



# International Student Handbook

International Student Program Office  
Las Positas College  
Building # 1600  
Room # 1658  
3000 Campus Hill Drive  
Livermore, CA USA 94551  
[www.laspositascollege.edu/international](http://www.laspositascollege.edu/international)



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## **Acknowledgements**

AAA Northern California & Nevada Tourbook, 2007 Edition  
Las Positas College 2007 - 2008 Student Handbook  
Las Positas College Catalog 2010 - 2018  
NAFSA's International Student Handbook  
San Francisco Bay City Guide, January 2012  
Survival Kit for Overseas Living by Robert Kohls, Intercultural Press  
Tri-Valley 2006-2007 Visitors Guide

A special thanks to Sean Day for producing this handbook and to Sylvia Rodriguez, Gilberto Victoria, Laura Weaver and Nancy Wright for their considerable time in making contributions to and editing this handbook.

Note: Throughout this handbook, the citizens and residents of the United States of America are referred to as "U.S. Americans". Although many people here and abroad call residents of the U.S.A. simply as "Americans"; this term could also refer to any resident of North, Central or South America.

17<sup>th</sup> Edition, August 2018



### **Welcome to Las Positas College**

The International Student Program extends you a warm welcome to Las Positas College. We have written this handbook for you, hoping to ease the transition of settling into a new environment and to prepare you for your student life at Las Positas College (LPC). Please take time to read this information carefully. We hope it will answer many of your questions. It is important to us that you have an enjoyable and productive stay here at LPC. We're glad you're here!

*Cindy Balero*

International Student Program Coordinator



## International Student Program Office

The International Student Program (ISP) Office assists the college's F-1 visa International students in adjusting to life at LPC, the Tri-Valley Area, and the United States. At the beginning of each semester, ISP conducts extensive orientation programs for new International students. In addition, the office provides advice concerning immigration and visa matters, cultural adjustment, academic matters, personal and financial counseling, and employment regulations. Furthermore, ISP conducts various workshops during the academic year on topics of special interest to International students and organizes a variety of social, cultural, educational, and recreational activities designed to help familiarize International students with life in the U.S. You can also access additional information about LPC on the internet at [www.laspositas.college/international](http://www.laspositas.college/international). The ISP Office has professional staff who are sensitive to the needs and concerns of International students and who are dedicated to providing you with the highest quality service. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. We are pleased to be of service to you and happy to be a part of your experience here at Las Positas College.



## Contact Information

<b>Mailing Address</b>	3000 Campus Hill Drive Livermore, CA 94551
<b>World Wide Web Address</b>	<a href="http://www.laspositascollege.edu">www.laspositascollege.edu</a>
<b>International Student Program (ISP) Office</b>	Building # 1600, Room # 1658
<b>ISP Fax</b>	(925) 424-1877
<b>ISP Staff</b>	<b>Cindy Balero</b> International Student Program Coordinator <a href="mailto:cbalero@laspositascollege.edu">cbalero@laspositascollege.edu</a> (925) 424-1548
<b>ISP Office Hours</b>	Mondays - Thursdays    9:00 am – 4:00 pm Fridays                      9:00 am – 12:00 pm
<b>International Student Academic Counselor</b>	<b>Heike Gecox</b> Building # 1600 (925) 424-1436 <a href="mailto:hgecox@laspositascollege.edu">hgecox@laspositascollege.edu</a>
<b>Bookstore</b>	Building # 1300 (925) 424-1812
<b>Campus Safety and Security</b>	Building # 1700, Room # 1725 (925) 424-1690
<b>Counseling</b>	Building # 1600 (925) 424-1400
<b>Health Center</b>	Building # 1700, Room # 1701 (925) 424-1830
<b>Library</b>	Building # 2000 (925) 424-1151





# **I. Immigration, Visa and Legal Issues**

## F-1 Student Information

### Maintaining Your F-1 Student Non-Immigration Visa Status

You must do the following to maintain your F-1 student non-immigrant visa status:

- Have a valid passport at all times and you must have a passport that is valid for at least 6 months in the future (unless except by treaty with the U.S.A).
- Attend the school you are authorized to attend
- Be enrolled at school full-time (at least 12 units per semester in the Fall and Spring) unless otherwise authorized. (Summer is optional). Withdrawals (W) are not recognized by the Immigration service and thus may not be counted in your 12 units. If you withdraw from a class and are attending less than 12 units, you will forfeit your F-1 status.
- Report a change of address to the International Student Program (ISP) Office within 10 days of your move
- Have an unexpired I-20. Apply for a program extension if you cannot complete your program on the program completion date indicated on your I-20
- Refrain from off-campus employment without authorization

### Important Immigration Documents and Definitions

#### Passport

Your passport must be valid at all times during your stay in the U.S. You may renew your passport by contacting your nearest consulate. See the list of consulates.

#### I-94

The Form I-94 is an Immigration form also called your Arrival and Departure Record. This is a very important document. It has the date you entered the U.S., the port of entry, what class or status you have and says how long your status is valid for. It should be stamped with "D/S" which means "duration of status" which means that you are allowed to stay in the U.S.A. for the completion of your study, plus your 60 day grace period. **DHS has eliminated the paper I-94 Form in 2013 and now uses an electronic I-94 Form which you can access online.**

#### I-20

This is another important document. This is the Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Students. This document has your program start date and completion date, your major, and the estimated amount of cost for your studies and source of funds. If you ever lose or damage this document, please come to the ISP Office who can issue you a replacement I-20. If your I-20 is going to expire soon, come to the ISP Office so we can extend your program and issue you a new I-20. **Failure to do so could result in you losing your lawful status and may result in deportation and future exclusion from the U.S.A.**

#### Admission Number

The admission number is the eleven digit number printed on your I-94 Form. This admission number, given to you at the port of entry when you first came to the U.S., will be the admission number you will use for as long as you are holding an F-1 visa.

#### Visa

The visa is an entry stamp from the U.S. Department of State that shows you are eligible for a certain amount of time, to apply to enter the U.S.A. Once you are in the United States, the visa means very little. You are allowed to remain in the U.S.A. even if your visa has expired. The

only thing to be careful about is that if you want to leave the U.S.A. and return and your visa has expired, you will need to apply for a new visa. You can only renew your visa at a U.S. consulate office outside the U.S.A.

### **Visa vs. Status**

Once you have been admitted to the U.S.A, you are considered by Las Positas College and the various immigration services as having F-1 status (not an F-1 visa). The importance of having a certain visa ends when you leave the airport; for the rest of your stay in the U.S.A., people will refer to your F-1 status. (Your F-1 visa will probably expire before your F-1 status, which is OK.)

The status designation is usually (but not always) the same as the visa type, such as an F-1 student visa and an F-1 status designation on your I-94, but it is possible to be admitted to the U.S. with a certain visa status, such as a J-1 (exchange visitor) visa status and then apply to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for a change of status to F-1 (student). If the USCIS approves such a change, the person will have a J-1 visa stamp in his or her passport, but will have an F-1 status designation on his or her new Form I-94.



## SEVIS

SEVIS stands for “Student and Exchange Visitor Information System”. It is a U.S. government computerized system that maintains and manages data about International students and exchange visitors during their stay in the United States. All I-20s are generated from this system.

### **What information does SEVIS have about me?**

SEVIS maintains information such as your permanent and local addresses, your phone number and email address and your program start and completion dates. Also, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS, formerly known as the Immigration and Naturalization Service or INS) requires that Designated School Officials (DSO) update any changes in your program, including failure to maintain status.

### **What information does my school’s Designated School Official (DSO) have to report about me?**

The school’s DSO is legally required and must report the following in SEVIS about each student within 21 days:

- Failure to maintain status or complete program
- Change to student address or legal name (a student must report a change of address to the ISP within 10 days of your move)
- Early completion of program
- Disciplinary action as a result of student being convicted of a crime
- Any other SEVIS request
- A DSO must register any new or continuing student in SEVIS within 30 days of the program start date

In addition to this, a DSO must respond within 3 business days to any DHS request for the following information: (if a request about you is made by the DHS, the ISP Office will ask for the request to be made in writing, and we will attempt to notify you of this request).

- Your name
- Date and place of birth
- Country of citizenship
- Current address
- Current academic status
- Date of commencement of studies
- Degree program and field of study
- Practical training dates
- Termination date and reason, if known
- Documents relating to the your admission to the school (application, transcript, financial document)
- Number of credits
- Photocopy of your I-20

**Failure of a DSO to record events in SEVIS, and respond to DHS requests, could result in criminal charges for the individual and withdrawal of approval for the school to issue I-20s.**

## **Travel and Re- Entry to the U.S.**

If you are a continuing student and wish to take a trip and leave the U.S. for 5 months or less, please come to the International Student Program (ISP) Office to discuss your plans. You are allowed to leave the U.S. and re-enter if you have a valid I-20, passport, and F-1 student visa. An exception to having an unexpired visa is for trips to Canada, Mexico or neighboring Caribbean countries, with the exception of Cuba. Please see below for more information on traveling to these countries. Please make sure of the entry requirements of traveling abroad if you are not going to your home country. You may need a visa to travel to other countries. Please see the country's embassy or consulate webpage for more information. If you will continue your studies at Las Positas College, you will also need to have your I-20 endorsed on page 3 by a DSO in the ISP Office. To avoid any difficulties at the port of entry inspection, **we recommend that you come to our office to have your I-20 signed each time you leave the U.S.**

**If you will travel outside the U.S. you must carry the following documents with you for re-entry into the U.S.:**

- Valid Passport (with at least 6 months validity when you enter the U.S.)
- Valid I-94 card (F-1 students all have D/S)
- Valid U.S. visa stamp with at least one remaining entry (an exception is traveling to Canada, Mexico, and Caribbean islands)
- Valid SEVIS I-20 with an unexpired signature (dated within the past 12 months)

Since the Immigration Inspector may ask to see evidence of financial support for the total duration of stay in the U.S., it is strongly advised that F-1 students carry such evidence with them.

**For students on Optional Practical Training (OPT), you will need the following (in addition to the above):**

- Valid SEVIS I-20 with unexpired signature (dated within the past 6 months)
- Valid Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card
- Written job offer

If you are missing any of the above documents, you will have trouble re-entering the U.S.

## **Travel to and from Canada**

Citizens from certain countries who wish to visit Canada are required to obtain a visitor's visa (tourist visa) from the Canadian Consulate General:

Contact the Canadian Consulate at:

Immigration Section  
Canadian Consulate General  
580 California Street, 14<sup>th</sup> floor  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
Phone: (415) 834-3180  
<http://can-am.gc.ca/san-francisco/>



It may take the Canadian Consulate one or two working days to process and issue a visa and it may take two weeks to receive the visa, so you must plan ahead. Please note that in some instances the Canadian Consulate may wish to interview you. So, don't purchase your airline ticket until you receive the visa from the Canadian Consulate. Canada does not require a visa for citizens of certain countries. Contact the Canadian Consulate to find out what requirements are necessary for your nationality. Visit the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/index.asp> for more information on visiting Canada.

### **Travel to and from México**

Mexican tourist cards or visas are required of all persons in order to visit Mexico. Visit the Mexican Embassy in Washington website at <http://portal.sre.gob.mx/usa/> or go to a Mexican consulate to ask about the requirements and to take the necessary steps to get your visa. The requirements differ from country to country.

As of July 1, 2007, if you are a citizen of Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay or Venezuela, you don't need a visa to enter Mexico, although you must present a valid passport and fill out an immigration form for tourists (tourist card) which can be obtained in travel agencies, airlines, the Mexican Consulate or at the point where you enter Mexico.

If you are a citizen of any other country, you need to go to a Mexican consulate to request a visa. If you have a family member, friend or acquaintance in Mexico, he or she can do this at the INM, the National Immigration Institute (INM in Spanish), the governmental agency in charge of immigration control and policy in Mexico.

Contact the Mexican Consulate at:

870 Market Street, Suite 528  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 392-5554  
<http://www.consulmexsf.com/> (in Spanish)



#### **Automatic Extension of Visas (Revalidation)**

F-1 students with an expired visa may reenter the U.S. as though the visa were still valid, if returning after visits not exceeding 30 days to Mexico, Canada or the Caribbean Islands (except Cuba). A person who entered the U.S. on a visa other than F-1, but whose status was changed to F-1 status by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), may also take advantage of the automatic extension of visa validity. A student whose visa has been cancelled or voided is not eligible for automatic visa extension.

At the present time, the "automatic revalidation of visa" benefit is not available for citizens of Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Sudan and Syria.

PLEASE NOTE: Students who travel to Canada, Mexico, or the Caribbean Islands (except Cuba) for a visa renewal and are denied, are NOT allowed re-entry into the U.S. under the Automatic Extension of Visas.

## **Employment**

In order to maintain your valid F-1 status, a student must not work in the U.S., unless the employment is specifically authorized under the regulations. The types of employment available to F-1 students are the following:

- On-Campus Employment
- Employment based on Severe Economic Hardship
- Optional Practical Training (OPT)
  - Pre-Completion OPT
  - Post-Completion OPT
- Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

### **On-Campus Employment**

F-1 students may work on campus without prior approval from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). All F-1 students are allowed to work part-time (limited to 20 hours or less per week) on campus while school is in session. During vacation periods and official school breaks like Spring Break and during the Summer, students may work on campus full-time.

### **Application Procedure for On-Campus Employment**

Visit places on campus such as the Library, Bookstore, Tutorial Center and Cafeteria, introduce yourself as an International student, and ask for a work application. Be sure to bring your class schedule with you since you may be asked what hours you are available to work.

## **Severe Economic Hardship**

You are allowed to apply to the USCIS for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) to work off-campus, in the case of unforeseen economic need. To qualify, you must have been in F-1 status for at least one full academic year (Spring and Fall Semesters) and prove to the USCIS in your application, that employment is necessary due to severe economic hardship caused by circumstances beyond your control that arose after obtaining F-1 status. Examples of unforeseen economic hardship include “loss of financial aid or on-campus employment without fault on part of the student, substantial fluctuations in the value of currency or exchange rate, inordinate increases in tuition and/or living costs, unexpected changes in the financial condition of the student’s source of support, medical bills, or other substantial and unexpected expenses”. If granted, it is for increments of one year at a time or until the program end-date, whichever is shorter. Authorization ends if you transfer schools. Employment is limited to 20 hours per week while school is in session, but can be full-time during official school breaks.

### **General Requirements**

- You must be in valid F-1 status for at least one full academic year (Spring and Fall semesters)
- You must prove to USCIS that the employment is necessary due to severe economic hardship caused by circumstances beyond your control that occurred after obtaining F-1 status

### **Application Procedure for Severe Economic Hardship**

- 1) I-765 (original)
- 2) \$410 filing fee payable to “DHS”
- 3) Copy of I-20 Form with DSO recommendation for Economic Hardship employment
- 4) Printout of I-94
- 5) Two photographs
- 6) Copy of the biographical pages of your passport
- 7) Photocopy of your previous EAD (if applicable)
- 8) A letter explaining the circumstances of the economic hardship. This letter should include an explanation why the financial need is beyond your control, that it was unforeseen at the time you applied to the school you are currently attending, and that all other employment opportunities, such as on-campus employment, are either unavailable or insufficient to meet the need.
- 9) Any other supporting documents such as bank statements of the past 3 months



## **Optional Practical Training (OPT)**

OPT is designed to provide F-1 International students with opportunities for gaining practical work experience in their fields of study, for a maximum of one year (12 months). F-1 students are allowed to apply to the USCIS for up to 1 year (12 months) of full-time off-campus employment. The work may be full-time or part-time, and may occur anywhere in the United States. You may be paid for your employment. No job offer is required to apply.

### **General Requirements**

- You must be in valid F-1 student status for one academic year (Spring and Fall semesters) before pursuing any type of OPT.
- Job must be directly related to your field of study (your major as indicated on your I-20 Form) and must be appropriate for someone having your level of education.

