

Contra Costa Community College District

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HANDBOOK

2008/2009

Office of International Education
Contra Costa Community College District
500 Court Street
Martinez, California 94553

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HANDBOOK, 2008
Contra Costa Community College District
Office of International Education

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A Welcome from the Director of International Education

Greetings from the San Francisco Bay Area in California! We welcome you and hope you will take the time to get to know more about our great state and beautiful location as you consider opportunities to further your education.

The three colleges in our community college district, Contra Costa, Diablo Valley and Los Medanos, all offer international students a unique and challenging educational experience. We are proud of our commitment to global education and the success of the thousands of international students who have benefited from the excellence of our degree, certificate and transfer-to-university courses and programs.



We hope that you will take the time to become better acquainted with our colleges through our websites and have an opportunity to visit our institutions in person as you make the important decision of where you will begin your higher education career. Our best wishes to you. We look forward to seeing you at one of our colleges in the near future.

Regards,



Aleksandar Ilich, Ed.D.
Director, International Education



Now that You Have Been Accepted to Contra Costa College (CCC), Diablo Valley College (DVC) or Los Medanos College (LMC)

We hope that the following information will help you during your arrival at the Contra Costa Community College District (CCCCD) and in your move to the San Francisco Bay Area.

Things to Consider

You should bring a copy of transcripts from high schools, colleges or universities previously attended. If you are planning to transfer your units from other institutions to CCCC, or challenge a course prerequisite, you will need to show proof of your transcript in English. Course descriptions or outlines are also required.

Proof of Medical Insurance

Students accepted to DVC must enroll in the CCCC International Student Health Insurance plan (information provided on acceptance to the college). It is possible to waive the insurance only if you have purchased insurance that is comparable to what DVC offers. Students accepted to CCC or LMC may also enroll in this insurance plan or submit a copy of their current health insurance plan.

Although CCCC health insurance coverage will begin on the first day of school, it is highly advisable that you maintain your personal coverage at least until the semester begins. Students quite commonly also maintain their own private medical insurance policy for maximum protection or to include vision or dental coverage.



Financial Resources for Housing, Tuition, Fees and Other Living Expenses

It is not a good idea to carry a large amount of cash. Plan your budget very carefully and bring enough cash to cover your initial expenses. You may want to keep in mind the following start-up expenses:

- Tuition and fees for the semester you plan to attend (you will be required to pay this amount at the time you enroll in your classes)
- Books and supplies (estimate between \$300 - \$500 for each semester)
- Medical insurance fees
- Transportation
- Housing deposit and rent (damage deposit and first and last month's rent are generally required up front)
- Utilities, if applicable (telephone, electricity, gas, etc.)
- Food
- Recreation
- Appropriate clothing for the weather

Arrival Plan (before you leave home)

- Arrange transportation from the airport to your hotel or apartment (see **Transportation**)
- Bring proof of hotel reservation or copy of apartment rental agreement (see **Housing Options**)
- Transportation to and from school (see **Transportation**)

Now that You Have Been Accepted to Contra Costa College (CCC), Diablo Valley College (DVC) or Los Medanos College (LMC)

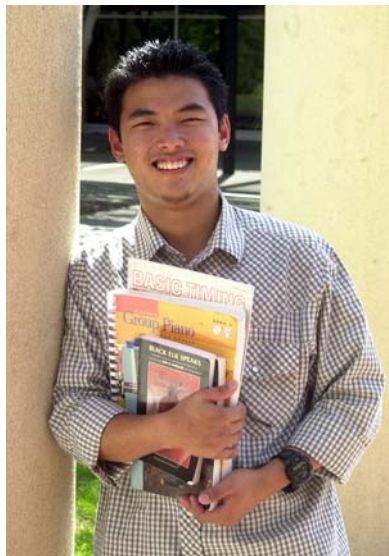
Things to Bring with You

- Passport
- I-20
- Birth Certificate
- Picture Identification Card
- Driver's License
- Admission letter from CCC, DVC or LMC
- Financial Statement (a copy of the documentation submitted with International Student Application)
- Supply of prescription medications
- Personal address book, listing important phone numbers and addresses
- Credit cards, if any
- Electrical adapters, if necessary. American household current is 110 volts, AC 60 cycles. Foreign appliances without adapters will not work here.



Weather

The climate in northern California is mild; however, temperatures change rapidly depending on which part of the Bay Area you are in. Dressing in layers is preferred—the morning might start out cold and foggy, and then change into a warm or very hot afternoon. For your convenience, you can check www.weatheronline.com to get an idea of the weather forecast at our colleges.



International Student Admissions and Services

International Student Admissions and Services information is offered at each of our three campuses. The Director of International Education, Dr. Aleksandar (Aleks) Ilich, oversees the program at all three colleges, with his main office at DVC (FO 219). At CCC, the International Student Center is located in the Humanities Building, Room 44. At DVC, the International Student Admissions and Services Center is located in the Student Services Building. At LMC, international student admissions and services information can be obtained inside the Admissions and Records office.

Contra Costa Community College District

Aleksandar Ilich, Director, International Education
Phone: (925) 685-1230, ext. 2563
FAX: (925) 691-9503
E-Mail: ailich@dvc.edu



Contra Costa College

Main Contact:

Sui-Fen Liao, Coordinator, International Education
Phone: (510) 235-7800, ext. 4469
FAX: (510) 412-0769
E-mail: sliao@contracosta.edu
Monday – Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



Contra Costa College is a diverse, full-service community college. It offers a comprehensive transfer program for students who wish to pursue baccalaureate degrees, associate degrees and certificates of achievement for continuing professional education.

English Language Ability at Contra Costa College: While it is recommended that students applying to the college have English proficiency that is at least equivalent to a paper-based TOEFL score of 450, **international students can be accepted without any TOEFL requirements:**

- Applicants with TOEFL scores under 500 on the paper-based test (173 on the computerized TOEFL, 61 on the Internet-based TOEFL), without TOEFL or IELTS scores under 5.0 must take the English as a Second Language (ESL) assessment test and be advised.
- These students will study in the credit ESL program until they finish Level Four.
- Students placed in higher levels of the ESL program may take academic transfer classes with advisor approval.

Students with a TOEFL score of 500 or higher will follow the normal assessment, orientation and placement procedure and will be counseled into appropriate classes.

Diablo Valley College

Main Contact:

Gena Gruber, Coordinator, International Education
Phone: (925) 685-1230, ext. 2052
FAX: (925) 691-9503
E-mail: ggruber@dvc.edu
Monday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Friday Drop-in: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.; 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.



International Student Admissions and Services

Gloria Zarabozo, International Students Supervisor

Phone: (925) 685-1230, ext. 2075

FAX: (925) 691-9503

E-mail: gzaraboz@dvc.edu

Monday, Wednesday, Friday Drop-in: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.; 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.



Patricia Derickson, Application Processor

Phone: (925) 685-1230, ext. 2594

FAX: (925) 691-9503

E-mail: pdericks@dvc.edu



Terry Armstrong, Dean, Counseling and Support Services

Phone: (925) 685-1230, ext. 2288

FAX: (925) 687-2097

E-mail: tarmstro@dvc.edu

Diablo Valley College offers an associate degree, certificate, transfer and vocational programs. The college consistently rates as a top feeder school to the University of California and California State University system. For the past several years, Diablo Valley College has sent more students to UC Berkeley than any other California community college.

English Language Ability at Diablo Valley College: Students must have a **TOEFL score of 500** (or 173 on the computerized TOEFL) to be eligible for admission. **If you do not have the required TOEFL score, you may attend the International Education Center at Diablo Valley College (IEC@DVC; www.iec-dvc.org) before attending DVC. IEC@DVC offers a six-level program which is designed to prepare students for successful study at DVC or other colleges/universities. Each program level is eight weeks long. Classes meet 25 hours each week and the maximum class size is 15 students. Students who finish the highest level English class with a grade of B- or better, can be admitted to DVC without the TOEFL requirements.**

Los Medanos College

Main Contact:

Stephanie Alves, International Students Admissions

Phone: (925) 439-2181, ext. 3251

FAX: (925) 427-6351

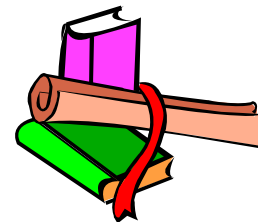
E-mail: salves@losmedanos.edu

Los Medanos College is a full-service community college which offers a comprehensive fast-track transfer program for students who wish to pursue baccalaureate degrees, associate degrees and certificates of achievement. Upon completion of the transfer program, many international students have the opportunity to transfer to four-year institutions in University of California and California State University systems. Furthermore, a unique advantage of the college is that Los Medanos is small enough for instructors to give students personal attention, yet large enough to attract faculty and administrators from highly acclaimed universities.

