

A dark blue, irregularly shaped graphic with a splatter effect, containing the text "Affordable Housing". The graphic has a rough, hand-painted appearance with various shades of blue and white splatters around its edges. The text is centered within the dark blue area.

# Affordable Housing



For  
Graduate  
Students!

# Agenda

- Introduction
- Undergraduate Housing vs Grad Housing
- Cost of Attendance/Living
- Current Housing Opportunities
- Think Tank – potential opportunities



# Introductions

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- Full time graduate student at Drexel Creative Arts Therapy Program
- Former educator in arts programming
- Philadelphia native
- Mother and Wife
- Low income household


# My “Why?”

- Graduated Kutztown University in 2011 – no plans to continue
- Worked in field for 3 years before making a switch
- Worked in new field for 3 years before craving Grad school
- Got married and had a son
- Applied to Grad School in 2019 and was accepted
- Struggled finding affordable housing (income, limited options, etc.)
- Shared experiences with others

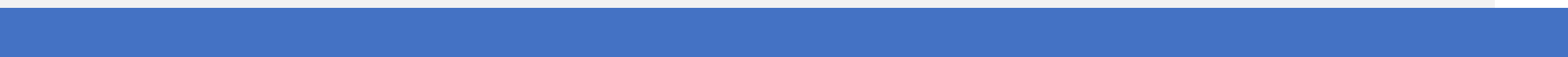
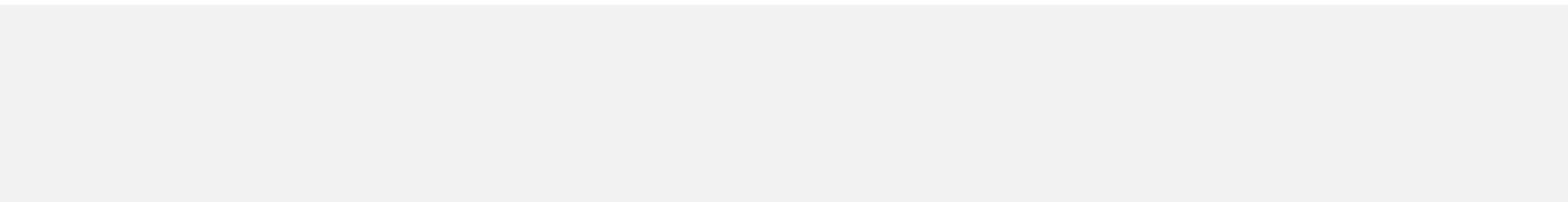



# Undergrad Housing VS Graduate Housing

The differentiations in experience

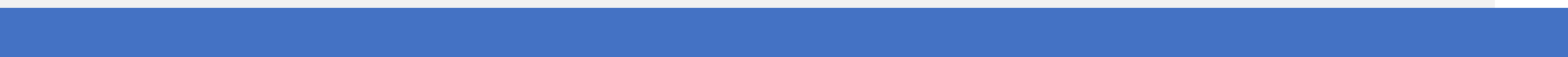
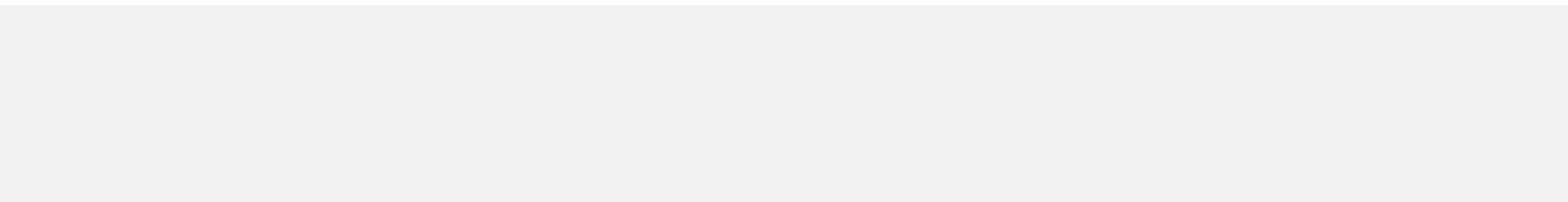


What was your  
experience with locating  
housing in undergrad?