### **Types of OPT**

According to USCIS, employment may be authorized under the following types:

- Pre-Completion OPT
- Post-Completion OPT

### **Pre-Completion Optional Practical Training**

Pre-Completion OPT is defined as employment that takes place before completion of the course of study, when you are required to be enrolled in a full course load at Las Positas College. This work is part-time (employment for 20 hours or less per week) while school is in session or, similar to the rules about on-campus employment, you may apply for part-time or full-time OPT during your summer vacation and during other official school breaks.

### **Post-Completion Practical Training**

Post-Completion OPT is employment that takes place after completion of the course of study. This employment is full-time employment, since students are no longer enrolled in a full course load. In order for you to be eligible for this type of employment, you must submit your application during a 90 day period prior to the date you complete all program requirements or up to 60 days after you complete your program. In most cases, the date of completion is the last day of finals of the semester in which all of your degree requirements are completed (not the day of the actual commencement ceremony). For example, if the day you complete all your requirements is May 28, the earliest day you may apply for practical training would be February 28 (90 days before) and the latest possible time to apply would be the week prior to July 28 (60 days after). A completed application for Post-Completion OPT must be properly filed with the USCIS Service Center no later than the student's program end date.

### **Application Procedure for OPT**

- 1) I-765 (original)
- 2) \$410 filing fee payable to "DHS"
- 3) I-94 printout
- 4) Two photographs
- 6) Photocopy of your current I-20, with DSO recommendation for OPT
- 7) Photocopy of your passport biographical and visa pages
- 7) Photocopies of all your previous I-20 forms
- 8) Photocopy of your previous EAD (if applicable)

For the anticipated start date of your employment, you may choose as early as the day after your required coursework is completed, or as late as the 60 days after completion of your coursework. Using the previous example, if your date of completion is May 17, you may request a start date as early as May 18, or as late as July 17.

Please note: As of July 1, 2011 it is taking the USCIS California Service Center approximately three months to process your application, so you should apply at least three months before you want to begin your employment.

Your lawful F-1 status expires 60 days after the date you complete degree requirements and you are expected to leave the country by that date unless you file a timely application for practical training or make other arrangements to lawfully remain in the United States.

## **Curricular Practical Training (CPT)**

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is off-campus, paid employment that is a required or integral part of your curriculum. CPT may be a type of internship or practicum required by your major. CPT is not available for all academic majors. Current majors are:

A.A. Administrative Assistant  
A.S. Business  
A.A. Business Entrepreneurship  
A.A. Marketing  
A.A. Early Childhood Education  
A.S. Viticulture

Refer to the LPC catalog, or consult with your academic advisor regarding internships or practical experience for your degree.

CPT must be “an integral part of an established curriculum” and can be part-time or full-time depending on the individual institution’s curriculum. Please note that at LPC, only part time CPT is authorized.

### **General Requirements**

- You must have been in F-1 status for at least one full academic year (Spring and Fall Semesters)
- Must be required for program completion or offered as an optional course

### **Application Procedure for CPT**

- 1) Enroll in a work experience or internship course at LPC
- 2) Provide a Designated School Official (DSO) at LPC an offer of employment letter from your employer.
- 3) Complete the CPT Registration Form available on our website under “Forms”.
- 4) Meet with a DSO and obtain a new I-20 form to reflect your CPT authorization.

## Volunteer Opportunities for International Students

### Volunteer Websites:

The Volunteer Center of the East Bay  
[www.helpnow.org/](http://www.helpnow.org/)

San Francisco Bay Area Volunteer Information  
[www.volunteerinfo.org/](http://www.volunteerinfo.org/)

### Organizations:

Alameda County Community Food Bank  
<http://www.accfb.org/volunteer.html>

American Red Cross (Blood Services)  
<http://www.redcross.org/en/volunteertime>

City of San Ramon Parks and Community Services  
<http://www.ci.san-ramon.ca.us/parks/volunteer/default.htm>

Tri Valley Haven (domestic abuse, sexual assault, homelessness)  
(925) 449-5845 extension 2711  
<http://www.trivalleyhaven.org/volunteer.html>

### Volunteer Activities by Specific Populations

#### Animals

- East Bay SPCA – Tri Valley's Maddie's Adoption Center  
4651 Gleason Drive, Dublin, CA 94568  
(925) 479.9670  
<http://www.eastbayspca.org/volunteer/>

#### Children

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bay Area  
<http://www.bbbsba.org/volunteer/>

#### Hunger

- Open Heart Kitchen  
(925) 580-1619  
<http://www.openheartkitchen.org/index.php>

#### Hospitals

- Valley Care Hospital  
[www.valleycare.com/infoguide/info\\_volunteers.html](http://www.valleycare.com/infoguide/info_volunteers.html)

#### Library

- Alameda Country Library (Computer Tutors)  
<http://www.aclibrary.org/getInvolved/default.asp?topic=GetInvolved&cat=GetInvolved>

## Seniors

- Asian Network Residential Care  
8656 Bandon Dr., Dublin, CA 94568  
(925) 828.9280
- Dublin Senior Center  
7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin, CA 94568  
(925) 556.4511  
<http://www.ci.dublin.ca.us/DepartmentSub.cfm?PL=Rec&SL=senr>
- Eden Villa Pleasanton  
4115 Mohr Avenue, Pleasanton  
(925) 461.8409
- Family Bridges Inc. (senior Asians, health care service).  
168 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakland, CA 94607  
(510) 839-2022
- Pleasanton Senior Center  
5353 Sunol Boulevard, Pleasanton, CA 94566  
(925) 931-5365  
<http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/services/senior/pleasanton-senior-center.html>
- Rosewood Gardens  
35 Fenton Street, Livermore  
(925) 443-7200  
[www.kiscoseniorkiving.com](http://www.kiscoseniorkiving.com)
- Sunrise Private Care  
3234 East Avenue, Livermore  
(925) 449-0426  
[www.sunriseprivate.com](http://www.sunriseprivate.com)
- Sunrise Assisted Living of Danville  
1027 Diablo Rd, Danville  
(925) 831-1740

## Special Needs

- Special Olympics of Northern California  
[http://www.sonc.org/getinvolved/involved\\_volunteer.html](http://www.sonc.org/getinvolved/involved_volunteer.html)
- Challenger Softball (adapted softball for the developmentally disabled)  
(925) 846-3278
- Kaleidoscope After School Program  
(510) 835-2131 extension 120

## Consulates in the San Francisco Bay Area

### **Brazil**

300 Montgomery Street  
Suite 900  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
Phone: 415-981-8170  
Web: [www.brazilsf.org](http://www.brazilsf.org)

### **Canada**

580 California Street, 14<sup>th</sup> floor  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
Phone: 415-834-3180  
Web: <http://can-am.gc.ca/san-francisco/>

### **China**

1450 Laguna Street  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
Phone: 415-674-2900  
Web: [www.chinaconsulatesf.org](http://www.chinaconsulatesf.org)

### **Germany**

1960 Jackson Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
Phone: 415-775-1061  
Web:  
[www.germany.info/relaunch/info/missions/consulates/sanfrancisco/sanfrancisco.html](http://www.germany.info/relaunch/info/missions/consulates/sanfrancisco/sanfrancisco.html)

### **Italy**

2590 Webster Street  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
Phone: 415-931-4924  
[www.itacons-sf.org](http://www.itacons-sf.org)

### **Indonesia**

1111 Columbus Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
Phone: 415-392-4214  
Web: [www.kbri.org](http://www.kbri.org)

### **Japan**

50 Fremont Street, Suite 2300  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Phone: 415-777-3533  
Web: [www.cgjsf.org](http://www.cgjsf.org)

### **Korea**

3500 Clay Street  
San Francisco, CA 94118  
Phone: 415-921-2251  
Web: [www.koreanconsulatesf.org/](http://www.koreanconsulatesf.org/)

### **Mexico**

970 Market Street, Suite 528  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Phone: 415-392-5554  
Web: <http://www.sre.gob.mx/sanfrancisco/>

### **Philippines**

447 Sutter Street  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
Phone: 415-433-6666  
Web:  
[www.embassyonline.com/consular/index.htm](http://www.embassyonline.com/consular/index.htm)

### **Peru**

870 Market Street, Suite 579  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Phone: 415-362-5185  
Web: [www.peruemb.org](http://www.peruemb.org)

### **Thailand**

611 North Larchmont Boulevard, 2nd Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90004  
Phone: 323-962-9574  
Web: [www.thai-la.net](http://www.thai-la.net)

### **Vietnam**

1700 California Street, Suite 430  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
Phone: 415-922-1707  
Web: <http://www.vietnamconsulate-sf.org/>

For other countries or more information, please come to the International Student Program office.

## Immigration Status FAQ

### **How many units do I need to take to maintain my legal student status?**

At least 12 units during the Spring and Fall semesters, unless authorized by a Designated School Official (DSO) for less than full-time.

### **Under what circumstances can I take fewer than 12 units?**

In all cases you must get permission from the DSO BEFORE dropping below 12 units. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) allows students to drop below 12 units with PRIOR permission from the DSO for the following reasons ONLY:

- 1) **Illness or Medical Condition.** This is when a student has medical problems and proof from a doctor that they should take below 12 units. A student is allowed to be below 12 units for medical reasons for a total of two semesters ONLY. If a student is sick longer than two semesters for whatever reason, they may not be below 12 units or must leave the United States because they are not making regular progress towards their degree. Student must have medical proof (from a doctor, osteopath, psychologist or psychiatrist ONLY) for the semester(s) and must present documentation to the DSO for inclusion in his/her file.
- 2) **Initial Difficulty with English Language.** (Usually this reason will only be acceptable during the first semester.)
- 3) **Initial Difficulty with Reading Requirements.** (Usually this reason will only be acceptable during the first semester.)
- 4) **Unfamiliarity with American Teaching Methods.** Student is having difficulty adjusting to the new educational system. (Usually, this only can be used the first semester in school in the United States.)
- 5) **Improper Course Level Placement**
- 6) **To Complete Course of Study in Current Term.** It is the student's last semester and he or she needs fewer than 12 units to complete their program.
- 7) **Part Time Border Commuter Students.** For students living in Canada or Mexico but studying in the United States.

### **What happens if I drop a class and then am enrolled in less than 12 units?**

Unless you have been authorized to drop below full-time, you will be considered as "out of status" by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This will be recorded in SEVIS, and you will be subject to deportation and possible future exclusion from the United States.

### **How many online courses can International students take?**

The law states that International students with F-1 status may take 1 course or 3 units of online or distance education per semester while in the United States. Of course, if the student is outside the United States they may take as many as they like.

### **I've finished my program. How long can I stay in the U.S.A.?**

If you have completed your program and are not transferring to another school in the U.S.A. you have a 60 day grace period in which to pack up your belongings, say good-bye to friends and possibly travel before you return to your home country.

### **I want to take a trip to Canada or Mexico. What documents do I need to take with me?**

Please see the section on Traveling to Canada or Mexico.

**Can I work off-campus?**

You are allowed to work off-campus only with permission from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). See the Employment section for more information.

**Can I work on-campus?**

Yes. All F-1 students are allowed to work on-campus. You must limit your employment to 20 hours or less while school is in session, but you are allowed to work full-time during school breaks.

**Can I do volunteer work with an F-1 visa?**

Yes. Just be careful that you receive nothing in exchange for your services. This includes free room and board, transportation expenses, etc. Any activity that is normally financially rewarded is considered as work by the DHS.

**Can my spouse and/ or children who are in F-2 status accept employment?**

No. Holders of F-2 visas cannot accept either on or off campus employment.

**Can my F-2 spouse take classes at LPC?**

According to the DHS regulations, an F-2 dependent may study part time in any academic or avocational or recreational course. They cannot engage in full time study (12 or more units per semester). If an F-2 dependent wishes to study full-time, they should come to the ISP Office to discuss changing their status to F-1 Student.

**My visa is expiring soon. What should I do?**

The visa stamp in your passport is an "entry permit" only, so you need not be concerned if it expires once you have already entered the U.S., unless you plan to travel out of the U.S. and reenter. In that case, you will need to go to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate (preferably in your home country) and apply for a new visa stamp. When you go to the Consulate to apply for the new visa stamp, you must bring with you your endorsed I-20. It must be endorsed on the back by one of the DSOs at the International Student Program Office at LPC. It is also recommended that you bring proof that you have the funding to cover your tuition and living expenses.

**My I-20 is expiring soon. What should I do?**

Come to the ISP Office with an updated Financial Statement (within 90 days) so that we may extend your Program and issue you a new I-20. Failure to extend your program before your program end date will result in your being "out of status".

**How do I contact the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)?**

1-800-375-5283 (no charge to caller)

**Where is the nearest USCIS Office?**

The nearest USCIS District Office is the San Francisco District Office, located at:  
444 Washington Street  
San Francisco, CA 94111

The mailing address is:

USCIS  
630 Sansome Street  
San Francisco, CA 94111



This office is not open at all times, for all services. You must schedule an appointment on the USCIS web site via INFOPASS at <http://infopass.uscis.gov/> to visit this office and to speak with an Immigration Information Officer.

**Where can I get legal assistance?**

Come to the ISP Office for a list of recommended Immigration attorneys.

**Do I have to classes in the Summer?**

No. Summer is an optional term and is considered a vacation.

**What happens if I fall “out of status”?**

This information is recorded in SEVIS and you will be subject to deportation and possible future exclusion from the United States. You will be expected to either depart from the U.S. as soon as possible or file an application for “Reinstatement”. Please come to the ISP Office for more information.

**I have visa questions that are not answered here. What should I do?**

Come to the ISP Office in Building 1600 during office hours and speak to an advisor.







## **II. Health Matters**

## Health Care

If you become sick or are injured and you need to see a doctor, it is recommended that you go to the Las Positas College Student Health Center to receive medical treatment. Many insurance plans waive or reduce your deductible if you are first seen and then referred to another facility by the Student Health Center.

### **What to do if you are sick:**

If you become ill or have an injury, you should first decide how serious it is. Then follow the appropriate steps.

#### **Life threatening emergency:**

Call **911** and tell the operator where you are. An ambulance will pick you up and bring you to the hospital.

#### **OR:**

Go to the Emergency Room (ER) of the nearest hospital. The nearest E.R. is at:

- **Valley Care Medical Center**  
5555 West Las Positas Boulevard  
Pleasanton, CA 94588

#### **Urgent Care**

Urgent Care is designed to treat medical problems that require prompt attention but are not life threatening. These typically include: flu, minor burns, ear infections, animal bites, cuts and minor puncture wounds, sprains. If you have a minor injury or illness and can't wait to see your doctor. It is typically less expensive and the wait can be much shorter for these conditions than going to an ER.

- ValleyCare Urgent Care – Livermore  
113 East Stanley Blvd.  
Livermore, CA 94550
- ValleyCare Urgent Care – Dublin  
400 Dublin Boulevard, Suite 150  
Dublin, CA 94568

#### **Normal Medical Problem:**

Call or visit the Las Positas College Student Health Center to make an appointment. The Student Health Center is located in Building # 1700. For more information visit the website at <http://www.laspositascollege.edu/healthcenter/index.php>

When you go to the doctor, always make sure that you have your insurance ID card, your passport or other government issued ID, a bilingual dictionary, and traveler's checks, personal checks or a credit card (in case you need to pay for the medical service you receive) with you. You should show your insurance ID card to the registration desk at the doctor's office or hospital.

If the Student Health Center is closed, and you would like to be seen, you can call to make an appointment with an outside doctor. Keep in mind that with many Student Health Insurance plans, you can save money by first going to the Student Health Center, and then receiving a

referral to another doctor, and that you will save money by going to a doctor that is part of your health insurance network.