English Language Ability at Los Medanos College: Students must present a TOEFL score report to be eligible for admission. The TOEFL requirement is 480 on the paper-based test or 157 on the computer-based test. **Students with a TOEFL score over 500 will follow the normal assessment, orientation, and placement procedure and will be counseled into appropriate classes.**

Previous Coursework/Credential Evaluation Agencies

If you plan to use any previous coursework towards your Associate in Arts Degree, or to verify that you have met a particular course requirement, you will need to bring your transcript verifying the classes you have taken and the grades you received. To use any foreign coursework towards our Associates in Arts Degree, international students will be required to have their foreign credentials evaluated by an approved credential evaluation agency. If you plan to transfer units to any other school, you must contact that institution directly to ensure that the units will transfer.



Listed below are approved credential evaluation agencies:

Center for Applied Research, Evaluations and Education, Inc.

P.O. Box 20348

Long Beach, CA 90801

Phone: (562) 430-1105

FAX: (562) 430-8215

E-mail: evalcaree@earthlink.net

Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc.

P.O. Box 514070

Milwaukee, WI 53203-3470

Phone: (414) 289-3400

FAX: (414) 289-3411

E-mail: eval@ece.org

Website: www.ece.org

Education Evaluators International, Inc.

P.O. Box 5397

Los Alamitos, CA 90720-5397

Phone: (562) 431-2187

FAX: (562) 493-5021

E-mail: garyeei@ix.netcom.com

Education International, Inc.

29 Denton Rd.

Wellesley, MA 02482

Phone: (781) 235-7425

FAX: (781) 235-6831

E-mail: edint@gis.net

Website: www.educationinternational.org

*Educational Records Evaluation Service, Inc.

777 Campus Commons Rd., Suite 200

Sacramento, CA 95825-8309

Phone: (916) 565-7475

FAX: (916) 565-7476

E-mail: edu@eres.com

Website: www.eres.com

Evaluation Service, Inc.

P.O. Box 85

Hopewell Jct., NY 12533

Phone: (914) 223-6455

FAX: (914) 223-6454

E-mail: esi2@frontiernet.net

Website: www.evaluationservice.net

Previous Coursework/Credential Evaluation Agencies

Foundation for International Services, Inc.
109 Barksdale Professional Center
Newark, DE 19711-3258

Phone: (302) 737-8715

FAX: (302) 737-8756

E-mail: fis@mail.com

Website: <http://icdel.com>

*The Foreign Educational Document Service

P. O. Box 4091

Sacramento, CA 95204

Phone: (209) 948-6589

*Locations closest to CCCC

General Information about CCCC

Admissions and Records Offices



The following list of phone numbers and office hours at each campus is provided for you to refer to when you have general questions regarding admissions:

Contra Costa College

Phone: (510) 235-7800, ext. 4212
Monday to Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Diablo Valley College

Phone: (925) 685-1310
Monday to Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Los Medanos College

Phone: (925) 439-2181, ext. 7500
Monday to Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The Admissions Offices offer the following services:

- Official transcript (**fee**; processed within 3 to 5 days)
- Unofficial transcripts (**no fee**; processed within 3 to 5 days)
- Certification of classes for Cal State system (**no fee**)
- IGETC Certification of classes for UC system (**no fee**)
- Graduation Petition (**FREE**)

Associated Students and Student Clubs

Organized and run by students, Associated Students promotes the intellectual, social and cultural welfare of students through the effective use of self-government. Various campus clubs, along with the International Student Club, exist for students with special interests in areas such as scholarship, science, sports, creative arts, business and industry, service and recreation. Club activities include business meetings, field trips, concerts, lectures, forums and social events. Through these activities, you may broaden your understanding of the college and the community it serves. Transfer schools highly recommend student involvement in campus student activities and student government.



Contra Costa College

SA Building, behind Recreation Center
Phone: (510) 235-7800, ext. 4407 or 4237
Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Diablo Valley College

Inside Student Union Building
Phone: (925) 685-1230, ext. 2095
Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

General Information about CCCC

Los Medanos College

CCC3-800, in front of Bookstore and opposite of Cafeteria

Phone: (925) 798-3500, ext. 3266

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Bookstores



In addition to new and used books (which may also be purchased online), you may purchase catalogs, school supplies, stamps, computers and computer software. *Visa*, *MasterCard* and *ATM* are accepted.

Contra Costa College

Located in the Associated Students Building.

Phone: (510) 235-7800, ext. 4523

Monday, Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. – 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Website: www.contracostabooks.com

Diablo Valley College

Located next door to the Admissions and Records building

Phone: (925) 682-7363

Monday – Thursday: 7:45 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Friday: 7:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Website: www.bookcenter.dvc.edu

Los Medanos College

Located behind Associated Students

Phone: (925) 439-2181, ext. 3316, 3319

Monday, Tuesday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Website: www.lmcbookstore.net

Cafeterias



The cafeterias are located near Student Services on each campus and are generally open during school hours.

The cafeterias at each of our three campuses offer hot and cold meals. They also have vending machines for beverages and snacks.

Campus Mailrooms

Letters and messages for instructors in properly addressed envelopes may be dropped off in the “campus mail” slot.

U.S. mail should be dropped off in one of the blue U.S. Postal Service mailboxes located on each campus.



General Information about CCCC

Campus Police



Campus police at each of the three campuses has officers on duty 24 hours a day. The “Lost and Found” is also located in Police Services. Campus police also provide first aid services. Regular office hours are 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday and Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Evening escorts are available in helping students get to and from their classrooms and/or cars on campus after dark.

Contra Costa College

Phone: (510) 235-7800, ext. 4207, 4431,
EMERGENCIES (510) 235-7800, ext. 4333 or 9-911

Diablo Valley College

Phone: (925) 685-1230, ext. 2338, 2339
EMERGENCIES (925) 685-1230, ext. 2333 or 9-911

Los Medanos College

Phone: (925) 439-2181, ext. 3228
EMERGENCIES (925) 439-2181, ext. 3333 or 9-911

Campuses

In addition to the three main campuses, CCCC has two satellite campuses. One satellite campus is located in San Ramon and is called San Ramon Valley Center (SRVC). SRVC is an extension of DVC. The other is located in Brentwood. It is called Brentwood Center and is an extension of LMC.

San Ramon Valley Center (SRVC)

3150 Crow Canyon Pl.
San Ramon, CA 94583
Phone: (925) 866-1822
FAX: (925) 866-8090

Brentwood Center

101 Sand Creek Rd.
Brentwood, CA 94513
Phone: (925) 513-1625
FAX: (925) 513-1647

Childcare

Childcare services are available for students who have children. You must contact the on-campus daycare center to sign your child up for services. You should contact each individual center to find out about costs.

Contra Costa College

Phone: (510) 235-7800, ext. 4370
Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



General Information about CCCC

Diablo Valley College

Phone: (925) 685-1230, ext. 2316
Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

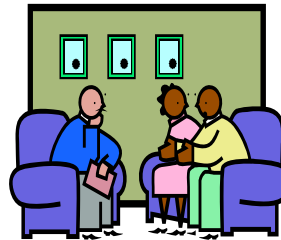
Los Medanos College

Phone: (925) 439-2181, ext. 3196, 3297
Monday – Thursday: 7:40 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Friday: 7:40 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Counseling Centers/Personal Counseling

Counselors work with students to help set goals and design educational plans for achieving those goals. Since course selection is very important and four-year college requirements change so frequently, students should consult with a counselor each semester before registering for classes. Services offered at the Counseling Center include:

- Information on transfer, A.A. degree, and certificate programs
- The Transfer Center and its resource library
- Career planning and college success courses
- Personal counseling
- Individual and group counseling
- Information for international students
- Information for vocational rehabilitation



In addition, CCCC provides five free, confidential and personal counseling services, 24 hours a day, seven days a week for all registered students, carrying six or more units. To make an appointment to speak confidentially with one of these counselors about matters such as emotional stress, alcohol and drug problems, legal questions, financial and credit problems, etc., please call Managed Health Network at 1-800-227-1060.

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

DSPS provides instruction and services at all three campuses to individuals with disabilities. These services are designed to increase access to college instructional programs.

