

Information for Cell Phone Services in and around Washington DC

Long-Term Contracts & Deposit: All companies offer contracts, most of which are 2 years. These are typically the cheapest plans, but they often require a **social security number** or a **deposit**. The deposit varies according to the carrier from \$50 to \$500. You will get your deposit back if you pay your bill on time. Some carriers return your deposit after 1 year with a small interest, but others only return your deposit.

<u>Cell Phone Plans, Options & Features</u>: Cell phone carriers usually offer **Monthly plan**, **Family plan**, and **Pre-paid plan**. Before you sign on, make sure you understand what your phone plan includes, e.g. activation/termination fee, free phone, free night/weekend minutes, rollover minutes, and the expiration date of pre-paid minutes.

- Monthly plan: Most phone companies will designate certain times of day that calling is cheaper or free. Additionally, a lot of phone companies offer free mobile-to-mobile minutes. If you exceed a certain amount of minutes, cell phone carriers will charge for the extra minutes.
- <u>Family plan:</u> It does not require members of the plan to actually be family. This plan can also be cheaper, as the "family members" would share minutes and costs.
- Pre-paid plan: It is for which credit is purchased in advance of service use. You can recharge as much as you need.

Typically cell phone plans:

- Two-year contract
- Monthly plan
- Family plan
- Prepaid plan

* Be aware that some companies will deduct your minutes for both outgoing and incoming calls. Make sure you know and understand your plan to receive the best deals possible!

<u>Data Plans</u>: Keep in mind that if you're looking to purchase a smartphone, the data plan (sending emails, using the internet, etc) usually requires its own plan. Some providers offer pay-per-use data plans or data packages for those who plan to use these features more often.

<u>International Communication</u>: Consider international calling plans and international text messaging plans (sometimes separate / other times included) when deciding on your cell phone carrier and plan. You can always use Skype or buy International phone cards online.

<u>Cell phones</u>: You don't necessarily need to buy a new cell phone. You can continue to use your phone depending on your cell phone carriers. Check with your cell phone carriers.

^{*} The George Washington University does not favor any particular cell phone provider and strives to present this information in an objective and equitable manner.



Service Providers	Nearest Store	Monthly Plans	Pre-paid	Text Messaging/ International Calls
AT&T www.wireless.att.com at&t	1050 Connecticut Avenue, NW (202) 822-1350	Mobile Share® Value: • Unlimited talk and text. • Price range \$60- \$190 per month • 2-year contract • 300MB -20GB • Add additional device for \$15 up to (10 devices) • Deposits and other restrictions may apply.	 \$60/month unlimited talk, text to 102 countries and 2.5GB of data \$40/month 500 minutes talk, unlimited international text to 102 countries and 500 MB of data \$25/month 250 minutes talk, unlimited text to 102 countries and no data \$2/day unlimited talk, text to 102 countries and data per use 1¢/5KB 10¢/minute, 20¢/text *Check counties list on their websites 	Text Messaging Packages: • Monthly charge range:\$10-\$60 per month • Price: 20¢ - 10¢ per text International Calls Packages: Monthly range:\$30-\$120 Canada and Mexico: • Minutes: 80-500 minutes • Price: \$0.38-0.24 per minute Europe: • Minutes: 30-200 minutes • Price: \$1-0.60 per minute Rest of World: • Minutes: 15-100 minutes • Price: \$2-1.20 per minute
T-Mobile www.t-mobile.com/ T - Mobile	1850 K St., NW (202) 223-3850	For device (with visa & ID) • 2-year contract • +\$10 for SIM Starter Kit • Deposits and other restrictions may apply. • Monthly payment vary by device price	 Unlimited talk, text and international text to 102 countries for \$50 - \$80 / month with 1GB to unlimited 4G LTE data \$40/month unlimited talk, text and up to 500MB of 4G LTE data with no data overage charges. \$30 /month 1500 Talk & Text (with 30 MB of data) \$15/ month unlimited text & 10¢/minute *Check counties list on their websites 	Text Messaging Packages: Canada: 10¢/text to send or receive Other countries: 50¢/text to send and 10¢/text to receive International Calls Packages: \$10/month unlimited calls to landlines in over 50 countries and text to 150 countries unlimited mobile-to-mobile +\$5calling to 30+ countries for International Call charges vary by country
cricket www.mycricket.com	1947 14th St, NW (202) 986-9780		 \$20/month unlimited talk and text \$40-\$60 per month of unlimited talk and text for 35 countries and 500MB- 5GB 	Starting at \$10/ month for unlimited calls to landlines in select cities and towns in more than 90 countries worldwide, *Check counties list on their websites



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Sprint www.sprint.com Sprint ahead	2300 Washington Place Ne Suite 107S Rhode Island Station (202) 817-3163	For device (with visa & ID) • 2 year contracts. • Plans starting at \$25/month/line unlimited talk and text and 1GB of data • Deposits and other restrictions may apply.	Smartphone plans • \$60/month unlimited talk, text and data • \$40/month unlimited talk and text. Basic plans • \$50/month unlimited talk, text and data • \$35/month 500 talk and unlimited text and data. Sprint owns two service companies: 1. Boost Mobile Starting at \$40/month unlimited talk, text and data (http://www.boostmobile.com) 2. Virgin Mobile \$35-\$55/month with unlimited data and text and 300/ unlimited minutes. (www.virginmobileusa.com)	 \$15/month, unlimited calls to landlines in more than 60 countries and mobile devices in 35 countries. International Call charges vary by country *Check counties list on their websites
Verizon www.verizonwireless.com Verizonwireless	1736 L St., NW (202) 296-4400	For device (with visa & ID) • 2 year contracts. \$40/month per device + starting at \$20/ month account access. • Deposits and other restrictions may apply.	 Add additional \$5 to your plan to get 500MB, \$10 for 1 GB or \$20 for 3 GB of data Smartphone plans \$45/month unlimited talk and text and 500 MB of data Basic plans \$35/month 500 minutes, unlimited text and 500 MB of data 	 Standard International: Dialing charges vary by country Long Distance Value Plan: \$5/month plus rates (with cheaper rates) Message Standard Rates: 25¢ for each message sent and 20¢ each message received (most countries)

*This information is created as a guide for students. Prices are subject to change. Please visit the service provider to verify costs and plans.