## Health Insurance in the U.S.A.

Although you may be healthy, you can never predict a serious illness or accident. If you do need medical care, particularly if it is a chronic or serious condition, it will be expensive. Medical care in the U.S. is good, but more costly than any other country (it can cost \$10,000 per day in a hospital). Large unpaid medical bills will seriously affect your financial status and could affect your ability to continue with your education. This is particularly true for International students as the government support agencies will not assist in the payment of your medical bills. Therefore, all Las Positas College International students are required to purchase medical insurance. Coverage must include repatriation and medical evacuation and must be continuous throughout the semester. Proof of continual insurance coverage must be presented to the International Student Program Office by the end of the second week of classes. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the college.

We strongly recommend that you purchase a health insurance policy that:

- provides a minimum of \$250,000 for each accident or illness
- has a deductible of \$100 or less, and
- covers at least 75% of hospital and medical costs

### Important Health Insurance Vocabulary

Important words and concepts to understand about your insurance plan coverage.

**Co- insurance** – the amount you pay after you have paid your deductible, for any illness or injury. This is usually given as a percentage, such as 20%.

**Co- pay** – similar to a deductible, this is the amount of money you must pay first before the insurance will cover any medical expense. Usually a co-pay or co-payment is paid directly to a doctor's office or pharmacy for drugs.

**Deductible** – the amount you pay first before the insurance company will pay for your illness/injury, usually per year.

**Exclusions** – illness, injury, or medical conditions that the insurance does not cover. This may include routine or preventative exams, immunizations, injuries sustained while playing in intercollegiate sports.

**Generic** – medicine that consist of the actual ingredients of a better-know trademarked medication. Because generic drugs are not protected by a trademark, they are considerably less expensive than other well-known medications.

**HMO** (Health Maintenance Organization) – you are assigned a Primary Care Physician (PCP) and must go through this doctor for any and all referrals to other specialists. Members pay a small, predetermined co-payment each time they receive health care services. HMOs offer minimal paperwork and low, predictable out-of-pocket costs.

**Medical Evacuation/ Repatriation** – this is coverage for a medical condition that warrants immediate transportation from the medical facility where you are located to the nearest adequate medical facility where medical treatment can be obtained.

**OTC** – (over the counter) – drugs/medicine that is available at a drug store or supermarket that you can buy easily and without a prescription.

**PCP** (Primary Care Physician) – If you are insured with a HMO plan, you will need to go through your contracted PCP for a referral to any other treatment for medical care.

**Period of coverage** – the amount of time for which you will receive medical insurance.

**PPO** (Preferred Provider Option) – you can choose the doctor within a preferred provider network for the maximum coverage. This is a plan that offers an even wider selection of physicians to members than an HMO plan. These participating providers may be primary care doctors or specialists and PPO members are free to see any of them. PPO members may also visit non-contracted providers, but at a higher out-of-pocket cost.

**Pre-existing condition** – an illness, injury, or medical condition that occurred before you had medical insurance. See your insurance plan for more information on how they define and cover a pre-existing condition.

**Premium** – the amount you pay for the insurance each month.

**Prescription** – a letter or memo from a doctor authorizing you to take a certain drug or medicine. These are usually stronger than OTC drugs.

**Provider network** – a select group of doctors or hospitals that an insurance plan is part of. By selecting a physician in this network, your insurance will cover more than if you see a physician outside of this network.

**Repatriation expense coverage** – the return of you or your bodily remains or ashes in case of death, to your home country or country of residence.

### **Some Insurance plans recommended by the International Student Program Office**

- **Compass** – International Student Scholar Health Insurance Plan – <https://www.compassstudenthealthinsurance.com/>
- **Gateway USA** – [www.gatewayplans.com](http://www.gatewayplans.com)
- **HTH Worldwide** – <http://www.hthstudents.com/>
- **International Student Insurance** – Student Secure Plan – <http://internationalstudentinsurance.com>
- **ISO Med** - <http://www.isoa.org/default.aspx>
- **Seven Corners** – Liaison International Plan – [www.SpecialityRisk.com](http://www.SpecialityRisk.com)
- **Student Insurance** – <http://www.studentinsuranceusa.com/>
- **Study USA HealthCare** – [www.travelinsure.com](http://www.travelinsure.com)
- **Wells Fargo Insurance Services** – International Student Health Insurance Plan – <http://www.somerton-ins.com/default.aspx>

### **Dental Insurance**

- **Smilechoice** – <http://www.studentdental.com/>
- **Smilesaver** – <http://www.safeguard.net/sm/smwelcome.html>

## Important Emergency Phone Numbers

For Life Threatening Emergencies, call: **911**  
No money is necessary when using a public telephone.

Important Note: Calling 911 from your cell phone will automatically send your call to the California Highway Patrol. If you need the Police or Ambulance, or Fire Department, and you are not on the highway, it is best to call from a regular landline phone.

### Police Department

Danville Police (925) 314-3700  
Dublin Police (925) 833-6670  
Livermore Police (925) 371-4980  
Pleasanton Police (925) 931-5100  
San Ramon Police (925) 973-2779  
Tracy Police (209) 831-4550

### Fire Department

Danville Fire (925) 838-6691  
Dublin Fire (925) 828-9060  
Livermore Fire (925) 454-2361  
Pleasanton Fire (925) 454-2361  
San Ramon Fire (925) 838.6600  
Tracy Fire (209) 831-6700



**Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Police** (510) 464-7000 or use the train intercom

We recommended that you have these numbers readily available and program them into your cell phone.

### Campus Phone Numbers

Campus Safety and Security Emergency (925) 424-1699 (\*16 from the Campus pay phone outside of building #400)  
Campus Safety and Security – Non Emergency (925) 424-1690

Emergency Call Boxes – Push the button and follow the directions on the box. (Older boxes require you to push the button and hold it to talk and release it to listen. Newer boxes operate like a telephone, once you push the button to activate, you can talk or listen without any further action.)

Health Center (925) 424-1830  
Crisis Counselor (925) 424-1400

### Community Phone Numbers

#### AIDS / HIV

HIV/ AIDS Hotline: 1-800-367-2437 (no charge to caller)

#### Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Treatment Hotline 1-800-374-2202 (no charge to caller)



**Family Planning**

San Ramon Valley Clinic (Planned Parenthood) (925) 838-2108

**Mental Health and Crisis Intervention**

Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services 1-510-567-8100  
Suicide Prevention and Crisis Support Services of Alameda County 1-800-309-2131 (24 Hours)

**Poison Control**

Poison Control 1-800-222-1222 (no charge to caller)

**Rape and Sexual Assault**

Tri-Valley Haven Crisis Hotline (925) 449-5842 (24 Hours)  
National Sexual Assault Hotline 1-800-656-HOPE (no charge to caller)

## Resources for Students with Children

### Child Care

- Child Care Links  
1020 Serpentine Lane #102, Pleasanton  
(925) 417-8733  
[www.childcarelinks.org](http://www.childcarelinks.org)

### Family Parks

- Central Park (Bollinger Canyon Road and Alcosta Boulevard) - San Ramon
- Creekside Park – Pleasanton
- Emerald Glen Park (Tassajara Road and Central Parkway) – Dublin
- Rancho San Ramon Community Park - 2000 Ranch Park Loop - San Ramon
- Robertson Park – Livermore
- Sports Recreation Park – Pleasanton

### Schools

- Dublin Unified School District - <http://www.dublin.k12.ca.us/www/index.jsp>
- Livermore School District - <http://www.livermoreschools.com/>
- Pleasanton School District - <http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/>
- San Ramon Valley Unified School District - <http://www.srvusd.net/district/overview>
- Tracy Unified School District – <http://www.tracy.k12.ca.us>

### Stores

- Baby Depot at Burlington Coat Factory – 6900 Amador Valley Boulevard, Dublin
- Marshalls – 7896 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin
- Ross – 7886 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin
- Target
  - 2800 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin (925) 241-1042
  - 7200 Amador Plaza Road, Dublin (925) 829-8900
  - 4300 Las Positas Road, Livermore (925) 606-1445
  - 2610 Bishop Drive, San Ramon (925) 277-0202
- Wal-Mart
  - 4501 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton (925) 734-8744
  - 2700 Las Positas Road, Livermore (925) 455-0215

### Stress Hotlines

Parental Stress Services – (510) 893-5444

### Websites

Berkeley Parents Network - <http://parents.berkeley.edu/>

This web site contains thousands of pages of recommendations and advice contributed by members of the Berkeley Parents Network, a parent-to-parent email network for the community of parents in the Berkeley, California area.

Baby Center – [www.babycenter.com](http://www.babycenter.com)

Bay Area Parent – [www.bayareaparent.com](http://www.bayareaparent.com)

Livermore Moms Club – [www.livermoremomsclub.com](http://www.livermoremomsclub.com)



### **III. Safety Issues**

## **Safety Concerns**

Crime in U.S. cities makes safety a primary concern, especially for students from areas where crime is not as prevalent. The following tips may make your stay in the Tri-Valley area safer.

### **Home Safety**

- Do not leave the door or windows in your apartment unlocked.
- On the phone, don't admit to being home alone.
- Do not open the door to strangers. Use a one way peephole and always ask "who is it?" before answering the door. Require that salesman, repairmen, police officers etc. to show an ID before opening the door.

### **Car Safety**

- Be sure to lock your car and keep your windows up. Never leave valuables in sight.
- Before approaching your car, be sure that you have your keys in your hand so that you do not fumble and start looking for them outside your car.
- Before entering your car, check that no one is in the back seat or hiding under your car.
- If you think you are being followed, drive to the nearest Police station or a well lighted and populated area like a grocery store, rest stop, etc.
- If you are stopped by the police while driving a car, do not get out of the car. Wait until the police officer approaches you in your car and put your hands on the top of the steering wheel so they can be seen by the officer.

### **Personal Safety**

- Always be aware of your surroundings.
- If you go out at night, it is better to go accompanied by a friend. Walk only in well-lighted areas where there are other people.
- For your own safety and for the peace of mind of your friends and relatives, always tell someone where you are going when you go out. Do so even if you are going on a date.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash with you. Most U.S. Americans do not carry more than \$100 at any time. It is much safer to carry less cash and get more from a local Automated Teller Machine (ATM) when you need it.
- Do not use ATMs at night or in isolated areas. Use mirrors at ATMs to make sure that no one is watching you. Always cover the numbers as you are punching in your Personal Identification Number (PIN). Do not leave your ATM receipt in the machine or on the ground. Take it with you.
- Learn to say "No". In some cultures, it is impolite to say no, but in the U.S., it is important to express yourself clearly. It's ok to say "Yes" or "No". U.S. Americans may not understand if you are indirect and "beat around the bush".

## Earthquake Safety



### Inside

- When you feel an earthquake, duck under a sturdy object like a desk or bed and hold on to it.
- If you are not near a sturdy object, duck and protect your head with your arms.
- Avoid windows, filing cabinets, bookcases, and heavy objects that could shatter or fall.
- Watch out for falling plaster, ceiling tiles, and light fixtures.
- Stay under cover until the shaking stops, then evacuate the building.
- Use stairs only, do not use elevators.

### Outside

- Move away from trees, signs, buildings, electrical poles and wires.
- Protect your head with your arms from falling bricks, glass, plaster, and other debris.
- Move away from fire and smoke.

## Disaster Preparation

Have an Emergency Kit for your home and car. You should be prepared in the event of a major emergency to be self-sufficient for 3 days or 72 hours before police can help rescue. For ideas on stocking your emergency kit, go to [www.72hours.org](http://www.72hours.org) or visit the website of the American Red Cross at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

Another helpful website from the U.S. government is [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

### Emergency Kit

You should have an Emergency Kit in your home and car, that includes items like:

- Water
- Medication
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Battery powered radio
- Whistle
- Food
- Manual can opener
- Personal hygiene items, and
- Copies of your passport, I-20, medical insurance and other important documents.

Please also remember to register your current local address with your nearest consulate. This will help with your government's effort to locate you in the event of an emergency.

## Emergency Notification (Text) Message Service

Las Positas College has joined many other California colleges and universities now offering the Emergency Notification (Text) System, an emergency text messaging service, or SMS (short message service) for mobile phones. In the event of an emergency, subscribers will receive important security information in real time.

Messages will only be sent to your cell phone by Las Positas College in case of emergency or crisis. You must be subscribed to receive the mobile alerts. There is no cost to subscribe, however your standard message rates may apply. Friends, family and campus visitors can sign up too. Learn more about this system at <http://www.laspositascollege.edu/safety/alertu.php>.

1. Text LPC on your mobile phone to 55155
2. You will receive a welcome message.
3. Reply "Y" to sign up. That's it!



## **Sexual Assault and Rape**

Las Positas College cares about you and your well being. We are providing this information in the event that you are a victim of violence.

### **What everyone should know about Date and Acquaintance Rape**

- Trust your instincts. If someone does not listen to you or makes you feel uncomfortable, you may be in danger.
- Even if the person doesn't use physical force, it can still be rape.
- Under a new "yes means yes" law in California in 2014, you must get "affirmative consent" for sex. Consent cannot be given if someone is asleep or incapacitated by drugs or alcohol.
- Everyone has the right to say "No" to sex at any time.
- "No" always means "No".
- If you are the person being told "No", you need to respect it.
- Date rape is not an act of passion. It is a crime of violence
- The most common date rape drug is alcohol.
- If you are raped, get help right away.
- See a doctor immediately, before you take a shower.

### **What can I do to reduce my risk of sexual assault?**

- Don't leave your beverage unattended or accept a drink from an open container.
- When you go to a party, go with a group of friends. Arrive together, watch out for each other, and leave together.
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Don't allow yourself to be isolated with someone you don't know or trust.
- Think about the level of intimacy you want in a relationship, and clearly state your limits.

### **What should I do if I am sexually assaulted?**

- Call 911
- Report the rape to law enforcement authorities.
- Call the National Sexual Assault Hotline, operated by RAINN, for free, confidential counseling, 24 hours a day: 1-800-656-HOPE.
- Find a safe environment – anywhere away from the attacker. Ask a trusted friend to stay with you for moral support.
- Preserve evidence of the attack – don't bathe or brush your teeth. Write down all the details you can recall about the attack and the attacker.
- Get medical attention. Even with no physical injuries, it is important to determine the risks of Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) and pregnancy.
- To preserve forensic evidence, ask the hospital to conduct a rape kit exam.
- If you suspect you may have been drugged, ask that a urine sample be collected. The sample will need to be analyzed later on by a forensic lab.
- Remember that it wasn't your fault.
- Recognize that healing from rape takes time. Give yourself the time you need.
- Know that it's never too late to reach out for help. Many victims do not realize they need help until months or years later.
- A counselor can provide the information you'll need to understand the healing process.







## **IV. Academic Matters**

## **Higher Education in the United States**

Unlike many countries, the United States has no single system of education. U.S. education is decentralized and highly diversified. The responsibility for education rests with the 50 individual states, not the federal government. The states, in turn, pass on most of the responsibility for local school arrangements to their cities and communities. This explains the variety of plans for public school education and the variety of curricula, particularly in the high schools.

In California, there are more than 2,600 public and private post secondary (after high-school) institutions, most of which are authorized to enroll International Students. There are 134 public and 190 private colleges that are approved by the State of California to award degrees.

### **California Public Colleges and Universities**

In California, the public school system is one of the best in the United States. These schools are supported by state tax funds and tuition-free or low tuition to residents of California. Therefore, International students and other out of state residents must pay tuition. Priority for admissions is given to residents of California, but many colleges and universities here openly welcome International students to bring greater diversity to their campus, which benefits everyone. They are governed by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), the chief accreditation agency for western states recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

#### **University of California (UC)**

The UC System offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in a wide range of fields. These institutions concentrate on graduate education at the doctoral level, on professional education and on research. All campuses offer internationally known high quality education and have very high admissions requirements. UC Berkeley is rated among the top ten American graduate schools in every field of study.