Contra Costa College

Phone: (510) 235-7800, ext. 7220

Diablo Valley College

Phone: (925) 685-1230, ext. 2276, 2546

Los Medanos College

Phone: (925) 439-2181, ext. 3353, 3133

Libraries



Each campus has a library. The library provides books, magazines, electronic resources, microfilm, pamphlets, maps and other resources for students. Reference librarians are available to answer questions and describe the services of the library. There are classes available to familiarize you with library materials, services and basic bibliographic techniques.

Contra Costa College

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Information and Circulation | (925) 235-7800, ext. 4318 |
| Reference: | (925) 235-7800, ext. 4450 |
| Monday – Thursday: | 9:00 a.m. – 7:45 p.m. |
| Friday: | 9:00 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. |
| Saturday - Sunday: | 10:00 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. |

Diablo Valley College

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Information and Circulation | (925) 685-1230, ext. 2441 |
| Reference: | (925) 685-1230, ext. 2246 |
| Monday – Thursday: | 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. |
| Friday: | 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. |
| Saturday: | 12:00p.m. – 4:00 p.m. |

Los Medanos College

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Information and Circulation | (925) 798-3500, ext. 3320 |
| Reference: | (925) 798-3500, ext. 3275 |
| Monday – Thursday: | 7:45 a.m. – 8:45 p.m. |
| Friday: | 7:45 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. |

Tutoring

Our tutoring services are decentralized and offered at various locations, such as within departments, in ongoing labs and through the Learning Centers. Tutoring can help students succeed in specific courses when they are having difficulty.

ESL Tutoring: Drop-in and regular tutoring are available to help students build the skills needed for success. Other services include college success workshops, short-term classes, and computer-assisted instruction in study skills, reading and writing.

Math Lab: Drop-in tutoring for all math courses is available. An instructor and student tutors are there to help with math problems. Lab time is required for some math courses.

Computer Center: The centers are equipped with IBM compatible and Mac computers. Students from many departments use the center to do lab work for their computer science classes.

Media Center: The Media Center's collection contains films, video tapes, foreign language tapes, slide programs and videodiscs. All materials may be viewed by students in the Media Lab for use in their own research or to make up for a missed viewing in the classroom. Equipment is available for general listening and viewing or other course projects.

Working on Campus



Students are allowed to work on campus as student assistants. The only requirement is that the student is in F-1 status. F-1 students can only work at the campus they are attending and they must have a form filled out by the Designated School Official (DSO) indicating they are in-status before they can begin employment. Students must also have a Social Security number, with the correct spelling of your name (please refer to the following section on **Social Security Cards**).

Student jobs are limited in availability, and there is no way to apply in advance. The jobs are very popular among our international students, as this is the only type of work for which they are eligible. Of the jobs available each semester, the hours that are assigned to each student cannot exceed a maximum of twenty hours per week. Students are eligible, however, to work up to forty hours per week during the summer. The current hourly pay is \$8.03. Some job classifications will pay a higher hourly salary. As jobs become available, they are posted at the respective Job Placement Center on each campus.

The numbers to call are:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Contra Costa College | (510) 235-7800, ext. 4344 |
| Diablo Valley College | (925) 685-1230, ext. 2206 |
| Los Medanos College | (925) 439-2181, ext. 3331 |

Off-Campus Employment

In cases of **economic hardship**, international students may work off campus, if the following conditions are met:

- Must have been in F-1 status for nine academic months
- Must be able to demonstrate unforeseen severe financial problems
- Approval is granted by the immigration Custom Enforcement (ICE)

Curricular practical training (CPT) is an alternate work/study internship, cooperative education or any other type of required internship or practicum which is offered by sponsoring employers through cooperative agreements with the school. To be eligible, international students must meet the following requirements:

Note: CPT is authorized through the International Student Office DSO on campus.

- Must have been in F-1 status for nine academic months
- Training is limited to part-time. (20 hours per week during studying and 40 hours during summer vacation)
- Approval is granted by International Student Admissions and Services on campus
- Must related to the majors

Optional practical training (OPT) is temporary employment for practical training directly related to the students' majors upon completion of programs. To be eligible for OPT, international students must have been in F-1 status for nine months. OPT is available only to students in college level programs. OPT is available for a maximum of 12 months after completion of each level of education, i.e., A.A., B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

Note: OPT is authorized through the International Student Office DSO on campus.

Social Security Cards

F-1 Students Only

F-1 students are only eligible to receive a Social Security Card when they have been hired as a Student Assistant at one of our three campuses. The following are documents that you must present at the Social Security Office:

- Form SS-5, Application for a Social Security Card
- At least two documents that show your age and identity including a passport and one additional document establishing identity
- Form I-94
- SEVIS Form I-20
- For on-campus employment, you will need a letter from the DSO stating that you are enrolled in a full course of study and are authorized to work
- An original letter from the Job Placement Center or campus employer stating that you have been hired as a Student Assistant

You may also be required to bring other forms of identification. Please check with the DSO before going to the Social Security office. Below is a list of the Social Security offices near each of our three campuses. The office hours and telephone number are the same for each office. They are: Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., telephone 1-800-772-1213.

Contra Costa College

Social Security Administration
2045 Allston Way
Berkeley, CA 94704

Diablo Valley College

Social Security Administration
1111 Civic Dr
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Los Medanos College

Social Security Administration
2615 Crow Ct.
Antioch, CA 94509

Housing Options



Comfortable, safe housing is an important concern for our students. Although the colleges do not have dormitory facilities, the International Student Office at each campus will provide information regarding housing options in Contra Costa County. The following types of housing accommodations are available to students:

- Hotels
- Apartment rentals
- Homestay program
- Housing board on campus

Hotels

If you prefer to rent or share an apartment, it is important to plan on arriving two to three weeks before the beginning of classes. Be sure to make reservations at a hotel before your departure. The following information may help you select accommodations that best suit your needs. You might also want to visit www.anyhotelanywhere.com. Rates found on the Internet may be cheaper than those found directly at the hotel. Another site to offer outstanding, competitive rates is www.priceline.com.

All hotels listed are examples of hotels in the area. CCCC does not recommend these hotels over others in the area, but rather is providing this information as a resource to assist you in making choices about hotels. Please note that the rates listed are subject to change and do not include tax.

Contra Costa College

Courtyard Richmond Berkeley
3150 Garrity Way
Richmond, CA 94806
Phone: (510) 262-0700
Website: www.marriott.com
Price: \$149/night

Extended Stayamerica
3170 Garrity Way
Richmond, CA 94806
Phone: (510) 222-7383
Website: www.extstay.com
Price: \$90/night

Diablo Valley College

Courtyard by Marriott
2250 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: (925) 691-1444
Price: \$159/night
Website: www.marriott.com

Housing Options

Crowne Plaza Concord
45 John Glenn Dr.
Concord, CA 94520
Phone: (925) 825-7700
Price: \$80 to \$109/night
Website: www.crowneplaza.com

Embassy Suites
1345 Treat Blvd.
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
Phone: (925) 934-2500
Website: www.embassysuites.com
Price: \$134-\$159 /prices depend on day of the week and availability

Marriott Hotel Walnut Creek
2355 N. Main St.
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
Phone: (925) 934-2000
Price: \$109/night
Website: www.marriott.com

Premier Inns
1581 Concord Ave.
Concord, CA 94523
Phone: (925) 674-0888
Price: \$50/night
Website: www.premierinns.com

Royal Palms Motel
3510 Willow Pass Rd.
Concord, CA 94520
Phone: (925) 686-1661
Price: \$60/single; \$70/double

Summerfield Suites by Wyndham
2611 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: (925) 934-3343
Price: \$152/night
Website: www.wyndham.com

Sun Valley Inn Motel
2045 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94520
Phone: (925) 687-0171
Price: \$62/single; \$72/double

Los Medanos College

Ramada Inn
2436 Mahogany Way
Antioch, CA 94509
Phone: (925) 754-6600
Price: \$74/night
Website: www.ramada.com

Apartment Rentals

There are a variety of apartments available for rent in and around our three campuses. Free lists may be found in local newspapers, in rental magazines available at local supermarkets or on the Internet (i.e., www.craigslist.com, www.rent.net, www.homestore.com). When you choose where you want to live, think about safety, transportation, and, if you do not have a car, be sure that the things you need (i.e., shopping, library, etc.) are near enough to reach easily by walking, taking a bus or riding a bicycle.

