

opinion

On or off campus- a meal plan is the way to go!

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Nothing can compare to that feeling when you walk through those two beautiful sets of glass doors and go right up to a welcoming smile of one of the convo workers.

The smell of freshly cooked food flooding your nose from almost every direction, unlimited amounts just sitting there at your fingertips. And the best part is being able to sit there with your friends; laughing and eating to your heart's content.

For me, Convo and the Eagle's Nest has always been a place where I know friends will be at to sit back and relax while getting some work done or bonding with

the track team after practices.

Even when living off campus, still having a meal plan is something very crucial to me. It gives me time to get done what I need to get done and is well worth the money. My uncle always says that college students are the poorest people so it can make budgeting your money a lot easier.

Instead of having to split your income or allowance, it is already done for you. You do not have to worry about starving on Ramen till the end of the week or begging friends for a few dollars for a slice of pizza. Everything is laid out for you.

Whether you are on a full ride scholarship, have a few sponsors covering your back or living off of student loans, you may be able to

fund your meal plan without using a dime of your money. Meal plans are typically covered under room and board, so if your financial aid extends to those expenses, you could be in luck.

Paying for a meal plan allows students to not have to worry about having enough cash on them to get through the semester. Students do not have to think about about the fluctuating costs of groceries or how to get to the store to buy food. Once your meal plan is paid for, you are all set for the upcoming semester, and you can enjoy a variety of foods that are consistently prepared for you.

When in a crunch for a quick meal, the closest option that does not involve campus food would be fast food which does not have

nearly as many healthy choices as a place, like say convo does.

Since I am heavily involved with sports and my major here at AU, it would be nearly impossible for me to find time to go back to my house or apartment to make a meal or to even have a set meal prep for the week.

Meal plans work for students who are on campus the most. These are the students who eat every meal in the cafeterias, including on the weekends. It is basically a guarantee that you will be covered for every food need you can think of.

But your schedule does not always work out like you hope it would and soon you find that you have no time to go sit down and eat. This is where Tapingo steps in.

Tapingo has also always been a lifesaver with my busy schedule, if I only have 15 minutes before my next class then I just order some food to pick up on the way. Not too hungry but still need a little something to keep you going? Stop by Eagle's Nest and grab a quick bag of chips or fruit cup using your swipe!

Since the food is served buffet-style in convo it really makes up for the cost. One swipe allows you to eat as much as you can while you are there. If you are an athlete or just have a big appetite, this may be extremely beneficial to you. Also, you are welcome to stay as long as you like— so break out the homework and when you are hungry again, go back for more.

Why can't upperclassman live off-campus?

RACHEL RAMSEY
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Living on campus can be a great experience. Whether it's meeting new friends, being close to Convo and the Eagle's Nest or living right next door to your classes, you can make plenty of memories living in the dorms. But, it's becoming harder every year to get into the senior apartments on campus and living in dorms without air conditioning can be a hassle.

Personally, being 21 years old and living in a dorm is somewhat annoying. The university rule from Residence Life handbook is that you have to be 22 years old by October 1 of your senior to live off-

campus. Keep in mind, there isn't a lot of students who turn 22 before October 1 of their senior year.

I find this frustrating because I will be 22 years old on November 13. What difference does a month make? I think juniors and seniors should be allowed to live off-campus. Not only is the freshman class increasing every year, but some of the older upperclassmen dorms are the ones that need the most work done like Jacobs Hall.

Like my friends who go to different universities, I want to have a house or live in a apartment and try to take on the responsibility of paying bills and utilities. Living off campus would prepare me for when I graduate, because I would

know what to expect when I get an apartment of my own. I think the school should look into changing the off-campus rules or at least allow seniors who are 21 by October of their senior year to live off-campus.

It's also more difficult to get into a senior apartment on campus. Residence Life has changed the point system to where the points taken for the lottery is the average of the whole apartment group when it used to be the person with the highest amount of points got into the lottery.

In 2017, going into my junior year, I was in a lottery group with three incoming seniors. Usually, there is enough points to get an

apartment with three seniors and one junior. My apartment group did it when they were juniors and none of us had been written up or deducted points for our lottery score. We were put into the lottery but all of the apartments were taken before our lottery time.

Also, I'm a 21 year old senior and I don't get the same luxury of drinking beer and wine like the others do in the senior apartments. I understand that the dorms have residents who aren't 21 and Ashland is a "dry campus" but it's frustrating. It's my last year of college, I'm 21 and I worked just as hard in school as those who are in the senior apartments. I deserve those and other luxuries as a senior in

college.

I'm an adult, I want to be able to live on my own and not in a dorm. Don't get me wrong, I loved living in a dorm my first couple of years, but being a senior, I didn't even get into the dorm I wanted this year and I want to grow and live where I can be an adult and others feel the same way.

It makes more sense and a lot of universities like The Ohio State University allows students of junior and senior status to live off-campus.

To be honest, a senior really doesn't want to live their last full year of college in a dorm with no air conditioning. Just a thought.



MADISON BEMENT

Ransey's dorm room in Jacob's Hall that she shares with her roommate Madison.

the Collegian

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The views expressed in the columns do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Collegian* or Ashland University.

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