

FRESHMAN COMPASS

FALL
2017





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Welcome

Hi New Student,

Welcome to the United States, to California, to Los Altos Hills, and to Foothill College. We hope you will have a great stay and enjoy the richness of life here in Silicon Valley.

This booklet, Freshman Compass Fall 2017, is a gift from local Christians interested in being your friends and helping you get the most out of your stay here. We are hoping that this booklet would help you get to know this area better and find things that might be helpful in your daily life.

Inside this booklet are maps, bus routes, as well as places to shop. General information about American culture, local events and holidays is provided as well. To help you live a more enriching life, we have also listed many local events that you might be interested in. CCEM offers programs in both Mandarin and Cantonese. To find out more, you can go to "De Anza / Foothill 新生定向" Facebook page. Pemuda Fellowship offers programs in Indonesian. Their Facebook page is "Pemuda Gii San Jose".

We strongly encourage you to visit one of the clubs or fellowships that made this booklet possible. You can read more detailed information about these events in the last a few pages of this booklet.

Again, welcome to Los Altos Hills and to our local community.

Sincerely,
Your Friends

Banking

Popular Banks:

- Wells Fargo, Chase, Bank of America, U.S. Bank, Citibank

Common Banking Services:

- Monthly Statement
- Wire Transfer (Know Your Routing Number)
- Free Checks (Standard Style)
- ATM Withdrawal (often with a daily limit of \$1000)
- Credit Card Account (Note that some banks can open this type of account without SSN.)
- Student Account (with various fees waived)
- Mobile Banking App

Mobile Carriers

Common Mobile Carriers:

- Top 4 Cell Tower Owning Carriers :
 - AT&T, T-Mobile, Sprint, Verizon
- Others (Virtual Network Operators):
 - Cricket, H2O Wireless, Metro PCS, Boost

Type of Plans:

- Prepaid (about \$30 per month but balance often has expiration date)
- Family Plan (about \$25 per month)
- Individual (\$30-\$120 per month)
- Unlimited Data Plan (starts at \$50 per month)



Homestay

- Homestay can provide daily meals (breakfast and dinner) and serve as excellent opportunities for students to learn more about the American culture and improve their English skills.
- The followings are things you should pay attention to during homestay:
 - Manners
 - Meals
 - Noise Level
 - Shower Time
 - Laundry
 - Guest Visiting
 - Kitchen Usage
 - Contract
- Monthly fees*:
 - \$1,200.00 with breakfast and dinner
 - \$1,025.00 without meals

* Price might fluctuate

Fees are paid to host families directly each month using specific payment method as required by the host.

Your fees should include all utilities such as water, electricity, trash and the Internet. Ask your host if you are unsure.



Housing Part 1

Studios & Apartments near Foothill College:

0-3 miles away:

- El Prado Apartments
- Verve Mountain View
- Village Lake Apartments
- Avalon Mountain View

3-5 miles away:

- Madrone Apartments
- Carmel The Village Apartments
- Highland Gardens Apartments
- Eaves Mountain View

Websites for Finding Apartments:

- Craigslist: [sfbay.craigslist.org/search/sby/apa](https://www.craigslist.org/search/sby/apa)
- Apartments.com: www.apartments.com
- Apartment List: www.apartmentlist.com
- Apartment Cities: www.apartmentcities.com
- Trulia: www.trulia.com
- Zillow: www.zillow.com



Housing Part 2

Price Range:

- **Studio:**

A studio apartment is one large room with a small kitchenette and bathroom.

Monthly rent ranges from \$2300 - \$2600.

- **One-bedroom apartment:**

One-bedroom apartments have a bedroom, a living room, a kitchen, and a bathroom. One-bedroom apartments can often be shared by two people.

Monthly rent ranges from \$2500 to \$2800.

- **Two-bedroom apartment:**

Two-bedroom apartments have two bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, and a bathroom. Two-bedroom apartments can be shared by two to four people and the monthly rent ranges from \$3000 to \$3600.

- **Room in a house:**

There are often entire houses or individual rooms available for rent. Students who choose to rent a room in a house will have access to bathroom, kitchen, backyard, and other parts of the house. Monthly rent for one room in a house ranges from \$700 to \$1000 and monthly rent for an entire house varies greatly depending on the size of the house and its location.