Useful Tips to Keep in Mind when Selecting your Accommodations:

What to expect: When renting an apartment, be prepared to fill out a background check, which usually requires bank account information, previous addresses and personal and professional references. Please note that California law now prohibits presenting evidence of a Social Security number when renting an apartment. It is normal for a landlord to require first and last month's rent, and a damage deposit. Utilities (water, gas, electricity) may or may not be included in the rental amount. This information will be contained in your lease; this is a legally binding agreement, so make sure to read it carefully before signing.

About leases: Landlords are looking for responsible, financially secure tenants. They usually prefer to have local references. If you have difficulty with this process, please see the DSO at your campus.

When you find the apartment of your choice, make sure you receive a lease agreement. All rental agreements or leases should be in writing. Read it thoroughly and make sure you understand it completely. If there is any language you do not understand, ask a reliable person to explain it to you. If your landlord does not give you a copy, it is important to request one; your lease and/or rental agreement are the only evidence of your legal tenancy and are designed to protect both parties' rights.

At a minimum, a lease or rental agreement should include the following:

- Rental rate
- Required damage deposit
- Length of occupancy
- Apartment rules
- Termination requirements

Some questions you may want to ask include:

- What is the amount of rent?
- What is included in the rent (i.e., gas, electric, water, parking, laundry, etc.)?
- How many people may occupy the apartment?
- When and how must rent be paid each month?
- If roommates share the apartment, who is responsible if one should leave?
- Under what conditions is the damage deposit refundable?
- What is the length of occupancy?
- What is the landlord's right of entry?
- What is the sublet policy?
- What is the guest policy?
- What are the rules concerning pets, conduct and use of recreational facilities?
- Whom do you call for emergency repairs?
- Is parking available; if not, where do you park?
- How, where and when do you dispose of trash?
- Is the apartment located near public transportation?

If repairs are needed before you move in, make the rental agreement contingent upon these corrections and agree upon a completion date. This agreement should be in writing, dated and signed by both parties.

Housing Options

It is always good to pay rent by check, not cash. Write the purpose on the face of the check (example: “June rent for Apt. #1, 123 Jones St.”). If you must pay in cash, get a signed and dated receipt from the landlord.

Leasing versus month-to-month renting: Most apartments are rented under either a lease agreement or a month-to-month rental agreement. A lease agreement is usually for a one-year term. Remember that you will be responsible for the rent for the entire lease period, even if you wish to move out. Before you sign a lease agreement, make sure that you are completely satisfied with the accommodations, and that you like the landlord.

Some landlords allow month-to-month rental agreements: This type of arrangement allows you and the landlord to have more flexibility. The negative side of this arrangement is that the landlord may decide not to renew your rental agreement, and you will be forced to relocate at the end of one month. The rates for month-to-month renting may be higher than for leasing.

Damages: Protect yourself from false accusations of damage by going through the apartment with the landlord before you move in. Make a list of existing damages, paying attention to appliances, cracked plaster, damaged draperies and carpets, lighting fixtures, etc. Ask the landlord to sign this list and date it. Sign it yourself, and make copies for both of you to keep. Should you damage the premises, you are responsible for making repairs. You are expected to leave the apartment in the same condition as when you moved in.

Subletting: If, for any reason, you need to leave before your lease expires, some landlords will allow you to sublet to another tenant. You would most often do this if you want to travel during school breaks, but do not wish to lose the right to live in that apartment after returning. Subletting is only allowed with the landlord’s permission, and some landlords do not permit it. Keep in mind that even if you have permission to sublet, you are responsible for the rent payment each month, whether or not you have collected it from the sub-tenant. Be very careful when you choose your sub-tenant and have him or her sign an agreement which states the amount of rent, the dates of occupancy, and a statement that all damages caused during your absence will be fixed. If damages are not fixed, you will not be able to collect your security deposit when you move out. It is wise to get information about the sub-tenant’s family, workplace and anything else that might be helpful in case you return to find that he or she has disappeared and left you with unexpected expenses.

Finding a Place

The following is a listing of apartments near our three colleges. Please remember that you will need to check prices and other information at the time you call for a tour of the building. All apartments listed are examples of available apartments in the area. There are other apartments in the general area around our three colleges. The colleges do not recommend these apartments over others in the area; rather we are providing this information as a resource to assist you in making choices about housing.

Contra Costa College

Bella Vista
3400 Richmond Parkway
Richmond, CA 98406
Phone: (1-866) 326-4961 or 510-223-5688
Price: \$1042 +/-month

San Marcos Apartment
2601 Hilltop Dr.
San Pablo, CA 94806
Phone: (1-866) 780-4011 or 510-669-9393
Price: \$1,125+/month

Housing Options

Westridge at Hilltop
2490 Lancaster Dr.
Richmond, CA 94806
Phone: (1-866) 780-4011 or 510-222-2730
Prices: \$827+/month

Diablo Valley College

Boulevard Apartment Homes
2635 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: (1-866) 244-3447
Price: \$825+/month

Briarwood Apartments
141 Golf Club Rd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: (925) 676-3099

Camelback-North
630 Tempe Ct.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: (925) 825-1220
Price: \$995+/month

Northridge Apartments
235 Camelback Rd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: (1-866) 240-5008
Price: \$1,025+/month

Wood Creek Condominium Rentals
210 Twinbridge Circle
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: (1-866) 259-2124
Price: \$1,250+/month

Los Medanos College

Peppertree Apartments
300 Peppertree Way
Pittsburg, CA 94565
Phone: (925) 432-1202
Price: \$875+/month

Pheasant Ridge
2205 E. Leland Rd.
Pittsburg, CA 94565
Phone: (1-866) 287-8706
Price: \$828+/month

Housing Options

Presidents Park
1128 E. Leland Rd.
Pittsburg, CA 94565
Phone: (925) 427-2114
Price: \$895 - \$955/month

Villa Serena
100 Leland Lane
Pittsburg, CA 94565
Phone: (1-866) 496-0577
Price: \$845+/month

Things You Should Know After You Move



Utilities: You may be responsible for paying the cost of your utilities (water, electricity, gas and telephone). Ask your landlord how to get these services turned on. The utility companies may require you to pay a deposit before service is activated. These deposits will be refunded to you or credited to your account when you terminate your service, provided you have paid all of your bills.

Household current is 110 volts, AC 60 cycles. Foreign appliances without converters/adapters will not work here. Also, when the service representative comes to connect your gas, ask him or her to show you where the pilot lights for heater, stove and water heater are located and how to turn them off in case of an emergency.

Appliances: Ask your landlord or building manager to show you how to use and clean your stove, oven, refrigerator, heater, air conditioner, dishwasher, garbage disposal and other appliances which are included in your rent. Remember that gas stoves, if turned on but not lit, are dangerous because gas is poisonous and explosive. If you detect the smell of gas in your apartment and cannot determine why, call PG&E (1-800-743-5000). They will send someone to check it for you. There is no fee for this service. Burners on electric stoves may be hot without appearing red in color. Electric burners will stay hot for some time after the control has been turned off.



Refrigerator: You may have to defrost the freezer compartment of your refrigerator to keep it working properly. Some refrigerators defrost automatically. Others must be turned off for several hours until the ice melts naturally. Do not allow frozen foods to thaw while defrosting your refrigerator unless you plan to use them right away. It is a good idea to store food in a neighbor's freezer. If your frozen food thaws, do not refreeze it. Use it immediately or throw it away.

Right of Entry: The landlord has the right to enter the premises at reasonable times to inspect and make repairs but usually the landlord will not enter your apartment without calling to ask permission or notify you that there is work to be done.

Repairs: If the landlord fails to make reasonable repairs, the tenant, after repeatedly asking for those repairs **in writing**, has the option of making the repairs himself (only if the cost does not exceed one month's rent) and applying the amount of the repair as a deduction to the next month's rent. If the repairs are more expensive than that, the tenant has the right to leave the apartment without the 30 days notice.

