents.

For freshmen, this basically means you can't park in the lots behind or by your dorm until Friday night, and Monday through Friday, you have to be parked in Lot 63, 70 or 75. Those are located south of Broomfield Street and designated for holders of maroon permits (we'll get to that in a moment).

Trust me: When the temperature hits 20 degrees, the urge to walk in the cold to get to your car and back is outweighed by any \$30 parking ticket you may possibly get. I would recommend you don't let the voices win, and instead just bundle up and make the trek across the road.

Being a freshman in parking terms means being a student having 25 or fewer credit hours. If you are dual-enrolled or were given credit opportunities in high school, you may be able to park in your residential hall lot.

Here's what you need to keep in mind when shopping for your parking permit. There are three types you will likely need when studying at CMU:

- The Maroon Permit is for a student that has less than 26 credits living on campus. It costs \$165 for the year.
- The South Permit is reserved for a campus resident student with more than 26 credits. It, too, costs \$165 per year, and allows you to park much closer to the residence halls.
- A Commuter Permit, ringing in at \$190 per year, is for students living off campus.

The graduate student permit costs \$190 per year and is designated for those living in graduate student housing.

Each of these have different restrictions and allow you to park in specific lots.

One thing that may sound silly but is really important is that when you park, your license plate has to be showing. That means no pulling through to spots unless you have



a front plate. Trust me, it sounds basic enough, but in the first several weeks, you'll see numerous cars in the lot with warning tickets for forgetting they couldn't back in or pull through.

Buying a parking permit is super easy. All you have to do is look up the Central Michigan University Parking Services website, and there will be a link right to sign in and order a permit for any vehicle. You can also find it after logging in under "My Account" and looking for register my vehicle & get a parking permit. This is also how you can track/pay tickets.

Parking Services is managed by the university police department; for all the information you could need, scan the QR code.

Don't let parking services become your frenemy like

me. Save yourself \$100 — give or take — by parking in the right place and buying your permit.



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blocks**

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Village@Bluegrass	:21	:51	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
University Meadows	:25	:55	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Union Square	:29	:59	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Target			UPON REQUEST
Music Building Lot #33	:42	:12	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Washington/Ojibway	:44	:14	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Anspach/Pearce	:45	:15	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Ronan/Grawn	:47	:17	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Main St./Gaylord	:48	:18	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
MMC/Doan Center			UPON REQUEST
Washington/Clayton	:05	:35	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Larzalere	:06	:36	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Wightman	:07	:37	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Park Library	:08	:38	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Music Building Lot #33	:12	:42	EVERY 1/2 HOUR

GOLD ROUTE

SAC/McGuirk	:13	:43	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Stadium Mall			UPON REQUEST
TJMaxx			UPON REQUEST
Walmart			UPON REQUEST
Copper Beech	:26	:56	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
The Reserve	:28	:58	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Jamestown Apts.	:30	:00	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Broomfield Mall			UPON REQUEST
Music Building Lot #33	:42	:12	EVERY 1/2 HOUR

DEERFIELD

Towers	:15	:45	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Deming/Edgewood	:16	:46	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Westpoint Village	:18	:48	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
The Heights	:20	:50	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Lexington Ridge	:25	:55	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Theunissen Lot#70	:27	:57	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Commuter Lot #75	:29	:59	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
SAC/McGuirk	:30	:00	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Music Building Lot #33	:42	:12	EVERY 1/2 HOUR