There are 10 UC campuses in the state:

- UC Berkeley (also known as Cal, the first UC school)
- UC Davis
- UC Irvine
- UC Los Angeles (UCLA)
- UC Merced (newest UC campus, opened in 2005)
- UC Riverside
- UC San Diego
- UC San Francisco (graduate programs only, a Medical School)
- UC Santa Barbara
- UC Santa Cruz

#### **California State University (CSU)**

The CSU System offers undergraduate degrees and master's degrees in various fields. Most campuses offer very good quality education. These schools concentrate on undergraduate education. There are high admissions requirements, but generally not as high as the UC schools. They are known either as CSU, and then the city or region like CSU East Bay, or simply the name of the city with "State University" like San Francisco State University

There are 23 CSU campuses throughout the state:

California Maritime Academy (Vallejo)  
 California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (also known as Cal Poly)  
 CSU Bakersfield  
 CSU Channel Islands  
 CSU Chico  
 CSU Dominguez Hills  
 CSU Fresno (also known as Fresno State University)  
 CSU Fullerton  
 CSU East Bay (formerly CSU Hayward)  
 Humboldt State University  
 CSU Long Beach  
 CSU Los Angeles  
 CSU Monterey Bay  
 CSU Northridge  
 California State Polytechnic University (also known as Cal Poly Pomona)  
 CSU Sacramento (also known as Sacramento State University)  
 CSU San Bernardino  
 San Diego State University  
 San Francisco State University  
 San José State University  
 CSU San Marcos  
 CSU Stanislaus  
 Sonoma State University



### **Community Colleges**

The California Community Colleges are the largest system of higher education in the world. Designed to provide a quality education at an affordable price, and universal access to high education, California Community Colleges consist of 112 public institutions that offer technical training and basic academic programs leading to Associate degrees or Certificates for students, many of whom transfer on to a 4 year college or university.

Classes in American colleges and universities do not follow prescribed patterns. The individual professor is allowed a great deal of freedom in the conduct of his or her class. To a large extent, the way a class is conducted depends on the class size. International students may find that methods and practices at LPC are quite different from those in their home country.

### **Private Colleges and Universities in the San Francisco Bay Area**

Here are a list of private colleges and universities in the area that admit F-1 International Students. This list includes art, culinary, liberal arts, medical, theological, and psychological schools.

Academy of Art University (San Francisco)  
 Academy of Chinese Culture and Health Sciences (Oakland)  
 Acupuncture and Integrative Medicine College (Berkeley)  
 Alliant International University (San Francisco)  
 America Chinese Evangelical Seminary (Sunnyvale)  
 American Baptist Seminary of the West (Berkeley)  
 American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine (San Francisco)  
 American Conservatory Theater (San Francisco)  
 San Francisco Art Institute (San Francisco)

Argosy University (Alameda)  
Bergin University of Canine Studies (Rohnert Park)  
Berkeley Christian College and Seminary (Oakland)  
California College of the Arts (San Francisco, Oakland)  
California Institute of Integral Studies (San Francisco)  
California Takshila University (Santa Clara)  
California University of Management and Technology (San Jose)  
Cogswell College (Sunnyvale)  
Culinary Institute of America at Greystone (St. Helena)  
Dominican University of California (San Rafael)  
Golden Gate University (San Francisco)  
Herguan University (Sunnyvale)  
Holy Names University (Oakland)  
Hult International Business School (San Francisco)  
International Technological University (San Jose)  
John F. Kennedy University (Pleasant Hill)  
Lincoln University (Oakland)  
Menlo College (Atherton)  
Mills College (Oakland)  
Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (Monterey)  
National Hispanic University (San Jose)  
Notre Dame de Namur University (Belmont)  
Palo Alto University (Palo Alto)  
Patten University (Oakland)  
San Francisco Institute of Architecture (Berkeley)  
Saint Mary's College of California (Moraga)  
Samuel Merritt University (Oakland)  
Santa Clara University (Santa Clara)  
Saybrook University (Oakland)  
Silicon Valley University (San Jose)  
Stanford University (Stanford)  
Starr King School for the Ministry (Berkeley)  
Touro University California (Vallejo)  
University of Northern California (Santa Rosa)  
University of the Pacific (Stockton)  
University of San Francisco (San Francisco)  
Western Seminary San Jose Campus (Santa Clara)  
Zaytuna College (Berkeley)

## **Academic Structure**

### **Grades and Credits**

The undergraduate program at Las Positas College (and other U.S. American colleges and universities) is designed to give students a fairly broad education background, generally with an emphasis or specialization called a major. The major is the field of study in which the student is most interested and in which, generally, he or she takes the most course work.

In order to receive credit or grades for course work, a student must be properly registered for the term. Orientation will assist you with registration.

### **Units**

In order to graduate from LPC, a student must earn a specified number of units or credits and complete a specified number of courses for his or her major. Specific information on courses and departments at LPC, graduate requirements, and other academic matters can be obtained from the Counseling Center.

12 units constitute a minimum full-time program of study for undergraduate students. The maximum study load for undergraduates without special permission is 18 units. International students are encouraged to take only the minimum number of units (12) during their first semester of study.

### **Grades**

The quantity of a student's work is measured in units. The quality of a student's work is measured in grades (often called marks in other countries). There are 4 passing grades: A, B, C, and D (and shades in between at some schools) and one failing grade, F. Each grade carries a designated number of points per unit.

You should be aware that in the United States, different professors have different philosophies and methods of grading. Some use fixed scales, whereby each assignment or examination that is graded can receive a fixed maximum number of points (for example 10 or 100) and the number of points accumulated at the end of the semester is converted into a letter grade. (for example, 450 – 500 points is an A). By this system, everyone in the class could earn an A. An alternative to this method is that of grading on the curve, whereby a formula is used to assure that there will be a certain number of A's, a certain number of B's and so on. Under this system, the students in the class are competing with each other for high grades.

On the first session of a class, the professor will give students a printed sheet called a syllabus that among other things, explains his or her grading system. If you do not receive a syllabus, ask for one.

In the United States, grades are considered to be very important. Not only do they measure individual achievement, they are also used to rank and compare student's academic work. A student's grades receive considerable attention in competition for scholarships and fellowships, for admission to universities and graduate schools, and jobs.

### **Grade Points**

Below is a general definition of grades and grade points

A = Excellent = 4 .0 points per unit

B = Above average = 3.0 points per unit

C = Average = 2.0 points per unit

D = Barely Passing = 1.0 points per unit  
F = Failure = 0.0 points per unit

P = Pass = 3.0 grade points. Units earned with no units attempted  
NP = No Pass = 0 grade points. No units earned and no units attempted. May negatively affect progress  
I = Incomplete  
W = Withdrawal

### **Grade Point Average (GPA)**

The GPA is an index of the quality of a student's entire work, used for eligibility for honors and recognition and other scholastic status. Each class has a specific unit value. This usually refers to the amount of class time per week.

For example  
History 7 is a 3 unit class

To Calculate your GPA

$$\text{GPA} = \frac{\text{Total grade points}}{\text{Total units attempted}}$$

For example  
History 7 B (3 units). 3 units X 3 (B) grade points = 9 total grade points  
Math 38 B (5 units) 5 units x 3 (B) grade points = 15 total grade points  
PE IWT A (.5 units) .5 X 4 (A) grade points = 2 total grade points

$$\text{GPA} = \frac{26}{8.5} = 3.05$$



## **Academic Honesty**

Academic honesty is a fundamental and guiding principle for Las Positas College. The College will not tolerate academic cheating, plagiarism and duplicate use of written work. Any violation will be processed in accordance with the College policy on student misconduct. Actions can be taken to suspend, expel or impose other sanctions as appropriate. The actions will also be noted in the student's file in the case of repeated, flagrant or serious incidents. Information regarding this policy is available in the Vice President of Student Services Office, Building 700.

### **Academic Honesty Definitions**

#### **Cheating**

Cheating is defined as the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means including forgery. It also includes but is not limited to: giving, or attempting to give aid that is not authorized by the instructor, using or consulting during an examination sources or materials not authorized by the instructor, altering or interfering with grading or grading instructions, or sitting for an examination by a surrogate, or as a surrogate.

#### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is defined as taking the words or substance of another and either copying or paraphrasing the work without giving credit to the source (through footnotes, quotation marks, or reference citations) and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. This also includes representing another's artistic/scholarly works such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, paintings, drawings, sculptures, or similar works as one's own.

#### **Duplicate Use of Written Work**

This form of academic dishonesty includes: multiple students submitting identical or substantially similar work for academic credit or a student submitting identical or substantially similar work to multiple courses without the permission of the instructors.

Faculty members will report suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Dean of Student Services.

**Suspension or expulsion from Las Positas College may result in a violation of your F-1 status!**



## Academic Terms and American Slang

U.S. Americans speak a colorful, idiomatic English that may not resemble the English that you studied in your home country. Even a native English speaker might be confused by the combination of slang, technical words and academic terms that characterize campus conversations. Here are a few of the academic terms and slang expressions that you will hear around the LPC campus:

**Ace** - To earn a grade of "A." "I'll ace the course".

**Awesome** - Great, fantastic. "That concert was awesome."

**Blue Books** - Small notebooks used for taking exams. "I need to buy a blue book from the campus bookstore before tomorrow's chemistry exam."

**To "Bomb" or "Blow" an Exam** - To fail or do poorly on an exam. "I really bombed yesterday's history exam."

**Bummer** - An unpleasant experience. "That movie was a bummer. I can't believe it got good reviews".

**Burned Out** - Exhausted and lacking enthusiasm. Also used to describe heavy drug users. "After my exams, I felt totally burned out." "That guy is a total burn out."

**Bucks** - Dollars. "You can save a couple of bucks by buying things on sale."

**Cool** - Same as "awesome" mentioned above.

**Cram** - Frantic effort to learn neglected lessons right before a test. "I crammed all night before the exam."

**Crash** - To attend a class that you didn't register for, in hopes that the professor will sign you up. The most common way for students to join classes that are full. "I've got to get up early this morning to crash Psychology 1." Also, to be exhausted or fall into a deep sleep. "I just crashed last night after the party."

**Cut class** – skip class/ don't go to class

**East Bay** - The counties east of San Francisco and across the Bay Bridge of Contra Costa and Alameda which includes some of the following cities: Oakland, Livermore, Berkeley, Walnut Creek and Hayward. In addition, you may hear "North Bay", which refers to Marin County, "South Bay" which refers to Santa Clara County, and "The Peninsula" which refers to San Mateo County. "I'm looking for an apartment in the East Bay."

**Feedback** - Response or reaction. "That experiment was very controversial. It's going to get a lot of negative feedback."

**Finals** - Final examinations given at the end of the semester. "Are you ready for finals?"

**Flunk** - To fail a test or subject. "I flunked English and will have to retake it next semester."



**GPA** - Grade Point Average. "My GPA is 3.5."

**Geek** - An individual who spends too much time working and studying, and rarely has fun or relaxes. Also known as nerds and dorks. "That guy is such a geek, all he does is stay inside and study."

**Go Dutch** – share the bill

**Guts** - Courage. "It takes guts to register for 21 units."

**Hassle** - Something which seems unnecessarily bothersome or troublesome. "I have to transfer twice on the Wheels Bus to get to Joey's house. It's too much of a hassle."

**Hit Me Up** - Call me. "Hi Michelle, hit me up when you get out of school."

**Hit the Books** - To study. "I can't go tonight. I've got to hit the books."

**Hit the Hay** – go to bed

**How's It Going?** - How are you? or What have you been doing? "Hi Liam, how's it going?"

**I.D.** - Identification card. "You'll need to show your student I.D. to check a book out of the library."

**In a nutshell** – in a few words

**Incomplete** - A notation on your academic record (transcript) in place of a grade if you are unable to complete the class requirements and need more time to finish. It eventually becomes a failing grade ("F") if you don't complete the work within one semester. "I had to ask the professor to give me an incomplete."

**Into** - Intense enthusiasm for something. "He's really into chess."

**Jerk** - An obnoxious person. "He's a real jerk."

**Kick It** - Get together, hang out. "Do you want to kick it tonight?"

**Las Po** - Las Positas College

**Major** - A subject of academic study chosen as a field of specialization.

**Mall** - A large, often in-door, shopping center. "I'm going to the Stoneridge Shopping Mall."

**Mid-Term** - An examination given at the middle of the semester. "Midterms are next week."

**Nerd** - See "geek"

**North Bay** - refers to Marin County (north of San Francisco)

**On the ball** - Alert, quick to respond. "You must be on the ball if you are in that class."

**On cloud 9** – very happy

**Pull someone's leg** – fool someone

**Psyched** - Excited, looking forward to. "I'm psyched about going to the beach this week-end."

**Quiz** - A short test. "Our professor gives us a quiz every week."

**Red Tape** - Bureaucratic delay and paperwork. "There is so much red tape involved in withdrawing from a class."

**Rip Off** - To steal or cheat. "Someone ripped off his bike."

**Scantron** - An answer sheet for a multiple choice exam that is scored electronically.

**See eye to eye** – agree fully

**Sit tight** – wait there

**South Bay** – refers to Santa Clara County including the city of San Jose

**Term Paper** - A research report written for a class. "I must write a term paper for this class."

**Treat someone** – pay for someone else

**"The City" or S.F.** - San Francisco. "I'm going to The City today." Sometimes called "San Fran". Be careful though as most residents of S.F. don't like the name "Frisco" to refer to their city.

**The Peninsula** – refers to San Mateo County, directly south of San Francisco

**Under the weather** – feeling sick

**What's Up?** - How are you? "Hi Colin, what's up?"

**Withdraw** - To voluntarily resign from the college or from a particular class. "I became ill and was in the hospital and lost so many days of class that I decided to withdraw from LPC."

**W Number** - your Student I.D. number. It will begin the letter "W"

## Useful Acronyms – FYI (For Your Information)

**A&R** – Admissions and Records Office  
**AA** – Associate of Arts Degree  
**AS** – Associate of Science Degree  
**ASLPC** – Associated Students of Las Positas College  
**ATM** – Automated Teller Machine  
**CPT** – Curricular Practical Training  
**CSU** – California State University (System)  
**DHS** – Department of Homeland Security  
**DMV** – Department of Motor Vehicles  
**DSO** – Designated School Official  
**DSPS** – Disabled Students Programs and Services  
**EAD** – Employment Authorization Card  
**EOPS** – Extended Opportunity Programs and Services  
**ESL** – English as a Second Language  
**ETS** – Educational Testing Service (company that runs the TOEFL test)  
**FAQ** – Frequently Asked Questions  
**FERPA** – Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act  
**GE** – General Education  
**GPA** – Grade Point Average  
**GR** – Grade. Course must be taken for letter grade (no credit/ non credit)  
**iBT** – Internet Based Test (TOEFL)  
**ICC** – Inter Club Council  
**ICE** – Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
**IELTS** – International English Language Testing System  
**IGETC** – Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum  
**ILC** – Integrated Learning Center  
**IRS** – Internal Revenue Service  
**ISP** – International Student Program  
**LPC** – Las Positas College  
**NGR** – No Grade of Record  
**OP** – Option. Course may be take for letter grade or credit/ no credit  
**OPT** – Optional Practical Training  
**PBT** – Paper Based Test (TOEFL)  
**PE** – Physical Education (Complex)  
**PIN** – Personal Identification Number  
**RSVP** – “Repondez Si’l Vous Plait” (French) – a request to respond to an invitation like a party  
**SAT** – Scholastic Aptitude Test  
**SEP** – Student Education Plan  
**SEVP** – Student and Exchange Visitor Program (part of ICE)  
**SEVIS** – Students and Exchange Visitors Information System  
**SSN** – Social Security Number  
**TB** – Tuberculosis  
**TBA** – To Be Announced  
**TOEFL** – Test of English as a Foreign Language  
**UC** – University of California (System)  
**UCBC** – The University of California behind Costco - a nickname for Las Positas College ☺  
**USCIS** – United States Citizenship and Immigration Services  
**USPS** – United States Postal Service



## Academic FAQ

### **What does “Las Positas” mean?**

In 1986, the Board of Trustees selected the name Las Positas as the name for the District’s new college. Rancho Las Positas was the title of the original Spanish land grant at the College site, the name translates from Spanish to “the little springs”.