Housing Options

Homestay Program

Students have the option of choosing to be placed in a homestay program. A homestay program is a guaranteed placement with a family that wants to be a host family to an international student and can provide you with good exposure to the American way of life. The student will be provided with a room and meals for \$650.00 a month. There is a one time \$300.00 placement fee paid directly to **Fia Parker** (pictured right), the **Housing Coordinator** for the colleges. To get information on housing assistance, contact Fia Parker, Housing Coordinator at Diablo Valley Homestay (925) 876-0080 or e-mail her at fparker@dvc.edu. More information visit www.diablovalleyhomestay.com



Homestay Program: Expectations of a Student

Living with a host family gives you insight into the lifestyles and cultures of families in the United States. It is important to share in your host family's activities - they will appreciate your interest. Sharing these fun times will also greatly enrich your experience. Your host family will play a very large part in your life in the United States and will be there to assist you when you need help. Students living in homestays are asked to meet the following expectations:

- Participate in your host family's life, and share your life with them. Host families have invited you into their homes and lives to share their time with you. If you are never home or always in your room with the door shut you miss their companionship and the opportunity to practice English and learn about American family life.
- Have a good attitude, and be helpful to your host family. Remember that you will be living as a member of the family in their home – not as a guest that is going to be waited on by the other family members.
- Communicate directly with your host family. Talk about any problems and speak up about yourself. If you don't understand something - *ask again*; don't worry about making mistakes using English. Be sure to communicate your feelings and concerns. If a problem comes up, be sure to talk about it, otherwise your host family may not be aware that something is wrong.
- Respect your host family and their home. Follow the House Rules set by the family. If you do not understand a rule, ask the family to explain it to you.
- Pay your rent on time every month. It is your responsibility to pay your family – the family should not have to ask you for money.



Homestay Program: Expectations of Host Family

- The host family must be willing to treat the student as a member of the family and spend quality time with the student. This is the most important factor, and families should have lifestyles that allow them to fulfill this requirement.
- Provide a private bedroom for sleeping and studying.
- Provide two meals per day, which are generally breakfast and dinner. On weekends, families should provide three meals per day, but if a family does not eat all three meals on the weekend, the student would be shown where the food is to prepare his or her own meal.



Housing Options

Housing Bulletin Board on Campus

There is a housing bulletin board at each campus. Various types of housing are posted. This is open to all students. The student must get the information from the board and make the calls on their own. The Associated Student Body Office at each campus updates this board and should be contacted if the student has questions.



Telephone Services



Once you have found a place to live, you may want telephone service. The main telephone company for the Bay Area is at&t. At &t can be reached by accessing their website at www.sbc.com

You can view the various packages they offer for college students. In addition, you may want to check out their “Universal Lifeline Flat Rate” package. This package allows people who have two or less persons in their household earning \$20,600.00 or less per year to pay a minimal amount per month for unlimited local calling. There is a \$10.00 one time connection fee. (Most students qualify for Universal Lifeline as long as they show proof of no income.) At&t also has various international plans. You may also want to search the web for other economical providers of international services. Some independent companies offer 20 minute calls to international destinations for only \$1.99. Purchasing calling cards from local drugstores and supermarkets also enables you to make cheaper international calls.

When you sign up for service, the telephone company will send you a phone directory for your area code at no cost to you. The White Pages in the phone book contain listings of household customers. The Pink Pages contain listings of local businesses. The Yellow Pages have paid advertisements for local businesses.

Transportation

Getting to CCC, DVC or LMC from the Airport

The two major airports near our campuses are San Francisco International and Oakland International. To get to campus from one of these airports, the following transportation is available:

Airport Shuttles: These are small vans with fixed prices that often take more than one person. The following is a list of shuttles that service the area around the colleges:

East Bay Connection

Phone: (1-800) 675-3278 or (925) 609-1920

Hours: 24 hour pick-up available to hotels/private homes

Bay Porter Express

Phone: (1-877) 467-1800 or (415) 467-1800

Hours: 24 hour pick-up available to hotels/homes; must make reservation in advance



Taxis: They are always available at the airport but fares are high, starting at \$40 for trips from San Francisco International Airport to San Francisco. Sharing the taxi with other passengers can lower the cost.

Transportation

Public Transportation

All three of our campuses are accessible by public transportation and are between 30 to 50 minutes away from San Francisco. Both BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit, i.e., subway) and various bus systems run throughout Contra Costa County.

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| BART Hours: | Monday - Friday | 4:00 a.m. – Midnight |
| | Saturday | 6:00 a.m. – Midnight |
| | Sunday | 8:00 a.m. – Midnight |



You may contact BART customer service directly by telephone. Customer service hours are Monday through Friday, 4:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

To contact BART customer service from DVC or LMC areas: (925) 676-2278

To contact BART customer service from CCC area: (510) 236-2278

To find out more about fares and schedules for BART, visit www.bart.gov/

Bus service to all three of our campuses is provided by three different companies. Specific information on routes, fares and schedules can be obtained by visiting www.transitinfo.org.

CCC: AC Transit, visit www.actransit.org/

Phone: 817-1717 or 511

DVC: County Connection

Phone: (925) 676-7500

LMC: TriDelta Transit

Phone: (925) 754-4040



Additional Transportation Resources (www.transit.org)

Amtrak

Rail service to certain cities in the United States; note that it may be cheaper to fly.

Website: www.amtrak.com

Phone: 1-800-872-7245

Greyhound

Bus service to certain cities in the United States.; note that it may be cheaper to fly.

Website: www.greyhound.com

Phone: 1-800-229-9424

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

If you will be driving in California and are going to purchase a motor vehicle, you must get a **California driver's license**. International students may drive rental cars in California for one year as long as they have a valid driver's license from their home country. **(Please note that under California law, DMV can no longer request applicants to present a Social Security number.)** In order to get a driver's license or **California identification (ID) card** (which is used for identification purposes only), you will need to do the following:



- Make an appointment with the DMV
- Complete application form DL-44
- Present a valid foreign passport with a valid record of arrival (I-94)
- Give a thumb print
- Have picture taken
- Take and pass a vision exam

Department of Motor Vehicles

- Take and pass a traffic laws and signs test (only for a driver's license)
You will want to study the *California Driving Handbook* before taking the test. This booklet comes in several foreign languages. Students are allowed to take the written test in their native language if that test is available. In addition, if students are taking the test in their native language, they will also need to take the driving signs test. This booklet is free of charge at DMV offices and can also be downloaded from www.dmv.ca.gov.
- Take and pass a driving test with a car that you provide (only for a driver's license)
- Proof of financial responsibility (car insurance; only for a driver's license)
- Pay the fee (\$21.00 for an ID; \$27.00 for a driver's license)

DMV Locations, Hours, Website

The DMV offices listed below all have the same office hours, phone numbers and websites. They are:

*Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Phone: 1-800-777-0133

Website: www.dmv.ca.gov

*Offices are open one Saturday per month. Please call DMV to find out the exact date.

DMV Office near Contra Costa College

Department of Motor Vehicles
6400 Manila Ave.
El Cerrito, CA 94530

DMV Offices near Diablo Valley College

Department of Motor Vehicles
2070 Diamond Blvd.
Concord, CA 94520

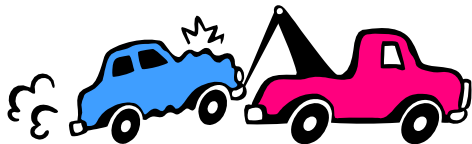
Department of Motor Vehicles
1910 N. Broadway
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

DMV Office near Los Medanos College

Department of Motor Vehicles
1399 Buchanan Rd.
Pittsburg, CA 94565

Free Roadside Assistance

If you have a flat tire and/or run out of gas while on the road, there is a free service paid for by the Bay Area Transportation Commission, CalTrans and California Highway Patrol (CHP) that is able to assist you. The telephone number for this free roadside assistance is (707) 551-4100. This service is primarily available during commute hours, generally from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Weekend service hours are limited.



Money and Banking

Currency

American currency is comprised of dollars and cents. Dollar currency is mostly in bill notes (although some dollar coins exist), whereas cents are coins. Dollar bills are the same size in all denominations and have the same general appearance. When currency or coins are used, it is called “paying in cash.” The word “cash” is used to mean payment by dollars rather than credit cards or checks.

Bank Accounts

There are two basic kinds of accounts:



- Checking accounts for payment of regular bills and needs
- Savings accounts for money you do not need to use immediately and can earn interest

Before you open a bank account, be sure to visit several banks to compare their services and fees. Opening an account is fairly easy—deposit your funds and complete any required bank forms. (If you are making a deposit with an overseas check or bank draft, you may have to wait one or two weeks before your money will be available to you.)

After opening an account you will be given a book of temporary checks, but you should order checks with your name and local address on them. Most businesses will only accept a check that has the printed information.

Never sign a check before you are ready to use it, since it can be cashed as soon as your signature is on it. Most merchants will require that you show one or two pieces of photo ID to accept your check. These can be a California Driver’s License or Identity Card, a passport, or other official ID. Merchants near campus might accept a student photo ID card.

