This text is associated with the How-To: UCSC Transportation video produced by TAPS.



UCSC Transportation

Welcome to UCSC. In your time here at UC Santa Cruz, you'll be going to mind-expanding classes; hanging out with friends at the Quarry; seeing live performances; hiking and bicycling through campus fields and woods; and listening to world-famous visitors and lecturers. TAPS will be right there with you on all these adventures. We'll make traveling throughout the day safe and sustainable.

From the moment you step onto campus, you'll experience the incredible beauty that is UCSC. On any given day, you'll see cows in the fields, turkeys in the parking lots, deer sleeping in the shade, and a host of other animals on our 410-acre natural reserve. UCSC takes its stewardship of the land seriously so that you and future generations of students can enjoy all it has to offer. And YES, you can see Banana Slugs on the forest floors!

TAPS' goal is to ensure the safety of everyone on campus while also reducing carbon emissions. We encourage students to use the most sustainable transportation options on campus. To help with these goals, UCSC offers many campus mobility options. Due to parking constraints and to preserve the campus' natural spaces, first- and second-year students living on campus need to leave their cars at home.

We all contribute to making UCSC more sustainable and this means that you'll most likely not have a car on campus. Most students living on campus leave their cars at home and travel around campus, town, and back home easily without a car. You can too!

At first you may be uncomfortable about the no-car policy, but soon you'll realize that we're all in this effort together to keep UCSC sustainable and beautiful. You'll quickly learn how to ride buses, walk through campus, bike to class, carpool, and use Zipcars for weekly errands. After your first week, you'll truly be a professional!

We've got you covered.

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Walking around campus is a great way to get around for those who are able to do so. Many students walk 2 to 5 miles per day and don't even know it. Walking in groups at night is a good idea, but the Safe Ride service is available for you if you don't have others to walk with.

Zipcars are short term rental cars. You can use their app to easily make a reservation, and UCSC students get a reduced rate. You just have to be 18 and driving 1 year with a good driving record. With several Zipcars on campus, you can use one to run errands to the grocery store or the market, get your friends together for fun adventures, or to take a drive along the beautiful Santa Cruz Coast for a little down time. Get friends in the car with you and share the cost!

Bicycling between classes is the fastest way to get around! Santa Cruz is one of the most respected bicycle towns in the country. We have a variety of bicycle support programs for both the newest rider and the most experienced mountain and road bicyclists. Don't have a bike? Don't worry! UCSC and the City of Santa Cruz have BCycle, an electric bike share system. Students can get a discounted membership that gets you unlimited 1-hour rides for a year. Check out SlugBikeLife.org for free events, giveaways and other bike programs.

For those with disabilities or other access and functional needs, UCSC offers a Disability Van Service. You can find information about how to qualify for this great service by visiting the TAPS website.

Campus is covered by 2 bus systems. UCSC campus shuttles frequently run throughout the day and night. METRO buses run through our campus and connect students to destinations all through the county. You don't need to pay daily fares—you only need to show your Student ID with a valid transit date sticker to ride these buses.

When you want to go to a concert for the weekend or go home to see your family (and pets), or visit friends at other campuses, you can opt to carpool with fellow students. Sign up with Cruz511 and use the private UCSC network to post your trips and find someone to share a ride with. Typically you can be picked up on campus and get directly or close to your destination.

Like I said, We've got you covered!

Student 1: I love the public transit on the UCSC campus. It's so convenient being able to go downtown with my friends pretty much whenever I want. Plus, it's great not having a car...in this economy?

Student 2: I love walking because I get to see and take my time and walk and look at nature. And also, it works on my calves...I don't hit the gym like that.

Student 3: My favorite bus route has to be the 19 because it's a scenic route, but it gets me where I need to go like the boardwalk.

Student 4: Taking the bus with my friends is so much fun because we always get to gab it up in the back.

Student 5: I love taking the bus to the boardwalk with my friends.

Sammy: On Friday nights, my friends and I get on the bus and head to the Boardwalk. We'll lay on the beach, play some beach volleyball, or bowl a few games. Oh yeah, I'll ride the bus downtown to Trader Joe's, do a little shopping on Pacific Street, maybe catch a movie at the Del Mar or go to the excellent Farmer's Markets.

Narrator: Still need a parking permit? First- and second-year residential students with qualifying situations may submit an appeal to purchase a parking permit for R or C lots. Check out the TAPS website to see if you are eligible for an appeal or to discover more about UCSC parking permit policies. Any questions you may have will be answered there. Keep in mind that you will get a citation for leaving your car in places where it shouldn't be.

All UCSC affiliates are encouraged to use sustainable transportation options as much as possible. This helps reduce traffic and pollution, and helps everyone have a safe, stress-free experience.

Follow us on Instagram and sign up for the TAPS newsletter, *Slugs on the Move* to stay in the know on Transportation and Parking. TAPS will be there for you on your first day until your last! Welcome to the Slug community, and good luck as you start your journey at UCSC!