### **What’s the difference between a “community college”, “junior college”, or “city college”?**

They are all the same, a 2 year institution that offers Associate Degrees, Vocational Certificates, and Transfer Preparation programs.

### **What’s the difference between a “college” and a “university?”**

U.S. Americans refer to these to mean the same thing for a 4 year school. However, a community college could never be called a university. University usually implies that the institution offers graduate programs.

### **What’s the difference between a CSU and a UC school?**

The UC schools offer Doctoral (PhD) programs in addition to undergraduate and graduate programs and as a result, they tend to be better known and respected than the CSU schools which offer only Bachelor and Masters programs. The UCs were designed to be research universities, while the CSU tend to be more practical based.

### **What can I take to my Assessment test?**

You are allowed to take a calculator for the Math Assessment test, but you are not allowed to take a dictionary for the English Assessment test. You will also need to bring a valid photo ID (LPC ID, passport, or driver’s license) to take the test.

### **If I drop a class, can I get a refund?**

To apply for an enrollment fee refund, you will need to file a request for a “Refund Form” at the Office of Admissions and Records. No refunds will be given to students who withdraw from classes after the no-grade-of-record (NGR) deadline. We may be able to roll over your tuition payment for a class dropped before the NGR deadline into the next semester if you will be continuing into the next semester. Please come to the ISP Office for more information. Otherwise, tuition refunds will be given as follows:

Prior to the first day of instruction – 90%

During the first week of instruction – 75%

After the first week of instruction – No refund.

### **Why do International students pay more than other students?**

U.S. citizens and Legal Permanent Residents who live in California pay taxes to the State of California. In turn, the State of California pays to fund public schools such as LPC. As International students, you do not pay taxes, and as a result, your tuition is based on what the current payment would be from the State of California to the school.

### **What do I do if the class I want is full?**

You should try to register and put your name on the waitlist for the class if a space is available. Students are added to the class from the waitlist in the order they were added on the waitlist. Then, if you are unsuccessful in getting into the class, be sure to the first class meeting to see if the instructor will add you. Students will be added to the class on the first day if space exists according to the order of the waitlist first, and then any other students who “dropped in” according to their priority number. If so, take a green “Class Add Card” with you to request the

instructor to write either his or her signature, or “Add Authorization Number”. Then take the completed card to ISP or Admissions and Records to officially enroll and pay for the class. If the instructor cannot add you, see a counselor, who may be able to suggest another class or other options.

### **I want to use CLASS-WEB. What’s my ID and PIN?**

Your ID number is your student ID number, also called your “W number”. It begins with “W” and then has 8 numbers. Your PIN is set to your birth date, in the month, day, year format (MM,DD,YY). This is the 2 numbers of your month, 2 numbers of your day, and last 2 numbers of the year you were born. For example March 28, 1988 would be 032888.

### **What is the maximum number of units that I can take per semester?**

You are allowed to take up to 18 units per semester. If you want to take more, you must first see a Counselor to request taking more units.

### **What are pass/no pass classes?**

Some classes must be taken for a letter grade. This is indicated in the schedule of classes as GR. In other classes, labeled as OP, you may choose a grade or a pass/ no pass option. If you complete the course with “C” or better work, you will receive a grade of Pass (“P”) for the class. If you finish the course with a grade below a “C”, you will receive no pass (“NP”) for the class. The grades of “P” or “NP” do not affect your GPA. This may be a good option to consider if it is available and you are not able to do well in a certain class that you need to take. If a class is listed as P/N it is only available to take as pass/ no pass. See a counselor for more details.

### **What is a “prerequisite”?**

A prerequisite is a condition of enrollment a student is required to meet in order to demonstrate current readiness for enrollment in a course or educational program. Examples are courses in sequence, like English or Math; prerequisites demanded by the UC/CSUY systems, other colleges and universities, and/or by licensing agencies, for example, the Board of Registered nursing.

### **What is a “corequisite”?**

A corequisite is a condition of enrollment consisting of a class a student is required to take concurrently in order to enroll in another class. Lab/lecture classes are prime examples.

### **What is the difference between a unit and a credit?**

A unit is the same as a credit. This is the value of a college credit to a course. In general, one hour of lecture per week equals one unit of credit.

### **When do I have to pay my semester’s tuition?**

New students are expected to pay their semester’s tuition in full when they register for their classes. Continuing students must pay their next semester’s tuition in full by the “drop for nonpayment” deadline” or they will be dropped from their classes. Students can sign up for a payment plan through “Netnet Business Solutions” (formerly FACTS) and have payments deducted from their bank accounts for up to 5 payments.

### **I am having difficulty in paying for my tuition. What can I do?**

Please come to talk with the International Student Program staff to discuss your payment options.

**Where can I buy my textbooks?**

You can purchase your textbooks at the LPC Bookstore in Building # 1300. Another alternative is online at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) which may even have the book at a lower cost.

**What is the relationship between Las Positas College and Chabot College?**

Chabot College (pronounced "Sha-bow") and LPC are sister colleges that are part of the Chabot-Las Positas College District.

**Can I take classes at Chabot?**

Yes. You must however take a minimum of 7 units at LPC to be considered a LPC student and keep your LPC I-20. Otherwise, you can transfer to Chabot College.

**Where can I get a Student ID card?**

Student ID cards are issued in the Admissions and Records Office, in Building # 1600.

**Is class attendance important?**

Yes. Class attendance is very important in order to succeed in the class. Repeated absences will affect your grade and you could even be withdrawn from the class by the instructor.

**What happens if I have to miss class?**

It is best to notify the instructor in person or by e-mail in advance if you need to miss a class. Be sure to explain why you will be absent and ask for any assignments that you will miss.

**I want to e-mail my instructor. How can I find their e-mail address?**

All LPC instructors have campus e-mail accounts. You will need to know their first and last names, which should be on your course syllabus. If you need assistance to find an instructor's name, please come to the ISP Office. The instructor's e-mail address will be the first letter of their first name, and then their complete last (family) name, followed by: @laspostiascollege.edu. For example, to contact Jonathan Brickman, his e-mail address would be [jbrickman@laspostiascollege.edu](mailto:jbrickman@laspostiascollege.edu).

**How can I have my classes taken at my university in my home country be used for a degree here at Las Positas College?**

You will need to have them professionally evaluated and translated (if necessary). Our Counselors are not able to evaluate International Transcripts. Please come to the ISP Office for a list of several International Credential Evaluator service providers.

**My instructor is listed as "Staff" in the Class Schedule. Who is this?**

"Staff" means that at the time the schedule was printed, the instructor for this course was not known. For the latest information, check the Class schedule online.



## **V. Student Life**

## Student Clubs

The following are recent Student Clubs offered at LPC:

- Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS) Honor Society
- Big Siblings Club
- Biology Club
- Brazilian Jiu Jitsu
- Business Club
- Chemistry Club
- Christ on Campus Club
- Chow-Hoon Goshin- Jitsu Club
- Club of Cinematic Arts
- Computer Science Club
- Danzan Ryu Jujitsu Club
- Electronics Club
- Engineering Club
- Freedom Advocacy Character Education Awareness
- Friends Advocating, Celebrating, Educational (FACE) Differences
- Future Teachers' Club
- Fuerza Latina Club
- Gay Straight Alliance
- Global Hope
- Student Health and Wellness Club
- Horticulturists of Today and Tomorrow
- International Business Association
- Journalism Club
- Math Club
- Middle-Eastern Awareness Club
- Performing Arts Club
- Philosophy Club
- Photography and Videography Club
- Physics/ Astronomy Club
- Poetry Club
- Psi Beta/ Psychology Club
- Public Safety Club
- Social Justice Club
- Students' Organization for Sustainability
- Tae Kwon Do Club
- **International Students Club** is a club that celebrates the diversity of the campus and welcomes all students born abroad and those who are interested in multi-cultural issues and activities.

### What if there isn't a current club that meets my interests?

Contact ICC Chair to Start a New Club. Discuss your new club with the Director of Student Life. Then find a Club Advisor. Complete the "Request to Organize a New Club" form and get the required signatures (including at least 8 students).

See <http://www.laspositascollege.edu/studentservices/clubs.php> for a list of all current Student Clubs here at LPC.





## **VI. Registration Information**

## How to Add Classes

If the course is OPEN, students may continue to enroll online via CLASS-Web or The ZONE without an Add Number from the instructor.

If the course has the Waitlist option, it will be filled with the students on the Waitlist before allowing regular Adds. The instructor can then fill any remaining seats according to students' priority number.

If the course is CLOSED, and there are seats still available after the Waitlist has been exhausted, please follow these steps:

- 1) Attend the first meeting of the class
- 2) Obtain an "Add Authorization Number" from the instructor. If seating is available, instructors will add students BY PRIORITY according to the last 4 digits of the student's priority number, highest number first
- 3) Enter your four digit "Add Authorization Number" online via CLASS-Web or The ZONE in the registration menu at [www.laspositascollege.edu](http://www.laspositascollege.edu)

## Waitlist Information

Las Positas College has implemented a waitlist system effective Spring 2012. Before the start of instruction, if a class is closed, you may place yourself on a waitlist anytime on or after your priority registration date. If a student drops and a seat becomes available, you will be notified via your Zonemail student email account that you have 72 hours to register for the class. If you do not register before the notification expires, you will be removed from the waitlist. It is recommended that you monitor your waitlist status regularly on the The Zone or CLASS-Web, in addition to checking your Zonemail.

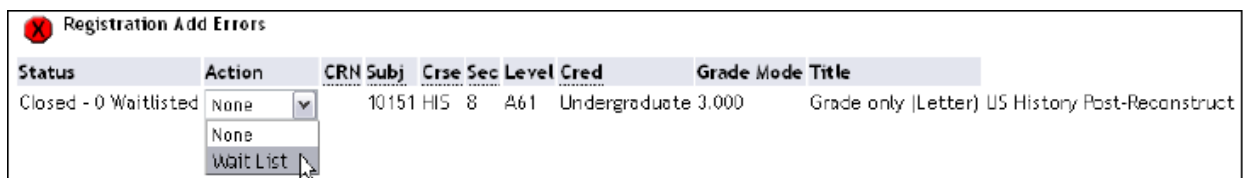
## Waitlist FAQ

### What is a waitlist?

A waitlist is a registration feature available in The Zone and CLASS-Web. It is a way to prioritize the enrollment of students after a class has reached its enrollment limit. Prior to the start of instruction, if a class is closed because it has reached its enrollment limit, students may place themselves on a waitlist. Students are placed on the waitlist on a first-come, first-served basis. As seats become available, students are notified by email to register via The Zone or CLASS-Web. Students can monitor their waitlist status in the The Zone or Class-Web.

### How do I place myself on a waitlist?

In the Zone or Class-Web, go to Add/Drop Classes and register for a class. If the class is closed and has a waitlist, you can add yourself to the waitlist under "Registration Add Errors".



Status	Action	CRN	Subj	Crse	Sec	Level	Cred	Grade	Mode	Title
Closed - 0 Waitlisted	None None Wait List	10151	HIS	8	A61	Undergraduate	3.000		Grade only (Letter)	US History Post-Reconstruct

### What happens if a waitlist is full?

If both the class and the waitlist are full, you should look for another section to add. As students drop and students on the waitlist are notified, waitlist seats may become available. You can view availability of classes on The Zone or CLASS-Web.

**Can I place myself on the waitlist if I don't meet the prerequisite/corequisite?**

No. If you do not meet the prerequisite or corequisite for a class, you cannot place yourself on a waitlist.

**If I put myself on the waitlist, will that satisfy the prerequisite for an upcoming course?**

No. You must be registered to satisfy a prerequisite for a course in which you wish to enroll for an upcoming term. For example, being on the Summer waitlist for Math 20 does not satisfy the prerequisite for Math 1 in the Fall.

**Can I place myself on the waitlist if there is a time conflict with my current schedule?**

No. You cannot place yourself on a waitlist if the class overlaps with any class in which you are already enrolled.

**Can I place myself on a waitlist for one class and enroll in another section of the same class as a backup?**

No. You cannot be registered for one section of a class and waitlisted into an additional section of the same class.

**What if the class doesn't have a waitlist?**

Not all classes will have waitlists. If a class is closed and does not have a waitlist, you should look for an open section.

**Can I see my position on the waitlist?**

You can always check The Zone or CLASS-Web to see your current position on a waitlist. The position number changes as students drop, therefore, it is important to check your waitlist position on a regular basis.

**How do I get registered in a class from the waitlist?**

If you are at the top of the waitlist and a student drops, a seat becomes available and an email is sent to your Zonemail account notifying you to register. Log in to The Zone or CLASS-Web and select "Register" from the Action drop-down box for the waitlisted class in your Current Schedule. **You will have 72 hours to register from the time the notification is sent to your Zonemail.** If you do not register within the allotted time, you will be removed from that waitlist.

Current Schedule									
Status	Action	CRN	Subj	Crse	Sec	College	Cred	Grade Mode	Title
Waitlist #0 on May 09, 2012	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">           None            Drop Class  <b>** Register **</b> </div>	20487	CIS	75	FT1	Las Positas	0.000	Grade only (Letter)	Office Technology/Communicat

Current Schedule									
Status	Action	CRN	Subj	Crse	Sec	College	Cred	Grade Mode	Title
**Web Registered** on May 25, 2012	None	20487	CIS	75	FT1	Las Positas	1.000	Grade only (Letter)	Office Technology/Communicat

**What If my waitlisted seat doesn't become available?**

Students who remain on the waitlist at the start of instruction and still wish to add should attend the first class meeting to be considered for adding into the class if space is available. Online students should contact the instructor directly via email or telephone by midnight prior to the first day of class. Instructors will issue Add Authorization Numbers to students in the order that they appear on the waitlist. If space is still available after the waitlisted students have been added, or if a class has no waitlist, instructors may issue add authorization numbers to students based on priority numbers.

### **What is Zonemail?**

All students at Las Positas College are given a Zonemail email account when they apply for admission. Zonemail is accessible by logging in to The Zone. You can choose to forward email from Zonemail to your personal email. Go to <http://www.clpccd.org/tech/documents/ZoneHelp2010.pdf> for more information on Zonemail.

### **How can I find my Zonemail address?**

Log into The Zone and click on the “What’s my email” link at the top on the right of the page. All of the school email addresses involve having the students first letter of your given name, the first letter of your middle name (or “x” if you do not have a middle name”, your last name, a number if there are more than 1 student with the same first, middle, and last name, followed by @clpccd.edu.

### **What if I want to remove myself from a waitlist?**

You can remove yourself from a waitlist anytime by going to “Add/Drop Classes” in The Zone or CLASS-Web and drop the class the same way you would if you were dropping a class in which you are already enrolled. If you change your mind, you may place yourself on the waitlist again, but you will be added to the bottom of the list.

### **Can I place myself on multiple waitlists?**

You can be on multiple waitlists as long as they are for different classes. You can only be on the waitlist in one section of any given course, provided you are not already registered in that course.

### **Will I be charged any fees for being on a waitlist?**

No, you are not charged for being on a waitlist. Fees will be assessed once you register for the class.

### **How many students can be on a waitlist?**

Most classes have 20 spots on the waitlist, but waitlist capacity may vary.

### **Can I place myself on a waitlist if I’m already enrolled in 18 units?**

No, you can NOT put yourself on a waitlist if adding the class puts you over the maximum unit load of 18 units. You can request permission to take more than 18 units by meeting a Counselor.

### **What happens if my waitlisted seat becomes available and I do not register with the 72 hour period?**

If you do not take action before the stated expiration date and time, your spot will be removed from the waitlist and it will be given to the next student on the waitlist. If you still want to take the class, you should show up for class on the first day to request a Add Authorization Number. For online classes, you should email their instructor that you are still interested by midnight prior

to the first day of class. You must include the course name and Course Registration Number (CRN) in the subject line in the email to the instructor.