If utilities are not included, remember to set up:

- Electricity(PG&E)
- Water
- Internet(AT&T/Comcast)
- Apartment Insurance

Transportation

BUSING:

Bus Routes to Foothill:

- 40 : Foothill College ↔ La Avenida & Inigo
- 52 : Foothill College ↔ Downtown Mountain View

Bus Pass:

- De Anza/Foothill students can enjoy unlimited rides on Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) buses and light rail within Santa Clara County with "Eco Pass" at a fee as low as \$5 each quarter (automatically charged in tuition fee).
- You can get your personalized Eco Pass from the Office of College Life (De Anza)/Smart Shop (Foothill).



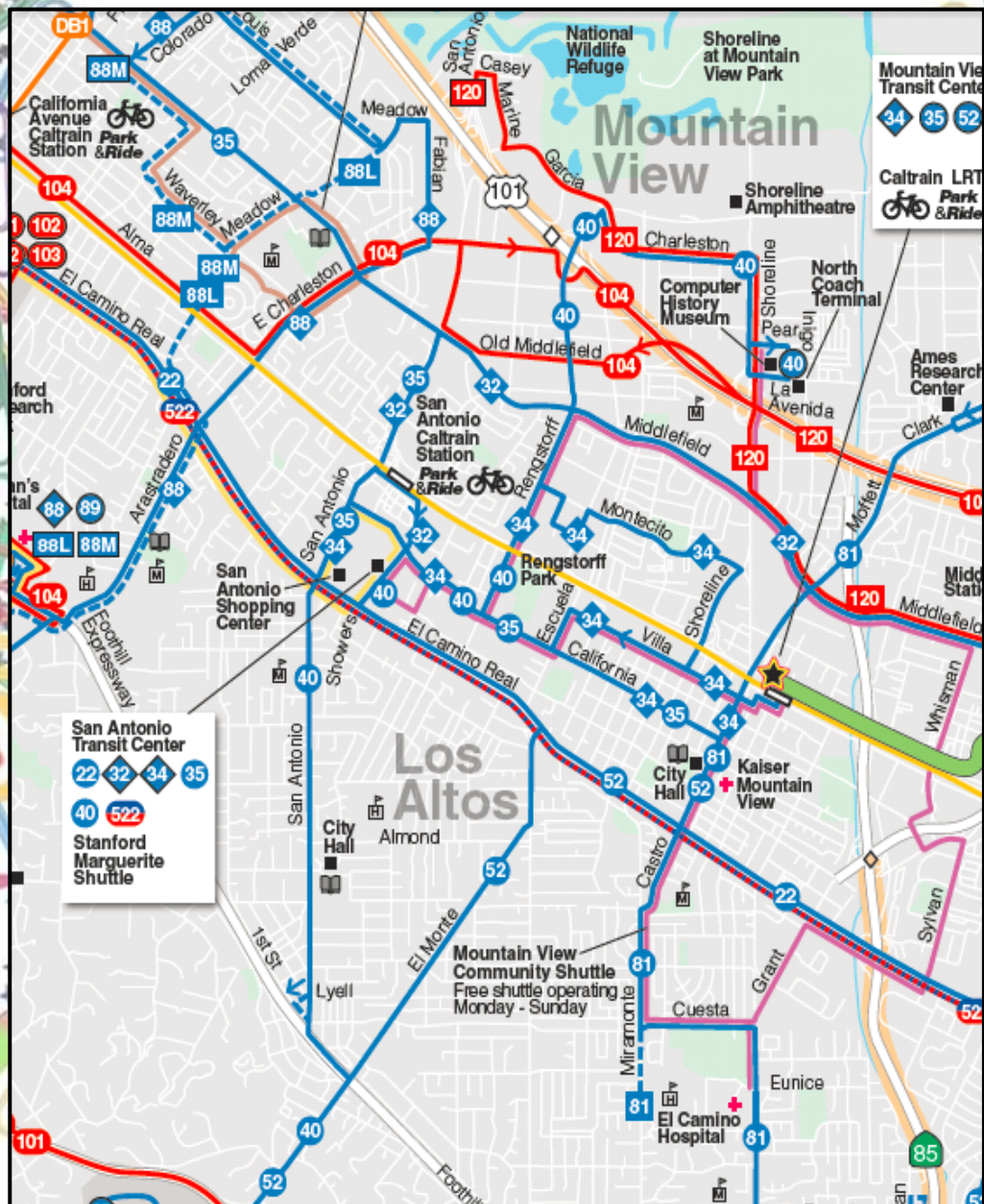
DRIVING:

