

FHDA FRESHMAN HANDBOOK 2020



Welcome!

Hi New Student,

Welcome to the California Bay Area. We hope you are excited about college life and enjoy the richness in Silicon Valley.

*This booklet, *On Cloud Seven*, is a gift from your new schoolmates and alumni. We want to be friends with you and do our best to help you settle down quickly. Hopefully, you will get to know this area better and get the most out of your stay.*

Alongside with the booklet, our team also planned a Fall Orientation Program to help you better.

Check with our volunteers for the workshops and camps we offer.

Sincerely,

Your Friends

To-do List For Foreign Students

First thing when you arrived in the United States :

- Open a bank account [Refer to **Banking**]
- Get a phone service [Refer to **Mobile**]
- Download everyday apps [Refer to **Apps**]
- Come to our events!!! [Refer to **Dates**]
- Remember to call 911 for emergency



First thing when you arrived at your College:

- Submit TB Test and MMR record
- Get a Student ID and Clipper Card
- Take English & Math placement tests (with appointment)



Banking

Things To Consider:

- **Debit card** account (no need SSN)
- **Credit card** account (some banks can open this type of account *without SSN*)
- ATM cash withdrawal (often with a daily limit of \$1000)
- Saving account withdrawal limit
- Free checks for opening new accounts
- Student account offers (No monthly fee)
- On-campus branch (US Bank), overseas branch (Citibank)
- Wire Transfer: routing number & account number (fees applied)
- Mobile Banking App

Popular Banks:



Mobile

Popular Mobile Carrier:



Phone Plans:

- Prepaid (pay in advance for your mobile service and must refill or pay the next month before the end of the current 30-day period)
- Individual (choosing a plan with a set number of minutes and texts but overages can add up quickly on post-paid plans)
- Family Plan (Two general ways: shared data[one allotment of mobile data that is shared by all lines] or per-line fixed data[distribute the total amount of data equally between all lines automatically])
Different operators may have different amount of people in a plan. Most operators can have 4-5 people in a plan)

Approximate Price (Individual):

0.5-2GB	\$20-\$30
3-4GB	\$30-\$50
8-10GB	\$40-\$60
Unlimited	\$70-\$90

*Some unlimited plans have no hotspot usage

Homestay

Homestay provides daily breakfast and dinner. It is an excellent opportunity for you to explore foreign cultures and improve your English communication.

- The rent includes all utilities such as water, electricity, trash, and internet.
- Ask your host or reach out to ISP for any questions.
- Flat rate \$1,300 with breakfast and dinner or \$1,050 without meals
- Sample questions to ask the host family:
 - "How often may I use the **washer and dryer**?"
 - "Can I **bring friends** home? How long can they stay?"
 - "May I use the **stove and kitchenware**?"
 - "May I get a **receipt** for the rent?"
 - "Can I use the **living room/mailbox/storage**?"
 - "What do we (usually) have for **lunch/dinner**?"
 - "Is there a **quiet time** in the house?"
 - "When is the best time to **take a shower**?"
- Things you should pay attention to during homestay:
 - Laundry
 - Guest Visit
 - Kitchen Usage
 - Leasing Contract
 - Manners
 - Meals
 - Noise Level
 - Shower Time

Housing

Instruction from ISP:



Looking For Apartments:

- 99 Ranch Bulletin Board
- Facebook/WeChat Groups
- Trulia: <https://www.trulia.com/>
- Zillow: <https://www.zillow.com/>
- Craigslist: <https://sfbay.craigslist.org/d/apts-housing-for-rent/search/apa>

Set Up Utilities:

- Renter Insurance
- Electricity (PG&E)
- Internet (AT&T / Comcast)
- Water and Garbage (usually included)

Average Rent Around Cupertino:

Private Room	\$800-\$1200
Studio or 1 Bedroom Apt	\$1600-\$2600
2 Bedroom Apt	\$2200-\$3500
House (3 BD)	\$3000-\$4000

Healthcare

Services Provided At College Health Center:

- Flu shot
- Birth control items
- Psychological counseling
- Over-the-counter medicines
- Medical services (with a small fee)
- Referrals to specialists from campus doctor

Use Your Insurance:

- Keep the active insurance card, it will expire
- Check with your insurance company for the coverage
- Coverage varies between services (clinic visit, physical therapy, chiropractor...)
- Search on the insurance website for compatible clinics
- If uncertain, call and ask the clinic the insurance they accept before visiting
- If paid without insurance, save bills and receipts for reimbursement (may be declined)
- Sometimes a co-payment will be charged by the clinic even with insurance