Deposits: Deposits to your accounts can be made with a bank teller or at an ATM. It is best to use a deposit slip when making a deposit (pre-printed from your bank or a filled out slip). Always use a deposit slip if depositing cash. To deposit a check made out to you, you must first “endorse” or sign the check on the back. You should also print “For Deposit Only” and your account number after your signature. After you endorse a check it is as good as cash and can be used by anyone unless you have added the deposit notation and account number.

ATM (Automatic Teller Machine) Cards/Debits Cards: An ATM card is used for two purposes: as a banking tool to access your bank accounts and as a debit card. Most cards can be used at any ATM anywhere, and can be used for purchases. Many businesses now accept debit cards for payment. A debit card works very much like a check because it takes money directly out of your bank account to make a payment. Note that some banks have fees for the debit use of a card and if an ATM at another bank is used.

When you open an account, you will be issued an ATM card (the card will come in the mail). The card is directly linked to your bank accounts. At the bank, you must think of a Personal Identification Number (PIN) to be linked to your ATM card. Use a PIN that is easy to remember. Never write your PIN down, and never give or tell your PIN to anyone—ever— not even to a bank employee. When using an ATM, be sure that no one sees your PIN. If your ATM card is ever lost or stolen, notify your bank immediately.

Money and Banking

Banks near Contra Costa College

Bank of America
3100 Hilltop Mall Rd.
Richmond, CA 94806
Website: www.bankofamerica.com
24-hour customer service

*Washington Mutual
3100 Hilltop Mall Rd.
Richmond, CA 94806
Phone: (510) 223-4222
Website: www.wamu.com

Banks near Diablo Valley College

Bank of America
Contra Costa Blvd., one block from Monument Blvd.
Concord, CA
Phone: (925) 682-46444
Website: www.bankofamerica.com
24 hour customer service

California Bank and Trust
620 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: (925) 686-3500
Website: www.calbanktrust.com



Bank of the West
1969 Diamond Blvd.
Concord, CA
Phone: (925) 658-4410
Website: www.bankofthewest.com

Citibank
700 Contra Costa Blvd.
Concord, CA
Phone: (925) 686-3200
Website: www.citibank.com

First Bank and Trust
2395 Willow Pass Rd.
Concord, CA
Phone: (925) 689-9100
Website: www.firstbanks.com

*Washington Mutual
1898 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: (925) 798-9612
Website: www.wamu.com

Money and Banking

Wells Fargo Bank
699 Contra Costa Blvd.
Concord, CA
Phone: (925) 671-1563
Website: www.wellsfargo.com

OR

Inside Safeway, 1978 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(925) 671-1563

Westamerica Bank
1855 Gateway Blvd.
Concord, CA
Phone: (925) 688-0808
Website: www.westamerica.com

Banks near Los Medanos College

Bank of America
2501 Railroad Ave.
Pittsburg, CA 94565
Phone: (925) 431-1160
Website: www.bankofamerica.com

Bank of the West
2900 Railroad Ave.
Pittsburg, CA 94565
Phone: (925) 432-2911
Website: www.bankofthewest.com

Bank of Agriculture and Commerce
1411 A St.
Antioch, CA 94509
Phone: (925) 776-2200
Website: www.bankbac.com

*Washington Mutual
2136 Railroad Ave.
Pittsburg, CA 94565
Phone: (925) 439-9101
Website: www.wamu.com

Wells Fargo Bank
3001 Railroad Ave.
Pittsburg,, CA 94565
Phone: (925) 437-7382
Website: www.wellsfargo.com

* Free checking accounts are offered.

U.S. Income Tax Information

Nonresident aliens are taxed only on their income from sources within the United States and on certain income connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States. The deadline for filing income tax forms is the same day every year, that is, April 15. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) *Publication 519, U.S. Tax Guide for Aliens* explains what you will need to do to file your U.S. income tax return. A convenient website to visit is www.taxes.ca.gov. Questions can be answered within two days by using their online service, "Ask tax question by e-mail." **DVC ISAS offers workshops on income tax preparation in March**; workshops are highly recommended for all F-1 students.



For your convenience, public libraries near our campuses have income tax forms. Their locations, phone numbers and hours of operation are listed below:

Contra Costa College

San Pablo Public Library
2300 El Portal Dr., Suite D
San Pablo, CA 94806

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Phone: | (510) 374-3998 |
| Monday, Tuesday: | 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday: | 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. |
| Thursday: | CLOSED |
| Friday: | 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. |
| Saturday: | 10:00 am. – 5:00 pm |

Diablo Valley College

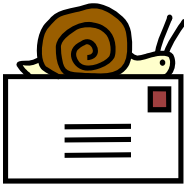
Pleasant Hill Public Library
1750 Oak Park Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Phone: | (925) 646-6434 |
| Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: | 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: | 10:00 am. – 6:00 p.m. |

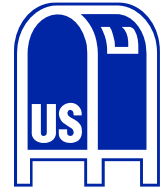
Los Medanos College

Antioch Public Library
501 W. 18th St.
Antioch, CA 94509

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Phone: | (925) 757-9224 |
| Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: | 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. |
| Thursday: | 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. |
| Friday: | 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. |
| Saturday: | 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. |



Local Post Offices/Postal Services



The following is a listing of post offices, grocery stores and /or pharmacies where you can send packages and/or purchase stamps. For general information, please call 1-800-275-8777 or visit the U.S. Postal Service website at www.usps.gov.

Contra Costa College

U.S. Post Office, San Pablo Branch
2080 23rd St.
San Pablo, CA 94806
Phone: (510) 232-4784

Albertson's
300 San Pablo Towne Ctr.
San Pablo, CA 94806
Phone: (510) 232-0801

Diablo Valley College

Safeway
200 Golf Club Rd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: (925) 825-8870

Longs Drug Store
703 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: (925) 676-2480

Los Medanos College

Raley's
1375 Buchanan Rd.
Pittsburg, CA 94565
Phone: (925) 432-1900

Longs Drug Store
2511 Somersville Rd.
Antioch, CA 94509
Phone: (925) 754-4600

Shopping – Malls, Supermarkets, Warehouses, Thrift Shops and Garage Sales

The Bay Area offers a variety of places to shop. There are shopping malls located near each of our campuses, along with supermarkets and retail warehouses where you can buy large numbers of items at discounted prices. Thrift shops carry items in good condition that have already been used and are sold at bargain prices. Weekend garage sales, listed in Friday's newspapers, also allow you to shop for kitchen items, bedding and clothing which a family is discarding and selling at the lowest possible prices.

When paying for items at malls, supermarkets, warehouses and thrift shops, most stores will accept major credit cards, checks, ATM and cash. Remember to save your receipts when buying clothing, appliances, furniture or other expensive items. If you later decide to return the item, you must have the receipt. Each store has its own policy for returns, exchanges and refunds. It's a good idea to ask the store staff if the item(s) you are purchasing is (are) returnable. Since garage sale items are often sold at the lowest possible price, it's a good idea to bring along cash for your purchases. Some families will refuse checks at garage sales.

Malls

The following is a list of malls near our campuses:

Contra Costa College

Hilltop Mall
2200 Hilltop Mall Rd.
Richmond, CA 94806
Phone: (510) 223-6900
(140 stores, services and restaurants)



Diablo Valley College

Sunvalley Mall
1 Sunvalley Mall
Concord, CA 94520
Phone: (925) 825-0400
(Over 150 stores, services and restaurants)

Los Medanos College

Sommerville Towne Center
2556 Sommersville Rd.
Antioch, CA 94509
Phone: (925) 754-5230
(Over 65 stores, services and restaurants)

Supermarkets



Supermarkets carry fresh fruits and vegetables, canned goods, meats and fish, breads, sweets, frozen foods, cleaning supplies, toiletries, batteries, and other non-food items. You must be 21 to buy alcoholic beverages and 18 to buy cigarettes. You may have to show a California identification card to provide proof of your age.

Shopping – Malls, Supermarkets, Warehouses, Thrift Shops and Garage Sales

The following is a list of supermarkets near our campuses:

Contra Costa College

Albertson's
300 San Pablo Towne Center
San Pablo, CA 94806
Phone: (510) 232-0801

Raley's
3360 San Pablo Dam Rd.
San Pablo, CA 94806
Phone: (510) 222-2577

Safeway
4025 MacDonald Ave.
Richmond, CA 94805
Phone: (510) 237-2719

Diablo Valley College

Albertson's
155 Crescent Plaza
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: (925) 687-9933

Safeway
200 Golf Club Rd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: (925) 825-8870

Smart & Final
2100 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: (925) 521-1093

Trader Joe's
1150 Concord Ave.
Concord, CA 94520
Phone: (925) 689-2990

Los Medanos College

Albertson's
2100 Railroad Ave.
Pittsburg, CA 94565

Raley's
1375 Buchanan Rd.
Pittsburg, CA 94565
Phone: (925) 432-1900

Safeway
600 Bailey Rd.
Pittsburg, CA 94565
Phone: (925) 458-0181

Warehouses

Costco is the most convenient warehouse near most of our campuses. You can buy large quantities of food and household items at discounted prices. Electronics, shoes and clothing can also be found here at reasonable prices. There is an annual membership fee of \$45.00 in order to join *Costco*. You must bring your passport with you or other valid form of identification in order to receive a membership card.