- Make sure your driver license, proof of car insurance and vehicle registration form are with you at all times when you are driving.
- Parking permits are required when parking in De Anza and Foothill's parking lots.
- Parking permit of either campus will be valid at both campuses.
- Overnight parking is not permitted.
- You can purchase parking permits online in MyPortal.

BIKING:

- Ride on bike lane
- Don't bike the wrong way
- Keep your distance from cars
- Always wear a helmet
- Use appropriate lighting
- Don't ride on sidewalk

Bus Routes to Foothill



Driver License Part 1

You have to pass two tests, the written knowledge test and the behind-the-wheel test, at the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) to get the Driver License.

Below are the steps:



DMV Appointment
Website

- Make an appointment before visiting a DMV office
- Complete a Driver License Application form (DL 44)
- Give a thumb print & Have your picture taken
- Provide your social security number*
- Present your acceptable residency documents if you have never had a California driver license or California identification card*

*If you are an international student, instead of the stuff above, you have to bring your I-20, I-94 (can be retrieved online and printed out) and passport.

- Pay the application fee (\$33)
- Pass a vision exam
- Pass a knowledge test. There are 36 questions on the test. You have 3 chances to pass

Written Test

- Read the California Driver Handbook to grasp traffic rules and signs
- Practice sample tests provided on DMV's website
- A driver permit will be issued to you after passing this test

Behind-the-wheel Test

- Find an instructor and practice driving
- The behind-the-wheel tests are available by appointment only.
- If you don't pass, you can retest in 2 weeks. You 3 chances to pass the road test before starting the application process all over.



Driver License Part 2

DMV Locations:

- DMV Santa Clara

Address: 3665 Flora Vista Ave, Santa Clara, CA 95051

Hours: Monday 8:00am - 5:00pm

Tuesday 8:00am - 5:00pm

Wednesday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Thursday 8:00am - 5:00pm

Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm

Saturday & Sunday closed

- DMV San Jose (Driver License Only)

Address: 2222 Senter Rd, San Jose, CA 95112

Hours: Monday 8:00am - 5:00pm

Tuesday 8:00am - 5:00pm

Wednesday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Thursday 8:00am - 5:00pm

Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm

Saturday & Sunday closed



Shopping Part 1

Shopping Malls:

- Westfield Valley Fair

Address: 2855 Stevens Creek Blvd, Santa Clara, CA 95050

- Great Mall

Address: 447 Great Mall Dr, Milpitas, CA 95035

- Stanford Shopping Center

Address: 660 Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto, CA 94304

- Vallco Shopping Mall

Address: 10123 N Wolfe Rd, Cupertino, CA 95014

- San Antonio Shopping Center

Address: 2550 W El Camino Real, Mountain View, CA 94040

Department Stores:

- Costco (items in bulk at a cheaper price, membership required)

Address: 1000 N Rengstorff Ave, Mountain View, CA 94043

- Walmart (household essentials and groceries)

Address: 1600 Saratoga Ave #501, San Jose, CA 95129

- Target (household essentials)

Address: 20745 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino, CA 95014

- BestBuy (electronics)

Address: 715 E El Camino Real, Mountain View, CA 94040



Shopping Part 2

American Grocery Stores:

- Safeway (open 24 hours)

Address: 20620 W Homestead Rd, Cupertino, CA 95014

- Trader Joes (unique foods)

Address: 7250 Bollinger Rd, San Jose, CA 95129

- Whole Foods (organic foods)

Address: 20955 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino, CA 95014

- Sprouts (organic foods)