Emergency clinic

Name	Working Hour	Address	Phone Number	Distance to Foothill College (Mile)	Distance to De Anza College (Mile)
El Camino Hospital Mountain View Emergency Room	24/7	2500 Grant Road, Mountain View, CA 94040 Entrance on, South Dr, Mountain View, CA 94040	(650) 940-7055	3.8	4.6
Instant Urgent Care	Mon-Fri: 09:00-19:00 Sat-Sun: 09:00-17:00	970 W El Camino Real #8, Sunnyvale, CA 94087	(408) 212-7420	9.5	5.5
VA Palo Alto Health Care System - Palo Alto Divisions: Emergency Department	24/7	3801 Miranda Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94304	(650) 849-0221	4.6	8.3
Pediatric Emergency Department: Stanford Hospital	24/7	900 Quarry Rd Ext, Palo Alto, CA 94304	(650)723-5111	9.6	14.2
El Camino Hospital Urgent Care - Cupertino	Mon-Sun: 09:00-19:00	19600 Vallco Pkwy Ste 170, #170, Cupertino CA 95014	(650) 338-4776	7.7	2.1
Palo Alto Medical Foundation Los Altos Center	Mon: 07:30-19:00 Tue-Fri: 07:30-18:00 Sat: 08:00-12:00 Sun: Off	370 Distel Cir, Los Altos, CA 94022	(650) 254-5200	3.9	7.2

Driver License

Knowledge Test:

- Practice sample tests provided on the DMV website
- Read the California Driver Handbook to prepare
- If you pass, a photo will be taken, and you will get a driver’s permit
- Prepare a \$35 application fee, photo ID, SSN, and 2 residency documents (utility, bills...)
- * For international students without SSN, bring passport, I-20, and I-94 (print from I-94 website)



Behind-the-wheel Test:

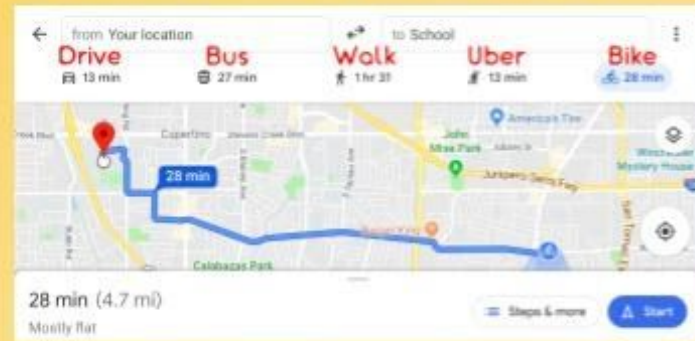
- Contact a driving school or private tutor to practice
- The behind-the-wheel tests are available by appointment only
- A California driver's license will be mailed to you after passing the test

DMV handbook

Transportation

Common Transportation:

- Drive, Uber/Lyft, Bus, Bike [google map screenshot]



Busing:

- The Eco Pass included in tuition allows De Anza/Foothill students take unlimited rides on Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) buses and light rail
- Get your Eco Pass from the Office of College Life (De Anza)/Smart Shop (Foothill).
- Use apps to see real-time info of VTA lines. Transit/Google Map

Bus routes to De Anza College:

- 23, 323, 25, 53, 54, 55, 81

• Bus Stops:

North of DAC Bookstore: 23, 81

East of DAC L Quad: 23, 53, 55

NE of Performing Art Building (orange): 23, 323, 25, 53, 54, 55

Bus routes to Foothill College:

- 40, 52

• Bus Stops:

West of FH 5700, 5800: 40, 52

NE of FH Campus Center: 40, 52

SE of FH Admission & Records: 40, 52

Side Notes:

Stelling Rd. same as Hollenbeck Ave.

De Anza Blvd. same as Sunnyvale-Saratoga Rd.

Biking:

- Bike in the traffic direction
- Helmet required by law for under 18
- Check out De Anza bike rental program
- Give hand signals before turning and stopping
- Do not ride on the sidewalk, ride on bike lane (green)
- Use appropriate lights and wear reflective jackets at night

Driving:

- Overnight parking is not permitted
- Purchase parking permits on MyPortal
- De Anza permits are valid in Foothill and vice-versa
- Parking permits are required when parking in the school parking lot
- Have your driver's licenses, car insurance card and vehicle registration with you when driving

* International students can drive and rent cars with licenses (English) from home country

Shopping

Department Stores:

- Costco (membership required)
- Target (household essentials)
- BestBuy (electronics)
- Staples (office supply)
- Walmart (hypermarket)



Grocery Stores:

- Safeway (American)(some open 24/7)
- Whole Foods (American)
- Marina Food (Chinese)
- Ranch 99 (Chinese)
- H-mart (Korean)
- Marukai Supermarket (Japanese)



Online Shopping:

- Reduce hustle, shop online
- Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/>
- Best Buy: <https://www.bestbuy.com/>
- eBay: <https://www.ebay.com/>
- Craigslist: <https://sfbay.craigslist.org/>
- Walmart: <https://www.walmart.com/>



Restaurants

Find more restaurants and reviews on



Around Foothill College:

- Sumika (Japanese)
- Rustic Oyster Bar (Seafood)
- Bluestone Lane (American)
- Aldo Los Altos (Italian)
- In N Out Burger (Fast food)
- More options at Los Altos Main St. & Mountain View Castro St.

Around De Anza College:

- Sizzling Lunch (Japanese)
- J & J BBQ (Hawaiian)
- Ike's Sandwiches (American)
- Tasty Pizza (Indian)
- Kobe Pho & Grill (Vietnamese)
- The City Fish (Seafood)
- More options at Cupertino Main St.



Everyday Apps:

			
Spotify (or Apple Music for music streaming)	Yelp (or Google Maps for restaurant search)	Transit (or Google Maps for public transport info)	Amazon (or Walmart for online shopping)
			
Venmo (or bank apps for digital payments)	Uber (or Lyft for ride share)	DoorDash (or UberEat for food delivery)	Google Maps (or Waze for navigation)

Local Info

South Bay Climate:

- Average summer temperature: 82°F (High) and 58°F (Low)
- Average winter temperature: 60°F (High) and 42°F (Low)
- Summer can get as hot as 108°F (42°C)
- Winter can get as cold as 31°F (-1°C)
- Rain seasons from November to April (get ready for shower)

Tipping:

- Tipping your service providers well is a way to show gratitude
- Following are some suggestions:
- Dine-in restaurants ~ 15-20%
- Food Delivery ~ 12%
- Not required for fast food and take out orders
- Taxi, Uber, and Lyft ~ 15-20%
- Massage and Haircut ~ 15-20%

Sales Tax:

- California charge tax for all sales
- Add 9%* on top of the listed price
- Taxes apply to retailers, restaurants, gas, etc.

*9.25% for San Jose and San Mateo

Local Info (cont.)

Return Policy:

- You may return the purchased item with a receipt, usually within 30 days
- Some electronics have return limit of 7-14 days
- The day varies between retailers, ask the staff or refer to receipts for more details

Greetings:

- **Shake hands** when you meet someone new and say **"Nice to meet you (too)!"**
- When you hear **"How are you?"**, friendly reply **"Good, how are you?"**
- To reply **"Have a nice day!"**, simply say **"Thank you, you too!"**
- Sometimes you sneeze and hear **"Bless you!"**, just say **"Thank you!"**
- Same, when people sneeze, say **"Bless You!"**

Safety:

- Cars may turn even when the pedestrian walk sign is on
- Stay on the sidewalk, look out for cars before crossing the road
- Reach out to campus police anytime when you need help in school

For Life-Threatening Emergencies Call 911

Foothill-De Anza Police (650) 949-7313

24-Hour Suicide & Crisis Service (855) 278-4204

Leisure

Local Events:

- Flea Market: First Saturday of every month from 8AM to 4PM at De Anza parking lot
- Sunnyvale Downtown Farmers Market (Saturdays 9AM to 1PM)
- Mountain View Downtown Farmers Market (Sundays 9AM to 1PM)
- For more events, check out Facebook Events, Ticketmaster, and Eventbrite

Movie Theaters:

- AMC Theater (Santa Clara / Saratoga)
- Century Cinema (Mountain View / San Jose)
- ShowPlace ICON (Mountain View / San Jose)

Shopping Malls:

- Westfield Valley Fair (San Jose)
- Stanford Shopping Center (Palo Alto)
- Great Mall (Milpitas)

Holiday and School Important date 2020

SEPTEMBER 21	2020	First day of fall quarter
OCTOBER 3	2020	Last day to add classes
OCTOBER 4	2020	Last day to drop classes without a "W"
OCTOBER 16	2020	Last day to request "Pass/No Pass" for 12-week classes
NOVEMBER 11	2020	Veterans Day holiday: Campus closed
NOVEMBER 13	2020	Last day to drop classes with "W"
NOVEMBER 26-29	2020	Thanksgiving holiday: Campus closed
DECEMBER 1	2020	Last day to file for fall degree or certificate
DECEMBER 7-11	2020	Final exams
DECEMBER 25	2020	Christmas Day
JANUARY 1	2021	Happy New Year
JANUARY 4	2021	First day of winter quarter