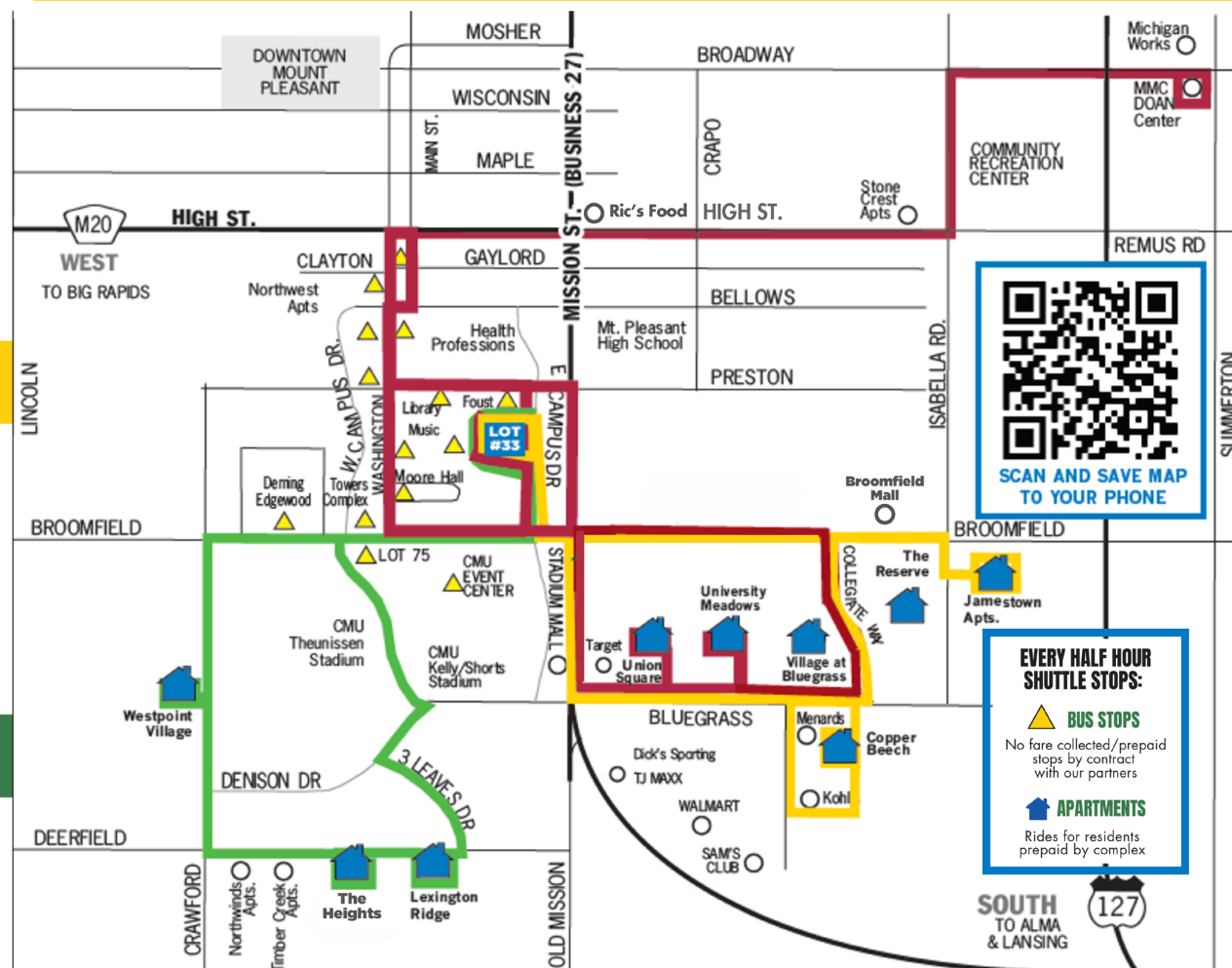
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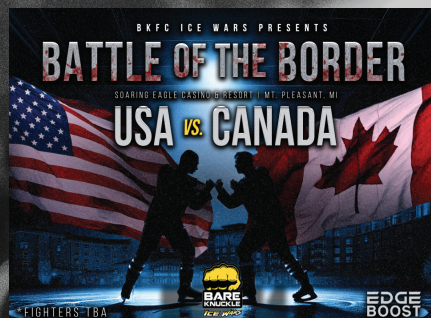
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