How was it different in  
graduate school?





# Undergrad vs Graduate

## **Undergraduate Housing Process**

- Office/Rep contacts about selection
- List of available options on campus
- More viable options off campus (shared living, financial assistance, accessibility)

## **Graduate Housing Process**

- Responsible for locating housing
- Usually one option available on campus \$\$\$
- Encouraged to look off campus
- Options are limited off campus (dependents, limited finances, credit)



# The Flexibility of Undergrad

- **NO DEPENDENTS**
  - Access to on campus dorms
  - Flexibility with off campus assignments (1 room = \$450 -\$750)
- **ACCESS TO MORE FUNDING**
  - Scholarships
  - Grants
  - Co-op education
- **FAMILY SUPPORT**
  - Cosigner
  - Accessibility to higher priced apartments near university

# Assumptions of Graduate Students

- Independent
- Continuing Education (fresh out of undergrad)
- Part-time options available
- Corporate employment (full time, benefits, salary)
- Single with no dependents
- Family support



Fun Fact: Average  
Graduate student is 33  
years old

Source: <https://www.unl.edu/mentoring/>



# The Obstacles of Graduate

- **COMPLEX HOUSING NEEDS**
  - Dependents & Spouses limit options
  - Need spacing for studying (environment differences)
- **LIMITED ON CAMPUS HOUSING**
- **LIMITED SUPPORT**
  - Rely less on family
  - Rep not available to guide (area info, resources, etc.)
- **LESS FUNDING AVAILABLE**
  - Loans > Scholarships
  - Limited funded positions

# GRADUATE HOUSING IN PHILLY

- Drexel University – 1 dorm (\$4,485-\$4,635 quarterly)
- Temple University – 1 dorm (\$6,973 each semester)
- University of Pennsylvania – 1 dorm (\$1,681 monthly)
- Jefferson University – 1 dorm (\$1,433 monthly)
- LaSalle - none

**\*Rates are for One Bedroom Apartment found on University websites\***

# OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING IN PHILLY

- 39<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut - \$1678 per month
- 49<sup>th</sup> and Spruce - \$1100 per month (income restrictions)
- Brewerytown - \$1807 per month (income restrictions)
- 52nd street - \$2000 per month

**\*Rates are for Two Bedroom Apartment\***



# Cost of Attendance/Living

The financial stress of Graduate students



2019-2020 undergraduate tuition & fees, books & supplies, and living costs comparison Comparison Table					
School Name	In-State Tuition	Out-of-State Tuition	Book& Supplies	On-Campus Living	Off-Campus Living
Drexel University	\$54,516	\$54,516	\$1,700	\$15,441	\$15,441
La Salle University	\$31,650	\$31,650	\$1,000	\$16,150	\$8,500
University of Pennsylvania	\$57,770	\$57,770	\$1,358	\$18,136	\$16,352
The University of the Arts	\$46,680	\$46,680	\$4,014	\$19,478	\$16,740
University of the Sciences	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$1,050	\$20,466	\$20,466
Saint Joseph's University	\$46,550	\$46,550	\$893	\$16,187	\$16,187
Temple University	\$16,970	\$29,882	\$1,479	\$16,922	\$16,922
Thomas Jefferson University	\$41,866	\$41,866	\$1,600	\$18,312	\$18,586

\*Taken from [www.collegetuitioncompare.com](http://www.collegetuitioncompare.com)

## Profiles

# Graduate Affordability

	Student A	Student B	Student C	Student D
University	Drexel University \$54,516	Lewis Katz School for Medicine (Temple) \$56,628	University of Pennsylvania \$57,770	Drexel University \$54,516
Housing	Off-campus Shared \$8,220	Off-Campus \$15,600	Off-Campus Shared \$10,500	Off Campus \$10,800
Funding	Private Pay (enough to cover costs)	Student Loans	Private Pay Work Study	Student Loans
Additional Income	None Unable to work	None Unable to work	None	None