Contra Costa College

Costco
4801 Central Ave.
Richmond, CA 94806
Phone: (510) 898-2011

Diablo Valley College

Costco
2400 Monument Blvd.
Concord, CA 94518
Phone: (925) 566-4000

Los Medanos College

Costco
2201 Verne Roberts Circle
Antioch, CA 94509
Phone: (925) 757-7130

Thrift Shops

Salvation Army and other thrift shops sell used items at reasonable prices. These stores usually sell clothing, furniture, household goods, toys and shoes. Please be aware that because items are sold at a fraction of their original cost, these items cannot be returned. Look over the item carefully before making your purchase. The following is a list of some of the thrift shops located near our campuses:

Contra Costa College

Thrift Town
3645 San Pablo Dam Rd.
El Sobrante, CA 94803
Phone: (510) 222-8696

Salvation Army
13577 San Pablo Ave.
San Pablo, CA 94806
Phone: (510) 236-0847

Goodwill Stores
3730 San Pablo Dam Rd.
El Sobrante, CA 94806
Phone: (510) 758-4968

St. Vincent de Paul Society
1025 13th St.
Richmond, CA 94806
Phone: (510) 236-5521



Shopping – Malls, Supermarkets, Warehouses, Thrift Shops and Garage Sales

Diablo Valley College

Salvation Army
1806 Linda Dr.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: (925) 685-6900

Goodwill Stores

1699 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: (925) 676-7217

Stand Against Domestic Violence

1720 Linda Dr.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: (925) 602-0575



Rescued Treasures

190 Golf Club Rd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: (925) 682-3201

Los Medanos College

Salvation Army
20 W. 10th St.
Antioch, CA 94509
Phone: (925) 754-2946

Hospice Thrift Shoppe

2742 Delta Fair Blvd.
Antioch, CA 94509
Phone: (925) 777-0866

Dollar Tree

The *Dollar Tree* stores offer all items for \$1.00. You can visit their website at www.dollartree.com. These stores are conveniently located near two of our campuses:

Contra Costa College

Dollar Tree
250 San Pablo Towne Center
San Pablo, CA 94806

Diablo Valley College

Dollar Tree
2318 Monument Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Los Medanos College

Dollar Tree
Delta Fair Shopping Center
2710 Delta Fair Blvd.
Antioch, CA 94509

OR

Dollar Tree
Pittsburg Town Center
2951 Railroad Ave.
Pittsburg, CA 94565

Pharmacies and Drugstores



Drugstores and some supermarkets have pharmacies located inside of them. Here you can get a prescription filled from a licensed doctor the same day without an appointment. You can also ask pharmacists about suggestions for medicines which do not need prescriptions and with questions about colds, influenza, headaches or nausea. Most drugstores and pharmacies are open seven days a week.

Contra Costa College

Albertson's
300 San Pablo Towne Center
San Pablo, CA 94806
Phone: (510) 232-0801

Costco
4801 Central Ave.
Richmond, CA 94806
Phone: (510) 898-2011

Raley's
3360 San Pablo Dam Rd.
San Pablo, CA 94806
Phone: (510) 222-2577

Rite Aid
1991 Mountain Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94611
Phone: (510) 339-2215

Safeway
4025 MacDonald Ave.
Richmond, CA 94805
Phone: (510) 237-2719

Target
11450 San Pablo Ave.
El Cerrito, CA 94530
Phone: (510) 237-6400

Diablo Valley College

Albertson's
155 Crescent Plaza
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: (925) 687-9933

Costco
2400 Monument Blvd.
Concord, CA 94518
Phone: (925) 566-4000

Longs Drug Store
703 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: (925) 676-2480

Pharmacies and Drugstores

Rite Aid
2140 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: (925) 691-0164

OR

1165 Arnold Dr.
Martinez, CA 94553
Phone: (925) 372-0945



Safeway
200 Golf Club Rd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: (925) 825-8870

Target
560 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: (925) 685-6069

WalMart
1021 Arnold Dr.
Martinez, CA 94553
Phone: (925) 313-5716

Los Medanos College

Costco
2201 Verne Roberts Circle
Antioch, CA 94509
Phone: (925) 757-7130

Rite Aid
580 Bailey Rd.
Pittsburg, CA 94565
Phone: (925) 458-0955

OR

4100 Lone Tree Way
Antioch, CA 94509
Phone: (925) 522-0150



Target
4301 Century Blvd.
Pittsburg, CA 94565
Phone: (925) 778-8950

WalMart
2203 Loveridge Rd.
Pittsburg, CA 94565
Phone: (925) 427-2022

OR

4893 Lone Tree Way
Antioch, CA 94509
Phone: (925) 755-0900

Hospitals and Medical Centers/Emergency Services and Hotlines

Medical care in the United States is extremely costly, so most people have health insurance to cover the high cost of health care. Hospitals handle both emergency and non-emergency care. For non-emergency care, please contact a doctor covered by your insurance.



Hospital near Contra Costa College

Brookside Hospital
2000 Vale Rd.
San Pablo, CA 94806
Phone: (510) 234-8111

Hospitals near Diablo Valley College

Contra Costa Regional Medical Center
2500 Alhambra Ave.
Martinez, CA 94553
Phone: (925) 370-5000

John Muir Medical Center
1601 Ygnacio Valley Rd.
Walnut Creek, CA 94598-3122
Phone: (925) 939-3000

Mt. Diablo Medical Center
2540 East St.
Concord, CA 94520-1906
Phone: (925) 682-8200

Hospital near Los Medanos College

Sutter Delta Medical Center
3901 Lone Tree Way
Antioch, CA 94509
Phone: (925) 779-7200

Emergency Services and Hotlines

For any emergency situation, such as a violent crime, accident, heart attack or fire, dial 911.

For non-emergency situations, the following police and/or fire departments can help you:

Contra Costa College
Richmond Police Department
401 27th St.
Richmond, CA 94804
Phone: (510) 620-6642

San Pablo Fire Department
Phone: (510) 223-4422

Hospitals and Medical Centers/Emergency Services and Hotlines

Diablo Valley College

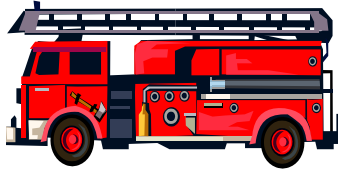
Pleasant Hill Police Department
330 Civic Dr.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: (925) 288-4600

Pleasant Hill Fire Department
Phone: (925) 930-5500

Los Medanos College

Pittsburg Police Department
55 Civic Ave.
Pittsburg, CA 94565
Phone: (925) 439-4980

Antioch Fire Department
Phone: (925) 757-1303



Airline Information

The following is a list of the most commonly used international and domestic airlines.

Asiana

Phone: (1-800) 227-4262

British Airways

Phone: (1-800) 247-9297

Delta Airlines

Phone: (1-800) 221-1212

EVA Airline

Phone: (1-800) 695-1188

Japan Airlines

Phone: (1-800) 525-3663

Singapore Airlines

Phone: (1-800) 742-3333

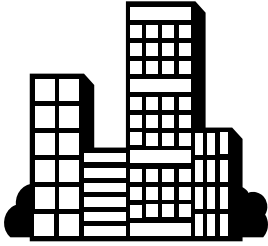
Southwest Airlines

Phone: (1-800) 435-9792

United Airlines

Phone: (1-800) 241-6522





Bay Area Consulates

Listed below are many of the consulate offices located in the Bay Area. Every country has an embassy in Washington, D.C. If your consulate is not represented below, you should call directory assistance for Washington, D.C. at (202) 555-1212 and request the telephone number of your embassy.