### **What will I receive when my spot is available to register from the waitlist?**

An email notification will be sent to your Zonemail address as soon as a seat becomes available. The email will include registration instructions and the expiration date and time of the notification. You should register as soon as you receive this email.

### **How to Drop Classes**

Students will be permitted to drop courses online via CLASS-Web or The ZONE in the registration menu. If a class is canceled or you drop on or before the “NGR” deadline, you may submit a Refund Request Form available for download on our website at [www.laspositascollege.edu](http://www.laspositascollege.edu)

### **Priority Registration**


Registration for classes is according to your **priority registration number**. Your registration priority group and registration date will be determined by the following criteria:


- Completion of the 3 Core Services, which are:
  1. **Orientation** – online Orientation or attending New International Student Orientation
  2. **Assessment** – English and/or Math
  3. **Student Education Plan (SEP)** – done with a Counselor
- The number of units completed and in-progress at Chabot-Las Positas Community College District (CLPCCD)
- Good Academic Standing.


You will be able to register for classes earlier and likely get the classes and times you want next semester if you complete the 3 Core Services above.

You can check your Priority Registration Number by accessing your CLASS-Web Account. It is listed at the top of the page. It can also be found by first Signing-In, then select “Student Services and Financial Aid”, click “Registration” and then click “Check your Registration Priority Number”. More information can be found at:

<http://www.laspositascollege.edu/admissions/priorityregistration.php>

1  **Online Orientation**  
[www.laspositascollege.edu/admissions/STEP4.php](http://www.laspositascollege.edu/admissions/STEP4.php)

2  **Assessment**

3  **Student Education Plan (SEP)**  
Contact Counseling, room 1616 for questions.

## Repeating a Course

### Course Repeat Policy for Passing Grades

Effective Summer 2012, State laws now affect your course repetition options at Las Positas College. Unless exceptions are specifically indicated in course descripts in the current Las Positas College Academic Catalog, state regulations prohibit you from repeating a course you completed with a passing grade (A, B, C, or P).

### Course Repeat Policy for Substandard Grades

A student may only enroll in a non-repeatable course **3 times**, through a combination of substandard grades (D, F, NP) and withdrawals (W). All prior course attempts at the Chabot – Las Positas Community College District will count toward the limit. Students may seek approval to enroll in a course a 4<sup>th</sup> time through the petition process. The petition is limited to the following:

1. In extenuating circumstances, such a verified cases of accident or illness
2. Due to a significant lapse of time (3 years or more)
3. In a variable unit or open entry/exit course that can only be completed once, but with multiple enrollments.
4. For cooperate work experience courses (up to 16 credit hours).
5. For special needs courses (continued need must be demonstrated for each enrollment).
6. When repetition of a course is legally mandated
7. Where there is a significant change in industry or licensure standards.

When a student has repeated a course and earned a passing grade of A,B,C,D, or P, he/she may petition the Dean of Enrollment Services to count, for grade point calculation only, the most recently earned grade. The “Petition For Use of Most Recent Grade in a Repeated Class” Form is available in the Office of Admissions and Records (Building 1600). Physical Education (Kinesiology) activity courses may not be repeated for a higher grade.

Students are advised that both the original and subsequent grade will remain on their transcript and that in transferring to another institution, they may be help responsible for all units attempted.

## Parking on Campus

To parking in campus parking lots, you must either by a semester parking pass or a daily permit.

### Daily Parking Permits

Daily Parking permit dispensers are available on light posts in most student parking lots. Daily permits are \$3.

### Semester Parking Permits

Semester Permits are purchased online on CLASS-Web as part of the class registration process. A printer is required to print temporary permit when ordering from CLASS-Web. The permanent permit is mailed to the student's home. The temporary permit has an expiration date. Students who do not receive their permanent permit prior to the expiration date must contact Campus Safety and Security in Room #1725 or a citation may be issue for displaying an expired permit.

### Fall and Spring Semester permits:

Motorcycles: \$20  
All Other Vehicles: \$40

### Summer Session Permits:

Motorcycles: \$10  
All Other Vehicles: \$20

### Visitor Parking

Visitor parking is available FREE for 30 minutes for visitors and guests and is located in most lots. Visitor Parking is not for registered students.

### Other Parking Information:

- Parking Permits must be properly displayed on your dashboard and visible to Campus Safety officers.
- Do NOT park in Blue Disabled Parking Spaces
- Do NOT park in assigned Staff Parking spaces
- Observe the speed limit – 10 miles per hour (mph) while on campus
- Park Head In. Do not pull through a space. When departing your space, you should always back up.
- Parking Citations start at \$35!
- Your Parking Permit is valid for both Las Positas College and Chabot College.

### How to Purchase a Parking Permit Online

Before purchasing a permit, you will need the following information:

1. Student ID Number (W or Social Security)
2. Vehicle license plate number
3. Make, model, color of vehicle
4. Access to a printer (to print a temporary permit)

To purchase a permit:

1. Log into The ZONE, go to "Student Services"
2. Click on "Order or Activate a Parking Permit"

3. Continue by following the on-screen instructions

After purchasing a permit:

1. Print your temporary permit by clicking “Ordering a Parking Permit”, then “Print a Temporary Permit”.
2. Your parking permit will be mailed to the address you provided within 10 days of payment.

### **FAQ about purchasing a Parking Permit**

#### **Where can I buy a parking permit to park at LPC?**

You can purchase your parking permit online at [www.laspositascollege.edu](http://www.laspositascollege.edu) using CLASS-Web.

#### **How much is a parking citation?**

\$35, which is almost the cost of a semester’s permit (\$40).

#### **I am having problems printing my permit. What should I do?**

If you are logged into CLASS-Web, return to the main menu of CLASS-Web, and click on the “Student Services and Financial Aid” link. They go to the “Pay My Fees Online” link, pay the fees and then go back to main menu. Once at the main menu click on the “Order or Activate a parking permit” link. Then select “Print a temporary permit” link.

#### **I am at the screen where I should be able to print my parking permit, but it is not being displayed. What should I do?**

On your computer, you may have to change the settings to allow pop ups. Once you have changed the setting to allow pop ups, log out and back into CLASS-Web and then try printing the permit again. Check to make sure that all your fees have been paid. Your term balance must be at a zero balance for CLASS-Web or The ZONE will allow you to print a parking pass.

#### **I have already paid for my parking permit, and waited the required 10 minutes and my permit still has not been generated. What should I do?**

If you have paid and the permit is not generating for you to print, log off and log back on to CLASS-Web. Check to make sure your payment was accepted and your term balance is zero. If you have done this, and also checked your computer to allow pop ups, and still cannot print a permit, contact the Campus Safety Department in person in Building #1700 or by telephone at 925.424.1690 and be ready to provide your Student ID (W#).

#### **I drive more than one car. Do I need to purchase two parking permits?**

No. You may purchase one permit and use that permit on any vehicle you drive to campus. A valid permit must be displayed anytime the vehicle is parked on campus.

#### **I attend both Chabot and Las Positas College. Is the parking permit the same for both campuses?**

Yes. The parking permit is exactly the same at both Chabot and Las Positas College. You can park on the Chabot campus with the permit you purchased at Las Positas College

#### **I accidentally ordered two parking permits. How do I cancel one?**

Currently, CLASS-Web and The ZONE do not allow users to cancel parking permits. If you need a permit canceled, please contact Campus Safety at (925) 424.1690.





## **VII. Living in the U.S.A.**

## Housing Information

### Apartments

#### Dublin

Name	Address	Phone #	\$ per month - 1 bedroom
<b>Amador Lakes</b> <a href="http://www.amador-lakes.com">www.amador-lakes.com</a>	8015 North Lake Dr.	(925) 219-3244	\$1815 ~
<b>Archstone Emerald Park</b> <a href="http://www.equityapartments.com">www.equityapartments.com</a>	5095 Haven Pl.	(925) 560-1600	\$2010 ~
<b>Eaves Dublin</b> <a href="http://www.eavesbyavalon.com">www.eavesbyavalon.com</a>	7904 Fall Creek Rd.	1-866-909-1628	\$1820 ~
<b>Avalon Dublin Station</b> <a href="http://www.avaloncommunities.com">www.avaloncommunities.com</a>	5300 Iron Horse Pkwy.	1-866-650-7937	\$2265 ~
<b>Connolly Station</b> <a href="http://www.connollystationapts.com">www.connollystationapts.com</a>	7550 Street Patrick Way	(925) 237-9183	\$1965 - \$2550
<b>Cottonwood</b> <a href="http://www.liveatcottonwoodapts.com">www.liveatcottonwoodapts.com</a>	6500 Cotton Wood Cir.	1-866-829-7058	\$1990 ~
<b>Emerald Park</b> <a href="http://www.prometheusreg.com">www.prometheusreg.com</a>	5050 Hacienda Dr.	1-866-380-0643	\$1930 - \$2240
<b>The Groves at Dublin Ranch</b> <a href="http://www.thegrovesatdublinranch.com">www.thegrovesatdublinranch.com</a>	3115 Finnian Way	(925) 560-0965	\$1550 ~
<b>Ironhorse Trail</b> <a href="http://www.srgliving.com/ironhorsetrail">www.srgliving.com/ironhorsetrail</a>	6233 Dougherty Rd.	1-877-510-7705	\$1984 - \$2189
<b>Parkwood</b> <a href="http://www.parkwoodluxury.com">www.parkwoodluxury.com</a>	7300 Parkwood Cir.	(925) 829-8080	\$1750 - \$2050
<b>The Springs of Dublin</b> <a href="http://www.springsdublinapts.com">www.springsdublinapts.com</a>	7100 San Ramon Rd.	(925) 829-9352	\$1799 - \$1950
<b>Tralee Village</b> <a href="http://www.traleevillageapts.com">www.traleevillageapts.com</a>	6599 Dublin Blvd.	(925) 929-4400	\$2195 ~
<b>Waterford Place</b> <a href="http://www.woodmontrentals.com">www.woodmontrentals.com</a>	4800 Tassajara Rd.	1-888-551-2420	\$1865 - \$2315

#### Livermore

Name	Address	Phone #	\$ per month - 1 bedroom
<b>The Arbors</b> <a href="http://www.woodmontrentals.com">www.woodmontrentals.com</a>	3550 Pacific Ave.	(925) 449-9114	\$1518 ~
<b>Autumn Springs</b>	1700 Paseo Laguna Seco	1-866-916-3847	\$1552 - \$2228
<b>Briarwood</b>	3819 East Ave.	(925) 443-1413	\$1599 ~
<b>Catalina Crest</b> <a href="http://www.catalinacrestapts.com">www.catalinacrestapts.com</a>	1038 Catalina Dr.	(925) 217-9086	\$1275 - \$1325
<b>The Crossing at Arroyo Trail</b> <a href="http://www.crossingatroyotrail.com">www.crossingatroyotrail.com</a>	156 North Murrieta Blvd.	(925) 429-8039	\$1675 - \$1775
<b>Chardonnay Garden</b> <a href="http://www.chardonnaygardenapts.com">www.chardonnaygardenapts.com</a>	2991 College Avenue	(925) 373-1275	\$1775 - \$1875
<b>Diablo Vista</b>	1550 Springtown Blvd	(925) 297-4341	\$1304 - \$1559

<a href="http://www.woodmontrentals.com">www.woodmontrentals.com</a>			
<b>Hidden Glen</b>	1669 Catalina Ct.	(925) 271-2443	\$1400
<b>Ironwood</b> <a href="http://www.ironwoodapts.com">www.ironwoodapts.com</a>	5643 Charlotte Way	(925) 455-1944	\$1635 - \$1925
<b>La Viña</b> <a href="http://www.lavinaapts.com">www.lavinaapts.com</a>	4601 Gerrilyn Way	1-888-334-8342	\$2300 (2BDR)
<b>Livermore Gardens</b>	5720 East Ave.	1-866-468-3194	\$1475 ~
<b>Meadowbrook</b>	156 North Murrieta Blvd.	(925) 455-9025	\$1370 ~
<b>Mill Springs Park</b> <a href="http://www.experiencemillsprings.com">www.experiencemillsprings.com</a>	1809 Railroad Ave.	(925) 231-8129	\$1666 - \$1819
<b>Portola Meadows</b>	1160 Portola Meadows Rd.	(925) 449-6167	\$1555 - \$1740
<b>Sunset Gardens</b> <a href="http://www.sunsetgardenapartments.net">www.sunsetgardenapartments.net</a>	1163 Concannon Blvd.	(925) 443-1271	\$1150 - \$1450

### Pleasanton

Name	Address	Phone #	\$ per month - 1 bedroom
<b>Archstone Hacienda</b> <a href="http://www.equityapartments.com">www.equityapartments.com</a>	5650 Owens Dr.	(925) 398 -7368	\$2085 ~
<b>Civic Square</b> <a href="http://www.braddockandlogan-apts.com">www.braddockandlogan-apts.com</a>	4800 Bernal Avenue	(925) 215-3276	\$1638 - \$2439
<b>Del Prado</b> <a href="http://www.woodmontrentals.com">www.woodmontrentals.com</a>	5196 Golden Road	1-866-849-2130	\$1816 ~
<b>The Kensington</b> <a href="http://www.thekensingtonca.com">www.thekensingtonca.com</a>	1552 East Gate Way #126	1-866-217-8355	\$1960 - \$2945
<b>Hacienda Commons</b> <a href="http://www.prometheusreg.com">www.prometheusreg.com</a>	5000 Owens Dr.	(925) 847-8844	\$1625 - \$2055
<b>Las Ventanas</b> <a href="http://www.lasventanasapt.com">www.lasventanasapt.com</a>	3819 Vineyard Ave.	(925) 399-8845	\$1550 ~
<b>Pleasanton Glen</b> <a href="http://www.pleasantonglen.com">www.pleasantonglen.com</a>	3955 Vineyard Ave.	1-877-272-5454	\$1760~
<b>Springhouse</b> <a href="http://www.springhousepleasanton.com">www.springhousepleasanton.com</a>	5505 Springhouse Dr.	1-866-848-5108	\$1795 ~
<b>Stoneridge</b> <a href="http://www.lyoncommunities.com">www.lyoncommunities.com</a>	6250 Stoneridge Mall Rd.	1-866-559-3332	\$1732 - \$2487
<b>Valley Plaza Villages</b> <a href="http://www.esring.com/valley-plaza-villages">www.esring.com/valley-plaza-villages</a>	4411 Valley Ave.	(925) 426-0377	\$2092 ~
<b>Vista Del Sol</b>	2451 Santa Rita Rd.	(925) 846-9621	\$1050 - \$1150
<b>Woodland Villas</b> <a href="http://www.woodlandvillasapts.com">www.woodlandvillasapts.com</a>	4320 Valley Ave.	(925) 484-3710	\$1829 ~

### Dormitories

- California State University East Bay, Hayward Campus - <http://wwwsa.csueastbay.edu/~houseweb/>

See pamphlets in the ISP Office for more information

### **Homestay Families**

- International Student Placements (ISP) – [www.isphomestays.com](http://www.isphomestays.com)
- Education Services International – [www.edservintl.com/](http://www.edservintl.com/)
- Orinda Homestay Program – Phone: 925-254-1191. Fax: 925-254-8124

### **Internet Resources**

[www.craigslist.org](http://www.craigslist.org) - click the “ebay” link and look at housing available

[www.apartments.com](http://www.apartments.com)

[www.rent.com](http://www.rent.com)

[www.ehousing.com](http://www.ehousing.com)

### **Newspapers**

- Tri-Valley Herald - available for free on campus
- The Valley Times
- East Bay Express – free paper available at many area stores
- San Francisco Chronicle – in the Classified section

Visit the International Student Program Office for a list of available housing that people in the area have told us about including people looking for roommates.



## Financial Matters

### Currency

The U.S. monetary system follows the decimal system. The dollar (\$) is the basic unit. Paper money, also called “bills”, comes in denominations of \$1 (also called a “buck”), \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, \$500, and \$1000. Occasionally, you will see a \$2 bill. All paper money is the same size and color. It is generally safer and more efficient to carry small denominations of bills, since small stores may not be able to make change for \$100 bills. Automated Teller Machines (ATM) distribute \$20 bills.



