

College Life in Montgomery

A student's guide to Alabama State University and Auburn University at Montgomery

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Alabama's capital city is home to two universities — Alabama State University, an HBCU known for the Mighty Marching Hornets, and Auburn University at Montgomery — giving students a capital-city setting with two distinct campus communities to choose from.

Quick Facts

Universities	Alabama State University (SWAC, HBCU) & Auburn University at Montgomery (Gulf South D2)
Setting	State capital city
ASU known for	Music / marching band (Mighty Marching Hornets), business
AUM known for	Business, nursing, criminal justice

Housing & Cost of Living

Off-campus rentals near Alabama State typically run \$400–\$800/month for shared or single units, with a citywide student-housing average around \$939/month. Budgeting \$500–\$700/month for housing is realistic for most students.

- Most student housing is within walking or short biking distance of campus
- The Montgomery Area Regional Transit (MART) bus system offers affordable service
- Nearby shopping centers like Eastchase and Eastgate are convenient for everyday needs

Getting Around

MART's bus system provides affordable transit around the city, and much of student housing sits close enough to walk or bike to campus. That said, a car adds real flexibility for reaching downtown, shopping, and the wider Montgomery area.

Food & Nightlife

Downtown Montgomery is where most of the action concentrates — Tower Taproom's 57-tap self-pour setup, AviatorBar, and Paradigm Lounge (cocktails and hookah in a more upscale setting) cover a range of nightlife styles. For food, Plant Bae serves fast-casual vegan options, and Cooking with Love brings genuine Southern cuisine to downtown.

Things to Do

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Riverfront Park hosts outdoor concerts, and Riverwalk Stadium is home to minor league baseball right downtown — an easy, affordable night out. The city runs a steady calendar of art walks, food truck festivals, and cultural celebrations, and downtown Montgomery's museums and civil rights history sites are genuinely significant, giving students easy access to some of the country's most important historical landmarks.

Staying Safe

Like any city, safety varies by neighborhood — it's worth sticking to well-lit, populated areas at night, and campus security at both ASU and AUM maintains a regular presence. Check current safety information directly with each university's police department.

Questions Students & Parents Ask

Do I need a car in Montgomery?

It helps, though MART's bus system and close-in student housing cover a lot of day-to-day needs without one. A car adds flexibility for exploring the wider city.

What's the difference between ASU and AUM?

Alabama State University is a SWAC-conference HBCU known for its music and marching band tradition; Auburn University at Montgomery competes in the Gulf South Conference (Division II) and is known for business, nursing, and criminal justice programs. Both call Montgomery home.

Looking at housing near ASU or AUM, or thinking about Montgomery long-term? I'd love to help you explore what's available.