Since it is difficult to find an affordable apartment with all the plush accommodations of home, it is a good idea to decide what is most important to you (what you can live without). You may want to rank the following features in order of your priorities and/or use this list when looking at apartments to keep track of which ones have what features.

- Is the management good? Do they respond promptly to concerns?
- Are they easy to get in contact with?
- How well do they take care of the property?
- How quickly do things get fixed?
- What are the benefits and drawbacks of a 6 month vs. 12 month lease?
- Does everything in the apartment work right now?
- Is parking available, and if so, where and how much does it cost?
- What happens if you need to break the lease early?
- Is there any construction projects planned for the surrounding area in the next couple years?
- Will there be construction projects in adjacent buildings that might disturb the peace?
- Would you feel safe walking home here alone at 10PM?
- On site security?

You may want to rank the following features in order of your priorities and/or use this list when looking at apartments to keep track of the differences.

- On-site or in unit (rare) laundry facilities
- Quiet (i.e.: inside an inner courtyard or mid-block on a quiet street, vs. a noisy corner)
- Modern amenities
  - Internet
  - Garbage disposal
  - Overhead lights
  - Cable TV
  - Refrigerator
  - Dishwasher
- Parking garage or street parking
- Fitness equipment or near a gym
- Walking distance to Pacific (vs. a short bus ride or commute)
- “Good safe” neighborhood
- Convenient location to transportation (to school, going out, restaurants, supermarkets)
- In unit water heater (to ensure hot water)
- Utilities included in rent (water, garbage, sewer)
- Good ventilation
- View
- Pets allowed
- Does it get AM or PM sunlight, or very little?
- Furnished
- Carpet / Hardwood floor
- Closet space
- Window shades
- Balcony
- BBQ grill, patio and/or recreation area
- Other