Currency in the forms of coins is also called “change”. Coins come in the following 5 denominations:

- 1 cent = a penny
- 5 cents = a nickel
- 10 cents = a dime
- 25 cents = a quarter

Occasionally, you may see a 50 cent coin, also called a “half dollar”, and the \$1 coin. Coins are used for self-service vending machines selling soft drinks and candy. Coins are also used for public telephones and washing and drying machines at laundromats. Having correct change is important when using public transportation such as buses, trains, and subways.

### Banks

While in the United States, you should keep most of your money safely deposited in a bank, except for a small amount of money needed for daily expenses. Keeping large amounts of cash in your wallet or at your home can be very dangerous. To protect your money, and earn a little interest, we recommend that you open a bank account.

All bank accounts come with a cash card (also known as an ATM card). This card makes banking very easy. You can do your banking 24 hours a day at most locations. There are two types of accounts: a checking account and a savings account.

#### Checking Accounts

A checking account is a bank account where you put your money and instead of paying for things with cash, you can write a check. Any business transactions such as paying for rent or tuition and other expenses or a large amount of money should be made by check, or paid with a credit card online. You should never send cash through the mail. You can pay for purchases with a check so long as you have the money in your account to cover the amount of the check you've written. To open an account, apply at the “new accounts” desk, explaining that you are a student who will be studying at Las Positas College. Be sure the person to whom you speak shows you how to write a check, register it in your book, and balance your account every month.

#### Savings Accounts

If you have a large amount of money that will pay your expenses for several months or more, you should consider putting this money you don't need immediately in a savings account. Banks use your money to make investments and pay you interest, a percentage of your savings in return for the privilege of using your money, if you maintain a minimum balance set by the bank. Apply for a savings account at the “new accounts” desk of the bank.

Many banks will require that you already have a U.S. Social Security Number (SSN) for tax identification purposes before you can open a checking or savings account. There are ways to open a bank account without a SSN. Please come to the International Student Program Office if you experience any difficulty in opening an account without a SSN.

### Receiving Money from Abroad

Once you have opened an account, you can receive money from a foreign bank account by a “cable or wire transfer”. You will need to give your family member or friend the Bank number and your Account number.

### Where can I open a bank account?

- **Bank of America**
  - 4250 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin
  - 7496 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin
  - 1748 Railroad Avenue, Livermore
  - 4213 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Livermore
  - 337 Main Street, Pleasanton
  - 6005 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton
- **Chase**
  - 4520 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin
  - 561 Main Street, Pleasanton
  - 1702 North Vasco Road, Livermore
  - 275 South K Street, Livermore
- **Citibank**
  - 7889 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin
  - 2150 Portola Avenue, Livermore
- **Union Bank of California**
  - 2000 Portola Avenue, Livermore
  - 4747 Hopyard Road, Suite E-2, Pleasanton
- **Wells Fargo**
  - 4400 Tassajara Road, Suite A, Dublin
  - 235 South K Street, Livermore



### Tipping

Tipping for services is common throughout the U.S.A. The word “TIP” is an acronym for “to insure promptness” The amount of tip should depend on the service you have received. There are 7 areas in which tipping is expected unless otherwise indicated. **You should never offer tips to police officers, government employees, or public officials.**

Baggage: 50 cents to \$1 minimum (unless otherwise indicated) per bag should be given to porters who carry luggage at airports, train stations, and bus terminals. \$1 per bag is a sufficient tip for the bellboy or porter who handles your suitcase at a hotel.

Barber and Beauty Shops: Tip 15% of the bill.

Bartenders: Tip 15% of the bill.

Hotels: Tip the doorman in relation to the service he performs. Tip chambermaids \$1 per person per day. 15% of the bill is an acceptable tip for meals served in your room.

Parking Valets: \$1.00

Restaurants: 15% of the total bill is customary in a restaurant where you are served by a waiter or waitress. Tip 20% if the service is extraordinary, and 10% if the service is poor. No tips are required in a cafeteria where people serve themselves, in fast food restaurants, or in snack bars.

Taxis: Tip 15% of the fare.



## Social Security Number

### What is a Social Security Number?

The Social Security Number (SSN) is to calculate a worker's retirement funds from the government. All those who are employed in the U.S. need a SSN because taxes are withheld for the Social Security fund. The SSN however has become a sort of "National ID" in the U.S. and an important identification document to do financial and other background checks. You may be asked for your SSN when applying for services such as opening a bank account or cell phone contract, renting an apartment, applying for a credit card, buying a car, or applying for a California Driver's License.

### How to Apply for a Social Security Card

As of October, 2004, the Social Security Administration will only grant a SSN to F-1 students who have a job as evidenced by a letter by an employer or a pay stub. If you think you may need a SSN for any reason, and are not working on campus, please come to the ISP as we can suggest some alternative ways for you to obtain the service you need. For those International students who have on-campus employment, you must apply for a Social Security card. Wait at least 10 business days after arriving in the U.S. before applying for a Social Security card as it takes approximately this long for your Arrival Card (I-94) to be entered into the national data base that the Social Security Administration checks. Applications must be made in person at a local Social Security Administration Office, after which the card is mailed within 4-6 weeks.

The following documents are required for applying for a Social Security card:

- 1) Offer of On-campus Employment Letter from your work supervisor
- 2) On-campus Work Authorization letter from the ISP
- 3) Completed Application for a Social Security Card (Form SS-5). The application forms are available at Social Security Administration offices or can be downloaded and printed at ([www.socialsecurity.gov/online/ss-5.pdf](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/online/ss-5.pdf)).
- 4) Passport
- 5) I-94 Form
- 6) I-20 Form (original)
- 7) Birth Certificate (if available)

### Social Security Administration Locations:

You can see all the Social Security Administration Locations by visiting [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

The nearest office to LPC is the Hayward Office.

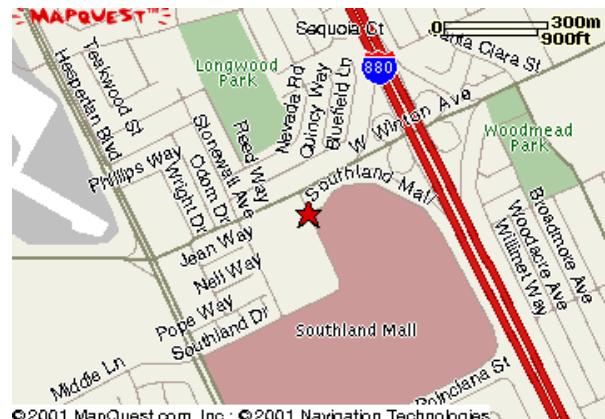
24301 Southland Drive  
Suite 500  
Hayward, CA 94545

#### Office Hours:

M, Tu, Th, F 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
W 9:00 – 12:00 pm

#### Driving directions

Take I-880 to Winton Avenue. West Exit  
Take a left at first traffic light onto Southland Drive





## California Driver's License and ID Card

### Do I need a California Driver's License to drive in California?

If you are a visitor to California and over 18 years old and have a valid driver's license from your country (where you live permanently), you may drive in this state without getting a California driver's license as long as your home license remains valid. Often, an International Driver's permit, which is an official translation of your driver's license, is helpful if you are ever questioned about your license.

If you make your home here or take a job or buy a car, you must apply to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for a California driver's license within 10 days. Residency is established by voting in a California election, paying resident tuition, filing for a homeowner's property tax exemption, or any other privilege or benefit not ordinarily extended to nonresidents.

### How to apply for a California Driver's License

You will need to pass a written test, vision exam, and driving test to receive a Driver's License. To apply for an original driver license if you are over 18, you will need to do the following:

- Visit a DMV office (make an appointment for faster service at [www.dmv.ca.org](http://www.dmv.ca.org)).
- Complete application form DL 44 (An original DL 44 form must be submitted. Copies will not be accepted.) To obtain this form by mail, call DMV's automated phone service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 1-800-777-0133.
- Give a thumb print
- Have your picture taken
- You will be asked to provide your Social Security Number (SSN). It will be verified with the Social Security Administration while you are in the office. \*Please see Social Security Number information below if you do not have a SSN.
- Verify your birth date and legal presence. Your passport and I-94 will do this.
- Provide your true full name
- Pay the \$33 application fee (Class C)
- Pass a vision exam
- Pass a traffic laws and sign test. There are 36 questions on the test. You have three chances to pass. Visit the DMV website at [www.dmv.ca.org](http://www.dmv.ca.org) for a Sample Test.

**Note:** To allow you sufficient time for testing, DMV will not be administering written exams after 4:30 p.m.

You will then be issued a permit if you have never been licensed before. When you practice, you must have an accompanying adult who is 18 years of age or older, with a valid California license. This person must be close enough to you to take control of the vehicle if necessary. It is illegal for you to drive alone.

If you have a license from another country, you will be required to take a driving test. If you have a license from another state, the driving test can be waived.

To take your driving test, you will need to:

- Make a driving test appointment. (Driving tests are not given without an appointment.) You may also call 1-800-777-0133 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, to make a driving test appointment.

- Provide proof of financial responsibility. You must show that your vehicle is properly insured by providing documented liability insurance before the driving test begins, or it will be postponed.

You have three chances to pass the driving test. If you fail, you may practice for a while, then make another appointment. There is no waiting period, but you must make an appointment. If you fail to successfully complete the driving test on the first attempt, you must pay a \$5 fee for each additional driving test that is administered under an application for an original or renewal driver license.

After you pass your driving test you will be issued an interim license valid for 60 days until you receive your new photo license in the mail. Double-check your address before you leave DMV and tell the DMV representative if you have moved or if your address is incorrect. If you have not received your license after 60 days, call 1-800-777-0133 and they can check on the status for you. Have your interim license with you to provide information when requested.

If your name is different on your birth date and/or legal presence document than the one you are currently using, you will also need to provide an additional acceptable document to establish your true full name, such as; a marriage certificate, dissolution of marriage, adoption or name change document that shows your current name.

### **Identification (ID) Card**

Instead of carrying and risk losing your passport to prove your identity, if you don't plan on driving, you should consider getting a California ID card. This card looks exactly like the driver's license and is an official form of identification.

### **How to apply for or renew an identification (ID) card**

DMV issues a regular ID card that is valid for six years.

To apply for an ID card you will need to do the following:

- Visit a DMV office or make an appointment online for faster service. To make an appointment on line, go to [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov) then click the online services tab.
- Complete application form DL 44 (An original DL 44 form must be submitted. Copies will not be accepted.)
- Give a thumb print
- Have your picture taken
- Provide your social security number. It will be verified with the Social Security Administration while you are in the office. \* Please see Social Security Number information below if you do not have a SSN.
- Verify your birth date and legal presence. Your passport and I-94 will do this.
- Pay the \$28 application fee. The DMV accepts payment by check, money order, cash and ATM/Debit cards. Credit cards are not accepted in DMV offices.

Double check your address before you leave DMV and tell the DMV representative if your address is incorrect. Your new ID will be mailed to you within 60 days. If you have not received your ID after 60 days, call 1-800-777-0133 and they can check on the status for you. Have your receipt and/or old ID card with you to provide information when requested.

**Social Security Number (SSN) requirement**

The Social Security Act allows any state to use the SSN to establish the identification of an individual. The California Vehicle Code requires the collection of the social security number. All applicants must submit to DMV their social security number. Evidence of your social security number is required only on applications for an original commercial driver license and any request to correct a SSN that is already on the driver record data base, regardless of the class. The SSN is considered confidential and will not appear on the photo license or be encoded on the magnetic stripe. Any documents that the department is authorized to release to the public will have the SSN masked. The SSN is electronically verified with Social Security Administration while you are in the DMV office for all DL/ID card transactions, if it has not already been verified.

**Exception to the SSN requirement:**

If you are legally present in the US, but ineligible for an SSN, you are exempt from SSN requirements. However, you must still provide an acceptable birth date/legal presence document for any DL/ID card application OR provide a valid SSN.

**Birth date verification and legal presence requirements**

State law requires every applicant for an original California identification (ID) card and driver license to show verification of birth date and proof of legal presence within the United States to help safeguard the accuracy and integrity of departmental documents.

The following documents are acceptable:

- Valid foreign passport with a valid Record of Arrival/Departure (form I-94)
- Employment Authorization Card
- Valid I-94 with attached photo stamped "Processed for I-551 temporary evidence of lawful admission for permanent residence"
- Notice of Action (I-797 Approved Petition)

**Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)**

The nearest office to Las Positas Collage is the Pleasanton Office.

6300 W. Las Positas Blvd.  
Pleasanton, CA 94588  
1-800-777-0133

Open M, Tu,Th, F 8:00 am – 5:00 pm  
W 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

The DMV office provides Saturday service the third Saturday of each month from 8:00 am to noon.

Check the website to see which holidays the DMV will be closed.



Other area offices are in Hayward, Fremont, and Oakland. Visit [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov) for more information.

## Places of Worship

### Buddhist

- Buddhist Church of Oakland Jodo Shinshu-Nishi Hongwanji - 825 Jackson Street, Oakland (510) 832-5988

### Christian

#### Baptist

- Parkway Baptist Church – 7485 Village Parkway, Dublin (925) 829-0359



#### Catholic

- Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St. #100, Oakland (510) 832-5057
- St. Raymond's Church -1555 Shannon Avenue, Dublin (925) 828-2460
- St. Michael's Church - 458 Maple Street, Livermore (925) 447-1585
- St. Augustine's Church – 3999 Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton (925) 846-4499
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church - 4001 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton (925) 484-5020

#### Episcopal

- St. Clare's Episcopal Church – 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton (925) 462-4802
- St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church – 678 Enos Way (off Portola), Livermore (925) 373-9564

#### Inter-Denominational

- Cornerstone Fellowship – 348 North Canyons Parkway, Livermore (925) 447-3465

#### Lutheran

- St. Philip Lutheran Church - 8850 Davona Drive, Dublin (925) 828-2117
- Trinity Lutheran Church - 1225 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton (925) 846-6363

#### Mormon (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints)

- Meetinghouse - 950 Mocho Street, Livermore
- Meetinghouse - 1501 Hillcrest Avenue, Livermore

#### Presbyterian

- Tri-Valley Presbyterian Church – 5925 West Las Positas Boulevard, Pleasanton (925) 227-0880

#### United Methodist

- Grace United Methodist Church – 19901 San Ramon Valley Boulevard, San Ramon (925) 828-8686

### Hindu

- Shiva - Vishnu Temple - 1232 Arrowhead Avenue, Livermore

### Islam

- Islamic Center of Livermore – 379 C South Livermore Ave, Livermore (925) 443-1826
- Muhammad Mosque No. 26 – 5277 Foothill Boulevard, Oakland (510) 436-0206

**Jewish**

- Chabad of Tri-Valley – 1258 Quarry Lane #G, Pleasanton. (925) 846-0700



## Public Transportation

For Information about trains, bus or ferry service in the Bay Area, visit [www.511.org](http://www.511.org) or call 511.

### Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART)

Convenient to the College is the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), with local buses connecting to the College and surrounding communities. The BART system will provide you with the opportunity to travel all over the Bay Area including the cities of San Francisco, Berkeley, Oakland and Walnut Creek. Visit [www.bart.gov](http://www.bart.gov) for more information. The hours of service are from early morning to midnight. There is direct service between San Francisco and Dublin/Pleasanton.



### Wheels Bus

WHEELS is a service of the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) and provides public transportation for the Tri-Valley communities of Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton. The **Number 30R** Bus Line goes from the Dublin/ Pleasanton BART Station to LPC, and also connects to the Transit Center in Livermore. Visit [www.wheelsbus.com](http://www.wheelsbus.com) or call (925) 455-7500 for more information.

