

May 27, 2011

Greetings New Students,

We are your Graduate Student Representatives and fellow Economics graduate students, responsible for helping you acclimate to the first year of the Economics Graduate Program at UC Davis. As such, we have enclosed some information that you may find helpful. We recommend reading the material provided as soon as possible in order for you to begin preparing for your first year of graduate school in Davis, California.

As residents of Davis we are very willing to show you around both the town of Davis or the University campus itself before the start of Math Camp (**August 31**). If we haven't met you by Math Camp, don't worry, we'll introduce ourselves in person during Math Camp. Please contact us via e-mail or phone if you have any additional questions or concerns. Most importantly, we and the rest of the current Economics graduate students look forward to your arrival and hope that we can do as much as possible to make the transition into graduate school smooth.

Regards,

Andrew Foote, Oscar Mendez Medina, Kevin Shih and Kevin Williams  
Your GSC representatives

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## Information For New Graduate Students Admitted for Fall 2011

### I. MATH

We *strongly* recommend that you attend Math Camp, which takes place from **August 31st to the September 21st**. Math Camp is a good overview of some of the math skills required for your first year courses. The material covered includes multivariate calculus, linear algebra, set theory, and optimization.

A syllabus and sample problems have been included in this packet. The sample problems may or may not seem familiar now, but they should by the end of Math Camp. Most importantly, Math Camp is a perfect opportunity to meet your new classmates!

### II. BOOKS

You'll need several new textbooks this year. Purchasing and browsing through them early should give you a basic idea of some of the material that will be covered in the first year of the program.

- *Mathematics for Economists*, by Carl P. Simon and Lawrence Blume, New York, Norton, 1994.\*  
**We recommend reviewing some of the early chapters of Simon and Blume before the start of Math Camp.**
- *Microeconomic Theory*, by Andreu Mas-Colell, Michael D. Winston, and Jerry R. Green, New York, Oxford University Press, 1995.\*
- Information from Professor Richard Green about books for ECN 239, Fall 2010: *Statistical Inference, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*, by George Casella and Roger Berger, Duxbury.\*

\* UC Davis Bookstore prices are high and subject to change without notice. Also, 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.allbookstores.com](http://www.allbookstores.com).

You might find some textbooks at cheaper prices at [Amazon.co.uk](http://Amazon.co.uk) (even cheaper than Amazon.com).

### III. HOUSING

Housing in Davis has been, historically, **VERY DIFFICULT TO FIND**. Vacancy rates can be less than 3%. We recommend that you secure housing as soon as possible. We repeat: **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO LOOK FOR HOUSING!**

There are several resources that can aid you in finding a place to live.

- First, try the following websites:  
[www.housing.ucdavis.edu/Alternative/resources.HTM](http://www.housing.ucdavis.edu/Alternative/resources.HTM)

Note: use the links under *Listing Services & Property Management*.

<http://chl.ucdavis.edu/>

<http://daviswiki.org/>

<http://sacramento.craigslist.org/>

- For those students with a family:  
[www.housing.ucdavis.edu/Parks/tandemproperties.com/property.aspx?id=16](http://www.housing.ucdavis.edu/Parks/tandemproperties.com/property.aspx?id=16)
- Also, coordinating housing with future classmates is a viable option
- Also, you can feel free to email your GSC reps if you want tips or opinions on finding and assessing housing.

#### IV. “DAVIS LIFE”

Here are some tips for living in Davis:

- **Getting Around**  
Bicycles are the primary mode of transportation in Davis. If you don't already own a bike, you'll probably want to buy one as soon as you arrive. Used bikes are cheap and easy to find in Davis. A good place to find used bikes is the Davis Bike Exchange at 511 L Street or the Bike Barn on campus. In general, the roads are very bike-friendly, and most shops and services are a short, flat bike ride from campus. For a map of the city's bicycle paths, visit [www.city.davis.ca.us/gis/bikemap.pdf](http://www.city.davis.ca.us/gis/bikemap.pdf)
- **Alternative Transportation**  
The UCD bus system, called Unitrans, is very extensive as well and costs \$1.00 per ride for graduate students. It's a good idea to find housing conveniently located near the bus system.
- **Taps.ucdavis.edu is a good resource:**  
Unitrans bus passes can be bought at a discount by registering at TAPS. To buy a campus parking permit, go to TAPS. Also, register your bike at TAPS (especially since bike theft is high).
- **Maps**  
There is an information booth in the Memorial Union (just a few steps away from the Economics department) where you can find campus maps and other resources for new students.
- **Hot Spots (to name just a few)**  
Mishka's coffee shop on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Sophia's Thai Kitchen and Bar on E Street, the campus Memorial Union game room and bowling alley, the Greenbelt park on the north side of town for jogging and biking, and the Farmer's Market. Visit <http://daviswiki.org/> for more information.

## V. ESTABLISHING RESIDENCY

### **If you are a U.S. citizen or permanent resident of the U.S.**

For tuition purposes, if you are not a “California resident”, you will need to establish California residency right away. This means opening a bank account, getting a California driver’s license, and registering to vote in California (if applicable). **You must do these things *before* the start of Fall Quarter in order to be classified as a California resident for the following year.**

Otherwise, you will have to pay additional out-of-state fees in your second year. You also need to file a Petition for Classification to Resident Status through the Graduate Studies office in Mrak Hall.

### **If you are an International student**

International students are not eligible for California residency status, but Non-Resident Tuition Fellowships are available from the department after your first year in the program; these fellowships are based on individual performance in the program.