# Financial Stress Leads To...

- Fatigue
- Lower Grades
- Depression
- Affect Connections
- Dropping out

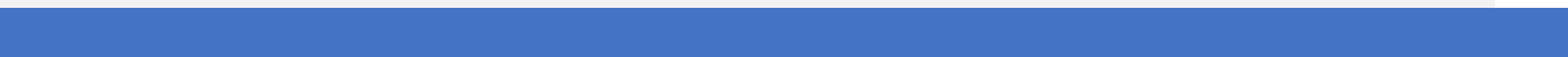
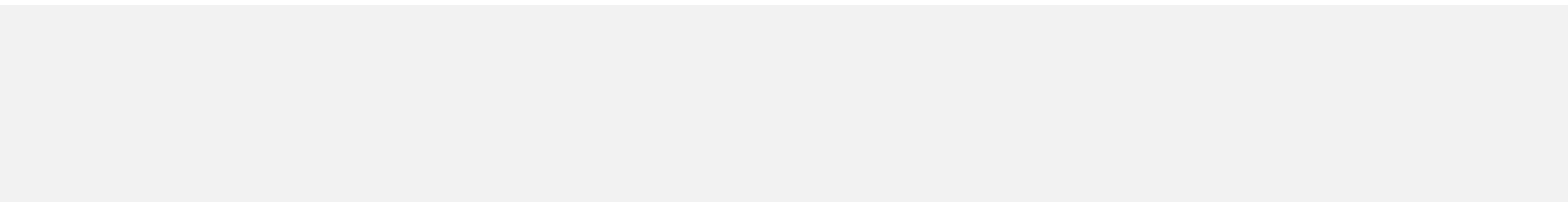


# Current Opportunities

Or lack there of...



What housing/support opportunities are available for Grad students?



# Current Opportunities

- Resident Assistant – covers cost of housing
- Graduate Assistant – covers tuition with stipend
- Fellowships – Give an awarded amount of money
- Part-time/Online Programs

# Where they fall short...

- Resident Assistant jobs are limited
- Fellowships are limited and offer a small amount compared to costs
- Part-time/Online programs aren't available for all disciplines
- Graduate Assistantships are limited by program
  - Some programs don't have any
  - Some only offer stipends

When asked  
what could  
have improved  
housing  
experience,  
students said...



“A scholarship for cost of living”



“More affordable on campus options or assistance with finding off campus housing”



“Having affordable options to choose from”



“A more livable stipend; subsidized graduate apartments”



“More scholarship/assistantship opportunities from my program”



“Being offered on campus affordable housing and/or being given guidance on the area would have been valuable”





# Potential Ideas

Ways we can begin to make housing more affordable

# My propositions



Creating more stipends for housing (universities)



Creating more funded positions for graduate students that can be beneficial (Housing Coach – resident students)



Collaborating with local organizations (PHA, Help Philadelphia, Welfare, etc.)



University owned properties for non-traditional students



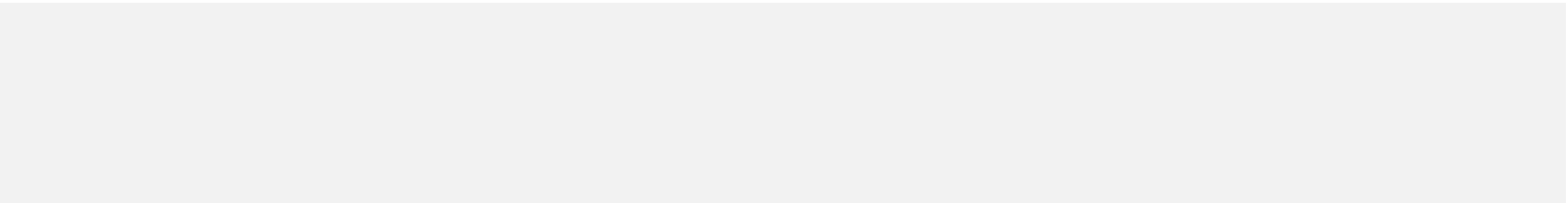
Distributing more funds towards Graduate Scholarships



Continue looking at creating flexible programs



What are your ideas?



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