Address: 20558 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino, CA 95014

Asian Grocery Stores:

- Ranch 99 (Chinese)

Address: 10425 S De Anza Blvd, Cupertino, CA 95014

- Marina Food (Taiwanese)

Address: 10122 Bandley Dr, Cupertino, CA 95014

- Hankook Supermarket (Korean)

Address: 1092 E El Camino Real, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

- Hmart (Korean)

Address: 1179 S De Anza Blvd, San Jose, CA 95129

- Mitsuwa Marketplace (Japanese)

Address: 675 Saratoga Ave, San Jose, CA 95129

- Marukai Supermarket (Japanese)

Address: 19750 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino, CA 95014

Manners & Etiquette

Greeting:

- The moment you arrive in the United States of America, some strangers were already greeting you with a smile on their faces. It's something really common around here.
- Americans are used to say "Hi" and "How are you doing?" to anyone, even strangers they meet. Don't feel weird about it. Respond with a SMILE too!
- Whenever you're leaving a place, be sure to say "Thank you" or "Have a nice day" because it's part of the American culture and courtesy. Be polite and respectful to those who treat you like a friend even though he or she is a stranger.

Sneeze:

- Some Americans will say "God bless you." or "Bless you." whenever you sneeze. There are some origins behind these phrases and they all share the same meaning of wishing you good health.



Tipping in Restaurants

Giving tips along with your bill is mandatory if you dine in. The basic calculation for tips is: $\text{subtotal} * [1 + \text{tax rate (8.75\%)}] * \text{tip percentage}$.

The suggested tip percentages are often shown on the bills. If not, tip percentages are generally at least 18% for a party fewer than 6 and 20% for 6 or more.

Return Policy

You are able to return any purchased items within a limited time period with a receipt. In most cases, items can be returned within 30 days, but electronics have only 1-2 week time limit. Depending on terms and conditions stated, sometimes you're even allowed to return items after you've opened or used it.

Food Culture

American food culture revolves around a lot of burritos, tacos, burgers, steaks and pizza. Many restaurants chains serve pretty good food. For example, Chipotle, In-N-Out Burger, Outback Steakhouse..

Daylight Saving Time (DST)

DST is a seasonal time change measure where clocks are set ahead of standard time during part of the year, usually by 1 hour. As DST starts, the Sun rises and sets later, on the clock, than the day before.

Daylight Saving Time (DST) in the USA starts on the 2nd Sunday in March and ends on the 1st Sunday in November.

Local Events

There are many local events that happen around the Mountain View area and the locals really enjoy these events, such as:

- **GARAGE/YARD SALES:**

They are held by residents and happening randomly around mostly on weekends. You can find them advertised on street poles near the event.

- **FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL:**

An American culture that people visit food trucks to buy specialty food. There is one called off-the-grid happening in Cupertino's Whole Food's parking lot and another one held at 1177 Kern Ave, Sunnyvale on Tuesdays from 5 P.M. to 9 P.M.

- **DE ANZA FLEA MARKET:**

It is held on the first Saturday every month from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM in De Anza parking lot A&B. It is not only a market where people sell used stuff but also a good place for friends to hang around.



American Holidays 2017

Monday, September 4: Labor Day

Labor Day in the United States is a federal holiday that falls on every first Monday of September of each year. It celebrates and recognizes every year to commemorate those who serve the economic and social contributions of American workers.

Monday, October 9: Columbus Day

Columbus Day is a national holiday in many countries in the Americas and elsewhere which officially celebrates the anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas on October 12, 1492.

Friday, November 10: Veterans Day

Veteran Day is also a federal holiday which falls on the 11th of November every year to commemorate those who serve in the United States army.

Thursday, November 23: Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving Day, celebrated on every fourth Thursday of November, is a national holiday where people give thanks for their blessings in life. Family and friends get together to feast as part of tradition Black Friday follows the next day and it's the largest shopping day in the U.S. with tons of lucrative deals.

Monday, December 25: Christmas

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ on every year's 25th of December. In the United States, we decorate our homes with a Christmas tree, beautiful lights and many more decorations. Greeting cards and gifts are exchanged between family and friends. Churches also organize special Christmas events to celebrate Jesus's birthday. Most stores are closed on Christmas Day.



