

June 15, 2004

New Graduate Students Admitted for Fall 2004:

Congratulations on being accepted to UCD, a great institution for higher learning. Welcome to Davis, a laid-back and bike-friendly city!

As your Graduate Student Representatives, we are eager to meet you and look forward to showing you your new home here at the U.C. Davis Economics Department.

In this building, affectionately known as the Death Star, you can expect to spend many nights studying the Economic Trinity (Micro, Macro and Econometrics).

As part of our welcome, we are including in this letter some very important information.

I. MATH:

We *strongly* recommend that you attend Math Camp, from September 8th to the 29th.

Math Camp is a good overview of Math skills required to begin the year. It shows you that merely knowing some differential calculus is *not* sufficient and it will include reviews of multivariate calculus, linear algebra, set theory and optimization.

A syllabus and sample problems are included in this packet. The sample problems may or may not seem familiar now, but by the end of math camp, they should become second nature.

II. BOOKS:

You'll need some new textbooks this year. Purchasing and browsing through them early should give you a feel of what this first year has in store for you.

For Math Camp: *Mathematics for Economists*, by Carl P. Simon and Lawrence Blume, New York, Norton, 1994. The sooner you start looking at this book the better prepared you will be. (UCD Bookstore prices: *\$110.25 new; \$82.70 used; *indicative prices only*).

For both Math Camp and the first-year series of Microeconomics: *Microeconomic Theory*, by Andreu Mas-Colell, Michael D. Whinston and Jerry R.Green, New York, Oxford University Press, 1995 and its useful Mathematical Appendix. (UCD Bookstore prices: *\$102.00 new; \$76.50 used).

For the first quarter of Econometrics: *Statistical Inference*, by G. Casella and R. Berger, 2nd edition, Duxbury, 2002. (*\$117 new; \$87.75 used).

*Generally, purchasing new versions of these books is not necessary, but used versions can be hard to come by. Look around for the best deal at online resellers or at www.bookfinder.com.

Professor Richard Green of the Agricultural & Resource Economics Department will be teaching ECN / ARE 290 in Fall 2004. His email address is green@primal.ucdavis.edu.

Some preparatory notes by Professor Jim Chalfant will be available on a web site to be announced soon. These notes are written for students who may want more preparatory information about statistics for econometrics. They also supplement the textbook.

III. RESIDENCY:

If you are a U.S. Citizen or permanent resident of the U.S. but are not qualified as a California Resident, you will have to pay Nonresident Tuition fees (out-of-state fees) this year. However, you can become a resident and avoid paying those fees past the first year, if you begin the reclassification procedure early.

To ensure your proper requalification, you can pick up a form called "Petition for Classification to Resident Status", that outlines the entire procedure. It's available on the lower level of Mrak Hall.

Among other things, you will need to: open a local bank account, get a California driver's license, and register to vote in your local precinct. You *must* do this *before* the Fall Quarter begins in late September. Then, after Spring Quarter of your first year, you will submit the petition.

If you fail to follow this procedure, you will find yourself classified as a nonresident again in your second year, and again you'll end up paying out-of-state fees.

If you're an international student, some Non-Resident Tuition Fellowships (NRTF's) may be available from your second year onward, contingent upon your performance in the program.

IV. HOUSING:

Housing in Davis is **VERY** difficult to find. Vacancy rates in Davis are often less than 1%. We recommend that you try to line something up as soon as possible, as most lease renewals took place in April. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO LOOK FOR HOUSING.**

There are several resources that can aid you in finding a place:

The California Aggie (The UC Davis newspaper): www.californiaaggie.com
Davis 411: www.davis411.com, where you can also post your own seeking ad free of charge.
The Davis Enterprise (the Davis community newspaper): www.davisenterprise.com

The Housing Viewpoint (ASUCD annual magazine): hvp.ucdavis.edu. It lists most of the apartment complexes in Davis.

Community housing information is also available on campus, in the Memorial Union (3rd floor), including binders with current vacancies in apartments and rooms for rent.

Some other housing websites are: www.davishousing.com and www.housing.ucdavis.edu.

Some apartment complexes also have their own sites; you can try running a search in Google.

Several real estate agencies manage apartments and houses for rent. They have vacancy listings outside their downtown Davis offices. They include: Coldwell Banker, Lyon and Associates, King Properties, and Acadian Properties.

Finally, there are several bulletin boards around town that list rooms or apartments for rent. Try looking at the Davis Food Co-op or the UC Davis Coffeehouse.

V. CAMPUS and CITY:

Familiarizing yourself with the city and the campus will be a big plus when school starts.

The tourist office on G Street has lots of maps and useful information.

The information booth in the Memorial Union has campus maps.

Public transportation is very good, thanks to the Unitrans bus system run by the ASUCD. A ride will cost you 75 cents.

Unless you are an extreme non-conformist, you will also want to buy a bike when you get here. After all, Davis is the Bicycle capital of the US. Most services (grocery stores, apartments, bars, etc.) are a flat and short bicycle ride from campus. For a map of the city's bike paths, visit <http://www.city.davis.ca.us/gis/bikemap.pdf>

A public auction is held at the beginning of every quarter by the UC Davis police department, so you could always find a bargain there.

VI. CONTACT INFORMATION:

During Math Camp, we will come to your class, introduce ourselves, and invite you to an event early in fall quarter at which you can meet some of the other graduate students.

Math Camp is also a very good time for all of you to get to know each other, so take advantage of the opportunity to build friendships and study groups.

We look forward to meeting you this Fall.

We can show you around and try to answer whatever questions about Davis and grad school you may still have.

If you are having problems or if you want a little more inside information you can reach us at:

Florence at fbouvet@ucdavis.edu or (530) 792-1873

Damien at drcharlety@ucdavis.edu or (530) 848-4602

Chad at cwsparber@ucdavis.edu or (530) 902-2175

Also feel free to e-mail us when you plan to arrive in Davis.

This way we can be sure to include you in some of the social things we do over the summer.

Sincerely,

Your GSC Reps: Florence Bouvet, Damien Charléty and Chad Sparber