

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

This booklet, The Freshman Compass, is a gift from your alumni and local Christians. We want to befriend 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



## For Foreign Students

### To-dos Within First 5 Days:

- ☐ Open a bank account [Refer to **Banking**]
- ☐ Get a phone service [Refer to **Mobile**]
- ☐ Download everyday apps [Refer to **Apps**]
- ☐ Submit TB Test and MMR record
- ☐ Get a Student ID and Clipper Card
- ☐ Take English & Math placement tests
- ☐ Remember to dial 911 for emergency
- ☐ Come to our events!!! [Refer to **Dates**]



## Banking

### Things To Consider:

- ATM cash withdrawal limit
- Saving account withdrawal limit
- Student account offers (No monthly fee)
- On-campus branch (US Bank), overseas branch (Citibank)
- Wire Transfer: routing number & account number (fees applied)
- Credit card account (No need SSN: BOA Secured Credit Card, Citi ThankYou Preferred Card)

### Popular Banks:



BANK OF AMERICA

## Mobile

### Popular Mobile Carrier:



### Phone Plans:

- Prepaid (No contract)
- Individual (Discount phone)
- Family Plan (Cheaper together)

### Approximate Price (Individual):

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

\*Some unlimited plans limit 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
- Flat rate \$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?”
  - “May I use the **stove and kitchenwares**?”
  - “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**?”

## Housing

PDF information 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/>

Watch Out For Scams!

### 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

## Transportation

### Common Transportation:

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

### Biking:

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

### Driving:

- School cannot park overnight
- 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 licenses, car insurance card and vehicle registration with you when driving

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

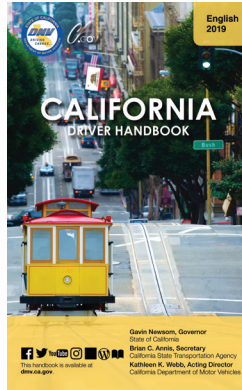
### Bus routes to Foothill College:

- 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

## Driver's License

### Knowledge Test:

- Read the California Driver Handbook to prepare
- Practice sample tests provided on the DMV website
- If you pass, a photo will be taken, and you will get a driver 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

## Important Dates

SEPTEMBER 7	Welcome Party + QnA
SEPTEMBER 13-15	Orientation Camp NOVA
SEPTEMBER 21	College Life + BBQ
SEPTEMBER 23	First day of school, Fall 2019
OCTOBER 4	Last day to add class
OCTOBER 6	Last day to drop with full refund
NOVEMBER 11	Veterans Day holiday
NOVEMBER 15	Last day to drop with "W"
NOVEMBER 28-29	Thanksgiving Day and holiday
DECEMBER 9-13	Final Exams
DECEMBER 25	Christmas Day
JANUARY 1	Happy New Year 2020
JANUARY 6	First day of Winter 2020

### Follow De Anza CDC Webpage



### Follow Foothill CCF Webpage



## Local Information

### 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

### 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!”

### 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)

## 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

## Shopping

### Department Stores:

- Target (household essentials)
- BestBuy (electronics)
- Walmart (hypermarket)

### Grocery Stores:

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

### Online Shopping:

- Reduce hustle, shop online
- Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/>
- Walmart: <https://www.walmart.com/>

## Restaurants

### Find restaurants and reviews on

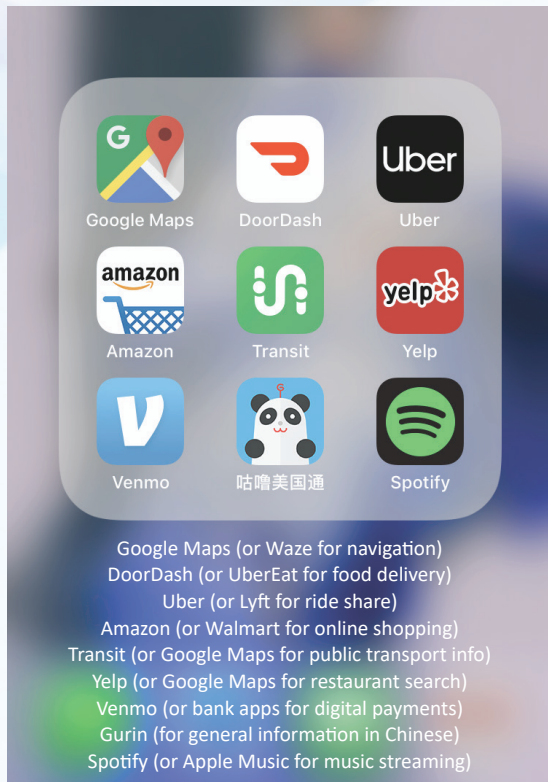
### Around Foothill College:

- Sumika (Japanese)
- Aldo Los Altos (Italian)
- In N Out Burger (Fast food)
- More options at Los Altos Main St. & Mountain View Castro St.

### Restaurants Around De Anza College:

- Sizzling Lunch (Japanese)
- Ike’s Sandwiches (American)
- Kobe Pho & Grill (Vietnamese)
- The City Fish (Seafood)
- More options at Cupertino Main St.

## Must-have Apps



新生定向  
Freshman Compass