American Holidays 2018

Monday, January 1: New Year's Day

New Year's Day celebrates beginning of the Gregorian calendar year.

Festivities include counting down to 12:00 midnight on the preceding night, New Year's Eve, often with fireworks display and party.

Monday, January 15: Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King Day honors the life and legacy of one of the visionary leaders of the Civil Rights Movement and recipient of the 1964 Nobel Prize for Peace. It is celebrated on the third Monday in January.

Monday, February 19: Washington's Birthday

This federal holiday is formally called "Washington's Birthday" and is celebrated on the third Monday in February. However, it is a common practice to celebrate the birthdays of both Presidents Lincoln and Washington on this day.

Monday, May 28: Memorial Day

Memorial Day is a holiday to honor the men and women who have died in wars or in the service of their country. It is observed on the fourth Monday in May.

Wednesday, July 4: Independence Day

Americans celebrate Independence Day on July 4 because on July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence, officially breaking bonds with England and forming a new independent nation, the United States of America.

Useful Websites

1. **Assist** – www.assist.org

The official repository of articulation for California's public colleges and universities

2. **Rate My Professors** – www.ratemyprofessors.com

The best college professor reviews and ratings source based on student feedback

3. **Amazon** – www.amazon.com

The largest Internet-based retailer in America selling discounted books/electronics

4. **eBay** – www.ebay.com

An online marketplace for buyers and sellers to buy or sell

5. **Half** – www.half.com

A subsidiary of eBay selling textbooks, music, movies and games

6. **Kelley Blue Book** – www.kbb.com

A website for new or used car value estimation

7. **Craigslist** – sfbay.craigslist.org

Website with mostly used goods and used cars

8. **Beepi** – www.beepi.com

An online peer-to-peer market for buying and selling used cars

9. **DGDG** – www.dgdg.com

A group of car dealerships located throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

10. **Shift** – www.shift.com/cars/san-francisco

A website providing selling and buying used car

11. **Carfax** – www.carfax.com

A commercial web-based service that supplies vehicle history reports on used cars for the American and Canadian consumers

Useful Mobile Apps



Yelp

Your local guide to finding just the place to eat, shop, drink, relax, and play.



Venmo

Make and share payments. Pay your friends for drinks, rent, and more. Easily collect money from people who owe you.



Transit

Never miss your bus again. Know when your next subway or bus is arriving with real-time predictions.



Uber

Get a reliable ride in minutes with the Uber app—no reservations or waiting in taxi lines.



Google Maps

Going somewhere? Go with Maps, the app you can rely on for real-time GPS navigation, traffic, transit, and details about millions of places, such as reviews and popular times.

Chinese Campus Evangelical Ministry

CCEM is a non-profit organization that connects, develops and accelerates evangelical work among all college campuses in Bay Area.



We build networking resources to provide need for campus students. We also have many programs that connect campus students to understand Christian faith and love. We partner with different campuses fellowship to foster effective outreach opportunities.

Website:

<http://www.ccem-goodnews.org>

Facebook:

CCEM-Chinese Campus Evangelical Ministry

ABOUT

Pemuda is a Christian young adult fellowship.

We meet once a week to have dinner, to worship, and to learn about the word of God.

Come, join us!
We would love to meet and to get to know you!

ACTIVITIES

Friday fellowship
Welcoming Night
Thanksgiving Retreat
Bible studies
Sports activities
...and more!!

pemuda
Indonesian Evangelical Church

SERVICES

Pemuda Fellowship
Friday, 7 pm

Sunday Service
(Indonesian & English)
Sunday, 10 am

Location:
191 East Gish Road,
San Jose, CA 95112

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<http://www.gii-usa.org/sjc>



Pemuda GII San Jose



pemudasj



Foothill Chinese Students and Scholars Association

The Chinese Students and Scholars Association is socio-cultural club that focuses on helping Chinese students in both academic and social aspects of their life.

We are also devoted to promoting Chinese culture and bridging Chinese students and non-Chinese students together in a positive manner.



Foothill中国学生会



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