Australia

625 Market St., Suite 200
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: (415) 536-1970
FAX: (415) 536-1982
Website: www.austemb.org

Austria

41 Sutter St.
San Francisco, CA 94104-4903
Phone: (415) 951-8911
FAX: (415) 951-8809
Website: www.austria.org

Belgium

901 Minnesota St.
San Francisco, CA 94107-3011
Phone: (415) 550-3040
FAX: (415) 550-3030
Website: www.belgium.emb.org

Bhutan

555 California St.
San Francisco, CA 94104
Phone: (415) 622-6011
FAX: (415) 622-5388

Brazil

300 Montgomery St., Suite 900
San Francisco, CA 94104
Phone: (415) 91-8170
FAX: (415) 981-3626

Britain

1 Sansome St., Suite 850
San Francisco, CA 94104-4429
Phone: (415) 617-1300
FAX: (415) 434-2018
Website: www.britain-info.org

Bulgaria

100 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90025
Phone: (310) 575-5555



Bay Area Consulates

Canada

555 Montgomery St., Suite 1288
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: (415) 834-3180
FAX: (415) 834-3189
Website: www.cdnttrade.com

Chile

870 Market St., Suite 1058
San Francisco, CA 94102-2915
Phone: (415) 982-7662
FAX: (415) 982-2384

China, People's Republic of

1450 Laguna St.
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 674-2900
FAX: (415) 563-0494
Website: www.chinaconsulatesf.org

Colombia

592 Market St., Suite 2130
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: (415) 495-7195
FAX: (415) 777-3731
Website: www.colombiaemb.org

Costa Rica

P.O. Box 7643
Fremont, CA 94537
Phone: (510) 790-0785
FAX: (510) 792-5249
Website: www.costarica.com

Cote d'Ivoire

San Francisco Pier 23
San Francisco, CA 94111
Phone: (415) 391-0176

Czech Republic

20 Filbert St., Suite 700
San Francisco, CA 94111
Phone: (415) 394-0152
FAX: (415) 391-1895

Denmark

20 California St., 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111
Phone: (415) 391-0100
FAX: (415) 391-0181
Website: www.denmark.dk

Dominican Republic

1516 Oak St., Suite 321
Alameda, CA 94501
Phone: (510) 864-7777



Bay Area Consulates

Ecuador

455 Market St., Suite 980
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: (415) 957-5921
FAX: (415) 957-5923
Website: www.ecuador.org

Egypt

3001 Pacific Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94115
Phone: (415) 346-9700

El Salvador

870 Market St., Suite 508
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 781-7924

Finland

333 Bush St.
San Francisco, CA 94104
Phone: (415) 772-6649
Website: www.finland.org

France

540 Bush St.
San Francisco, CA 94108
Phone: (415) 397-4330
FAX: (415) 397-7843
Website: www.accueil-sfo.org

Germany

1960 Jackson St.
San Francisco, CA 94109
Phone: (415) 75-1061
FAX: (415) 775-0187
Website: www.germany-info.org

Greece

2441 Gough St.
San Francisco, CA 94123
Phone: (415) 775-2102
FAX: (415) 776-6815
Website: www.greekembassy.org

Guatemala

870 Market St.
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 788-5651

Haiti

41 Joy Ave., Suite C
Brisbane, CA 94005
Phone: (415) 334-7930
FAX: (415) 469-0201



Bay Area Consulates

Honduras

870 Market St., Suite 449
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 392-0076

Hungary

777 Mariners Island Blvd., Suite 575
San Mateo, CA 94404
Phone: (650) 573-7351
FAX: (650) 573-7355
Website: www.hungaryemb.org

Iceland

222 Front St., 5th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111
Phone: (415) 433-3103
FAX: (415) 433-0449
Website: www.iceland.org

India

540 Arguello Blvd.
San Francisco, CA 94118
Phone: (415) 668-0662
FAX: (415) 668-7968
Website: www.indianconsulate-sf.org

Indonesia

1111 Columbus Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94133
Phone: (415) 474-9571

Ireland

44 Montgomery St., Suite 3830
San Francisco, CA 94104
Phone: (415) 392-4214
FAX: (415) 392-0885

Israel

456 Montgomery St.
San Francisco, CA 94104
Phone: (415) 844-7500
FAX: (415) 844-7555
Website: www.israelemb.org

Italy

2590 Webster St.
San Francisco, CA 94115
Phone: (415) 931-4924
FAX: (415) 931-7205
Website: www.italyemb.org

Jamaica

52 Donna Way
Oakland, CA 94605-5002
Phone: (510) 562-4391



Bay Area Consulates

Japan

50 Fremont St., Suite 2300
San Francisco, CA 94118
Phone: (415) 777-3533

Jordan

972 Mission St.
San Francisco, CA 94103
Phone: (415) 546-1111

Korea

3500 Clay St.
San Francisco, CA 94118
Phone: (415) 921-2251
FAX: (415) 921-5946

Liberia

3560 Jackson St.
San Francisco, CA 94118
Phone: (415) 673-5020

Lithuania

1 Maritime Plaza, Suite 2525
San Francisco, CA 94111
Phone: (415) 788-7354

Luxembourg

1 Sansome St., Suite 830
San Francisco, CA 94104
Phone: (415) 788-0816
FAX: (415) 788-0985

Malta

2562 San Bruno Ave.
P.O. Box 34-7001
San Francisco, CA 94134
Phone: (415) 468-4321

Mexico

870 Market St., Suite 528
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 392-5554

Monaco

2643 Union St.
San Francisco, CA 94123
Phone: (415) 346-7766
FAX: (415) 771-4842
Website: www.monaco-consulate.com

Nepal

909 Montgomery St., Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94133
Phone: (415) 434-1111
FAX: (415) 434-3130
Website: www.undp.org/missions/nepal



Bay Area Consulates

Netherlands

275 Battery St.
San Francisco, CA 94111
Phone: (415) 981-6454
FAX: (415) 399-1249
Website: www.netherlands-embassy.org

New Zealand

1 Maritime Plaza, Suite 700
San Francisco, CA 94111
Phone: (415) 399-1255
FAX: (415) 399-9775
Website: www.nzemb.org

Nicaragua

870 Market St., Suite 1050
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 765-6825
FAX: (415) 765-6826

Norway

20 California St., 6th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111
Phone: (415) 986-0766
FAX: (415) 986-3318
Website: www.norway.org/embassy

Panama

870 Market St., Suite 551
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 391-4268
FAX: (415) 391-4269

Peru

870 Market St., Suite 579
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 362-7136

Philippines

447 Sutter St., 6th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94108
Phone: (415) 433-6666

Portugal

3298 Washington St.
San Francisco, CA 94115
Phone: (415) 346-3400

Romania

44 Montgomery St., Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94014
Phone: (415) 743-2210
Website: www.roembus.org



Bay Area Consulates

Russia

2790 Green St.
San Francisco, CA 94123
Phone: (415) 928-6878
FAX: (415) 929-0306
Website: www.consulrussia.cjb.net

Rwanda

120 Montgomery St., Suite 950
San Francisco, CA 94104
Phone: (415) 265-4463
FAX: (415) 265-4463

Singapore

595 Market St., Suite 2450
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: (415) 543-4775
FAX: (415) 543-4788

Spain

1405 Sutter St.
San Francisco, CA 94109
Phone: (415) 992-2995
FAX: (415) 931-9706
Website: www.spainun.org

Sweden

120 Montgomery St., Suite 2175
San Francisco, CA 94104
Phone: (415) 788-2631
FAX: (415) 788-6841
Website: www.webcom.com/sis

Switzerland

456 Montgomery St., Suite 1500
San Francisco, CA 94104
Phone: (415) 788-2272
FAX: (415) 788-1402
Website: www.swissemb.org

Tonga

360 Post St., Unit 604
San Francisco, CA 94108
Phone: (415) 781-0365
FAX: (415) 781-3964

Turkey

4801 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90010
Phone: (323) 937-0118
FAX: (323) 932-0061
Website: www.turkiye.net/lacg



Bay Area Consulates

Uruguay

564 Market St., Suite 221
San Francisco, CA 94104
Phone: (415) 986-5222
FAX: (415) 989-4502
Website: www.embassy.org/uruguay

Venezuela

311 California St., Suite 620
San Francisco, CA 94104
Phone: (415) 955-1982
FAX: (415) 955-1970
Website: www.emmbavenezus.org

Vietnam

1700 California St., Suite 430
San Francisco, CA 94109
Phone: (415) 922-1577
FAX: (415) 922-1848
Website: www.vietnamembassy-usa.org

Yemen

1255 Post St., Suite 1030
San Francisco, CA 94109
Phone: (415) 567-3036

