

Senior Living Comparison Chart



As you narrow down your options and begin comparing communities side-by-side, it's important that you're evaluating the same criteria each time. Use this handy chart to track your information and feelings about each facility as you research and visit. It will also help you keep it all straight!

Some ways that people use this chart:

- Rank three communities against each other for each criteria (1-2-3) *or*
- Assign a score to each community for each criteria (1-10) *or*
- Simply take notes for each community to remember

	Community A	Community B	Community C
Location			
Is it close to family? Close to medical centers?			
Care Types			
Independent living, Assisted living, Memory care, etc.			
Resident Engagement			
When you visit, do the residents seem happy, social, relaxed?			
Safety Features			
Call systems, emergency plans, grab bars, accessibility?			
Services Included			
Meals, housekeeping, transportation, maintenance?			

Extra Amenities			
Wellness programs, a beauty salon? Are pets allowed?			
Staff			
Is the staff friendly? What's the resident-to-staff ratio?			
Reputation			
Online reviews, word-of-mouth, doctor recommendations			
Flexibility & Future			
Can care be adjusted easily as needs change?			
Intangibles			
What's your "gut feeling" when you walk in?			
Move-In Costs			
Fees, deposits, etc.			
Cost Structure*			
What's the monthly rent? Is it all-inclusive, rent + care, or a-la-carte?			

* Not all senior living communities are priced in the same way. Make sure you understand if the prices you're looking at are "all-inclusive," "rent + care," or "a la cart." Use the next page for a quick look at the differences:

	All-Inclusive	Rent + Care Type	A La Carte
Cost	All facets of care, recreation, dining, and lifestyle are built into your monthly rate.	Rent and universal amenities and support are built into your monthly rate. Care type costs are determined by needs.	Base rent for housing, services such as medical care, meals, transportation are each charged separately .
Budget Predictability	Consistent monthly payments	Consistent monthly payments	Variable monthly payments
Customization	Bundled services, adjustments are available	Determined by regular personal needs assessments	Pay only for services you need
Service Availability	Immediate access to a full range of care and services	Access to services based on your care plan	Services may require scheduling or requests
PRO	Budgeting ease + peace of mind knowing every kind of help is available	Budgeting ease + set monthly costs based on personal needs. More care levels include both lower- and higher-needs residents .	Potentially lower costs for those requiring less care
CON	Steady costs. Low-needs residents can pay for more than they need. Higher-need residents may not be eligible.	Variable costs. Care needs are assessed to determine changes in rates.	Unpredictable costs. Resident could be hesitant to request help or care in fear of higher costs.