Get Around On and Off-Campus

When it comes to transportation at UCSC, walking is the easiest way to get around campus. There are many paths, sidewalks and roads that can be found all around the campus. Be sure to stay on designated paths. It takes about 15 minutes to get from one side of the campus to the other, depending on your pace, so make sure to bring a good pair of shoes.

Another option to get around campus and the city is with a bicycle. If you currently cycle as a form of transportation this would be a good choice for you. Do keep in mind our campus is on a hill so there are challenges when biking around. There are many bike resources on campus. The campus has a bike library, and bike Co-op as well as bike stands next to almost every building. Don’t forget to bring a good helmet and U-lock for your bike. The city also has Jump Bikes, bikes that are electric powered and can be rented for a period of time.

There are on-campus shuttles that are another popular form of transportation. These include loop buses and upper campus shuttles. Loop buses circle around campus. Upper-campus shuttles drive from one Remote Parking lot to another. There is no bus fare or ID needed to use these shuttles.

Parking is limited on campus. There are parking lots all around campus but to purchase a parking permit, a student needs to have 90 or more units, or be a commuting student. TAPS, the Transportation and Parking
Services can answer any questions you might have about parking and transportation. They do recommend leaving your car at home since parking is very limited on campus. But they do offer a list of off-campus parking options on their website if you do decide to bring your car to school.

The Santa Cruz Metro Center has several bus routes that run through our campus to help students get on and off campus. There is a bus fare that is covered in the student fees, but a SlugCard ID is needed to ride these buses. All buses running through the Metro Center have no additional cost with a valid SlugCard other than the 17 which runs from Santa Cruz to San Jose for a cost of $7 one way.

The campus offers a program with ZipCar, a car rental company. Any student can join if they are 18 years or older, with a valid Driver’s License. With ZipCars, one can rent a car for an hour to a full day, with gas and insurance covered. ZipCars have many different locations on campus and the city.