## General Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### What is interesting about Livermore?

Livermore is named after the local rancher Robert Livermore who settled in the area in the 1830s. It is known as the easternmost city of the San Francisco Bay Area. A city of 83,000 residents, (2007), it is the largest city in the Tri Valley area (Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore, San Ramon). In 2006, Money Magazine ranked Livermore as the 31<sup>st</sup> best place to live in the United States. Livermore is known for its local wineries as well as hosting the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). LLNL is the location of the world's most powerful laser, the NIF, and the world's most powerful supercomputer, Blue Gene/L. The city is also noted for one world record. A 105+ year old 4-watt light bulb called the Centennial Light housed by the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department is still burning bright. In truth, its "brightness" may be a matter of debate; it glows dimly, but definitely still functions as a light bulb. The Guinness Book of World Records, Ripley's Believe It or Not, and General Electric have concluded that the bulb has been burning continuously since 1901 with the exception of power failures and three times for moving to another station.

### What does "Tri - Valley" Mean

The Tri-Valley is used to refer to the 3 valleys in our area (Amador Valley, Livermore Valley, and San Ramon Valley) and more specifically, the valley cities of Dublin, Pleasanton, and Livermore, San Ramon and Danville.

### Where are local Farmers' Markets?

- **Dublin**  
Emerald Glenn Park, Tassaraja Road and Central Parkway  
Thursdays 4 pm to 8 pm, April – September
- **Pleasanton**  
West Angela and Main Streets  
Saturdays 9 am to 1 pm, Year Round  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, 6 pm to 9 pm, June - October
- **Livermore**  
Carnegie Park, 3<sup>rd</sup> and J Streets  
Thursdays 4 pm to 8 pm, May - October

### Where can I rent a car?

- **Avis** - 3956 Old Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton (925) 443-2847
- **Enterprise** - 4275 Rosewood Drive, Suite 26, Pleasanton (925) 847-7470
- **Hertz** - 3739 1st Street, Livermore (925) 371-0788

### Where is the nearest mall?

The **Stoneridge Shopping Center** at One Stoneridge Mall, near the intersection of I-580 and I-680 in Pleasanton has major stores such as Macys, JC Penny, Nordstrom, Sears as well as other shops like Apple, Gap, J. Crew, Ann Taylor, Brookstone, and Uniqlo. Several restaurants include The Cheesecake Factory and P. F. Chang's Chinese Bistro.

### What are outlets and where are they?

An outlet store or factory outlet is a retail store in which manufacturers sell their stock directly to the public through their own branded stores. They offer a wide range of discount, brand name,



and designer stores. The stores can be brick and mortar or online. Traditionally, a factory outlet was a store, attached to a factory or warehouse. Often these stores are grouped together in outlet malls.

- **Livermore**  
San Francisco Premium Outlets  
2774 Livermore Outlets Drive, Livermore  
<http://www.paragonoutletslv.com/>  
180 + stores
- **Gilroy**  
Gilroy Premium Outlets  
681 Leavesley Road, Gilroy  
145 stores
- **San Leandro**  
Marina Square Center  
1201 Marina Boulevard, San Leandro  
<http://marinasquarecenter.com/>  
23 stores

#### **What is *dim sum*, and where can I go to eat it?**

*Dim Sum*, also called *yum cha* in Cantonese, is a type of Chinese cuisine involving a light meal served with tea. *Dim sum*, meaning “touch the heart” in Cantonese, consists of a wide spectrum of choices served in a small steamer basket or on a small plate, brought out to your table on carts.

- **Koi Palace**  
4288 Dublin Boulevard, Unit #213, Dublin  
(925) 833-9090  
<http://www.koipalace.com>
- **Lee Garden Seafood**  
5588 Springdale Ave, Suite B, Pleasanton (across from the Stoneridge Mall)  
(925) 734-0222  
<http://leegardenseafood.com/>
- **Mayflower Restaurant**  
4085 Grafton Street, Dublin  
(925) 551-8088  
<http://mayflowerdublin.com/>

#### **How do I get photos for my application?**

- **Walgreen**  
1763 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton  
(925) 426-1790  
Passport photos \$7.99

- **Costco** (membership required)  
3150 Fostoria Way, Danville  
Photographs no longer in Livermore Warehouse as of July, 2015  
Passport photos \$4.99

### How do I get a library card?

Library cards are issued in person at the Reception Desk in the city Library. Cards are free to any person who is a resident of California or is employed or attends school in California. A short-term card may be issued to temporary visitors to the state. Just fill out an application form, available at the Library, and present it and personal identification showing your current home address, such as a driver's license.

### Where is the nearest library?

- **Dublin Library**  
200 Civic Plaza, Dublin  
(925) 828-1315  
[www.aclibrary.org](http://www.aclibrary.org)
- **Livermore Library**  
1188 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore  
(925) 373-5500  
[www.livermore.lib.ca.us](http://www.livermore.lib.ca.us)
- **Pleasanton Library**  
5353 Sunol Boulevard, Pleasanton  
(925) 931-3400  
[www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/library.html](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/library.html)

### Where are nearby post offices?

- Dublin - 6937 Village Parkway, Dublin 94568-2405
- Livermore - 220 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore 94550-4636
- Pleasanton - 300 Black Avenue, Pleasanton 94566-9998

### Where can I eat near LPC?

- **LPC Cafeteria**  
Building # 1600
- **Carl's Jr./ Green Burrito**  
2860 Kitty Hawk Road, Livermore  
Phone (925) 449-1876
- **Beeb's Sports Bar & Grill**  
915 Clubhouse Drive, Livermore  
Phone (925) 455-7070  
[www.beebsatlaspositas.com](http://www.beebsatlaspositas.com)
- **Costco** (membership required)  
2800 Independence Drive, Livermore

- **El Cerrito Taquería**  
887 Airway Boulevard, Livermore  
(925) 373-6338
- **Subway**  
889 Airway Boulevard, Suite 889B, Livermore
- **Wendy's**  
1051 Airway Boulevard, Livermore

### **Where can I send a fax to my country?**

Come to the ISP Office for assistance.

### **Where can I buy linens and furnishings for my room/ home?**

- **Target**  
2800 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin (925) 241-1042  
7200 Amador Plaza Road, Dublin (925) 829-8900  
4300 Las Positas Road, Livermore (925) 606-1445  
2610 Bishop Drive, San Ramon (925) 277-0202
- **Wal-Mart**  
4501 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton. (925) 734-8744  
2700 Las Positas Road, Livermore. (925) 455-0215

### **Where can I buy groceries?**

Major supermarkets in the area include:

- **99 Ranch Market** – Asian Foods Supermarket  
7333 Regional Street, Dublin  
4299 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton
- **Lucky**  
2000 Portola Avenue, Livermore  
6155 West Las Positas Boulevard, Pleasanton
- **Safeway**  
4799 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin (24 Hours)  
4440 Tassajara Road, Dublin (24 Hours)  
4495 First Street, Livermore (24 Hours)  
1554 First Street, Livermore (24 Hours)  
1701 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton (24 Hours)
- **Sprouts Farmer's Market**  
7153 Amador Plaza Road, Dublin
- **Trader Joes** – unique grocer with wide selection of natural foods  
1122A E. Stanley Boulevard, Livermore  
4040 Pimlico Drive #150, Pleasanton

- **Whole Foods Market**  
5200 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin  
100 Sunset Drive, San Ramon

**Where can I buy a car?**

Useful websites include:

[www.craigslist.org](http://www.craigslist.org)

[www.autowest.com](http://www.autowest.com)

## Restaurants

(Recommended by ISP staff and International Students)

### Afghan

Roya Afghan Cuisine – 2020 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Livermore. (925) 447.0576

### U.S. American

Beeb's Sportsbar & Grill – 951 Clubhouse Dr., Livermore. (925) 455.7070

Bridge's Restaurant and Bar – 44 Church Street, Danville. (925) 820.7200

Cattlemens – 2882 Kitty Hawk Road, Livermore. (925) 447.1224

Chow – 445 Railroad Ave., Danville. (925) 838.4510

Eddie Pappas American Hangout – 4889 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. (925) 469.6266

Esin – 750 Camino Ramon, Danville. (925) 314.0974

Faz Restaurant – 5121 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. (925) 460.0444

First Street Alehouse – 2016 First Street, Livermore. (925) 371.6588

Five Guys – 4930 Dublin Blvd, Unit 680, Dublin. (925) 248.2050

In-n-Out Burger – 6015 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton. 1.800.786.1000

In-n-Out Burger – 1881 North Livermore Ave., Livermore. 1.800.786.1000

Outback Steakhouse – 6505 Regional St., Dublin. (925) 833.9335

Red Robin Gourmet Burgers – 4503 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton. (925) 225-1755

Sapphire – 2300 First Street, Livermore. (925) 373.0325

Sweet Tomatoes – 4501 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. (925) 463.9285

The Cheesecake Factory – 1350 Stoneridge Mall, Pleasanton. (925) 416.0451

The Habit Burger Grill – Persimmon Place, 5291 Martinelli Way, Dublin. (925) 479.0847

### Chinese

Chinese Lounge Restaurant and Bar – 4220-A Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton (925) 227.1312

Chuan Yang – 2206 First Street, Livermore. (925) 449.6777

Golden Sand Harbor – 7745 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. (925) 828.2028

Just Koi – 4288 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. (925) 833.3938

Koi Garden – 4288 Dublin Blvd, Ste 213 – Dublin. (925) 833.9090

Lulu's Kitchen – 7465 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. (925) 833.7833

Mayflower – 4086 Grafton Street. Dublin. (925) 551.8088

Ocean Garden – 6513 Regional St., Dublin. (925) 828.9111

Panda Express – 6851 Amador Plaza Rd., Dublin. (925) 833.9918

Panda Express – 4001 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton (925) 468.0379

P.F. Chang's China Bistro – 1330 Stoneridge Mall Rd., Pleasanton. (925) 224.9916

Shangrila – 6568 Village Parkway, Dublin. (925) 828.0918

The Yin Yin – 2083 First Street, Livermore. (925) 447.1240

Tri Valley Seafood – 5588B Springdale Ave., Pleasanton. (925) 734.0222

### Donuts

Dunkin' Donuts – 1250 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek. (925) 946.1134

Dunkin' Donuts – 1970 W 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Tracy. (209) 839.8367

Krispy Kreme – 43835 Pacific Commons, Fremont. (510) 445.1357

### Filipino

Lumpia House – 8937 San Ramon Rd., Dublin. (925) 803.8982

Papaya Grill – 280 Market Place, San Ramon. (925) 365.1650

### Greek/ Mediterranean

Dimitris Taverna – 2235 First Street, Livermore. (925) 373.0306  
Simply Greek – 4220-C Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton. (925) 463.8801  
Yalla Mediterranean – Persimmon Place, 5246 Dublin Blvd., Dublin (925) 241.7310

### **Hawaiian**

Hawaiian Grill Express – 3772 Fallon Road, Dublin (925) 828.7888  
Hukilau – 230 Jackson Street (Japantown), San Jose. (408) 279.4888  
Kilohana Grill – 1061- A Marketplace, San Ramon. (925) 830.1144  
L & L Hawaiian BBG – 4515 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton. (925) 847.9888  
Ohana Grill – 1576 Branham Lane, San Jose. (408) 269.8883

### **Italian/ Pizza**

Amici's East Coast Pizzeria – 4640 Tassajara Rd., Dublin. (925) 875.1600  
Barone's Restaurant – 475 St. John Street, Pleasanton. (925) 426.0987  
Girasole Grill – 3180 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. (925) 484.1001  
Strizzi's Restaurant – 2205 First Street, Livermore. (925) 456.2200  
Strizzi's Restaurant – 649 Main Street, Pleasanton. (925) 484.9600  
Terra Mia – 4040 East Avenue, Livermore. (925) 456.3333  
Tomatina – 4590 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. (925) 803.9997  
Zachary's Chicago Pizza – 3110 Crow Canyon Place, San Ramon. (925) 244.1222

### **Indian**

Curry Leaves – 4040 Pimlico Drive. Pleasanton. (925) 467.1555  
Royal Indian Cuisine – 4582 Dublin Blvd, Dublin. (925) 551.5800  
Sansar – 2220 First Street, Livermore. (925) 606.6191  
Sugandh - 4515 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton. (925) 469.0511

### **Pakistani**

Pakwan – 25168 Mission Blvd. Hayward. (510) 538.2401  
Shalimoor – 7410 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. (925) 248.2745

### **Japanese**

Azuma – 19645 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino. (408) 257.4057  
Kanpai Sushi – 1510 North Vasco Road, Livermore. (925) 454.1838  
Kawa Sushi – 2180 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Livermore. (925) 606.7222  
Matsu Sushi – 4930 Dublin Blvd., Ste 800, Dublin. (925) 833.3966  
Momiji – 411 Main Street, Pleasanton. (925) 846.3077  
Senro – 30 W. Neal Street, Pleasanton. (925) 600.8040  
Sato – 3015 Hopyard Road, Suite K, Pleasanton. (925) 462.3131  
Sushi Yokohama - 558 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville (925) 820.3823  
Tomo Sushi Bar and Grill – 724 Main St., Pleasanton (925) 600-9136  
Yanagi Sushi – 6599 Dublin Blvd, Dublin. (925) 556.9575

### **Korean**

Go Goong – 7178 Regional St., Dublin (925) 829.7237  
Korean Tofu House – 3170 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. (925) 600.8989  
Korean Village – 1807 Santa Rita Road, Suite F, Pleasanton. (925) 426.0925  
Ohgane – 7877 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. (925) 875.1232  
Songpa Yukejang – 2025 Santa Rita Rd. Pleasanton. (925) 846.4547  
Young Dong Tofu House – 7268 San Ramon Rd. Dublin. (925) 551.0825

## **Mexican**

Alberto's Cantina – 435 Main Street. Pleasanton. (925) 462.2316.

Blue Agave Club – 625 Main Street, Pleasanton. (925) 417.1224

Casa Orozco – 7995 Amador Valley Blvd, Dublin. (925) 828.5464

Casa Orozco – 325 South L., Livermore. (925) 449.3045

Chipotle Mexican Grill – 7020 Amador Plaza Road, Dublin. (925) 828.4361

Chipotle Mexican Grill – 5240 Dublin Blvd, Ste 22J, Dublin (925) 479-0862

Chipotle Mexican Grill – 4691 1st Street, Livermore (925) 243-9914

El Cerrito Taqueria – 887 Airway Blvd. Livermore. (925) 373.6338

Las Montanas – 1725 Willow Pass, Concord. (925) 688.1396

Picante – 1238 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Berkeley. (510) 525.3121

Taqueria El Balazo – 4515 Rosewood Drive, #600, Pleasanton. (925) 734.8226

## **Middle Eastern**

Petra – 4525 Las Positas Road, Livermore. (925) 371.0412

## **Mongolian**

Little Sheep Mongolian Hot Pot – 4068 Grafton Street. Dublin. (925) 361-8682

## **Myanmar**

Rangoon – 565 Bryant Street – Palo Alto. (650) 325.8146

## **Peruvian**

Estampas Peruanas – El Camino Real, Redwood City. (650) 368.9340

## **Persian**

Shiraz Restaurant – 21314 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. (925) 829.5558

## **Russian**

Babushka Russian Deli and Restaurant - 1375 Newell Avenue, Walnut Creek. (925) 210.0779

## **Thai**

Bangkok 101 – 7375 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. (925) 828.2133

Lux Thai - 4301-D Valley Ave., Pleasanton. (925) 462.3550

Sri-Thai Restaurant – 4930 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. (925) 828.2281

Star Anise Livermore – 2470 First Street, Ste. 108, Livermore. (925) 454.9888

Thail Basil Express – 4288 Dublin Blvd, Suite 117, Dublin. (925) 803.5988

Tin Thai Kitchen – 235 S. Vasco Rd., Livermore, CA (925) 900.1030

## **Vietnamese**

Pho Hoa – 201 Main Street, Suite # E & F, Pleasanton. (925) 484.4090

Pho Siagon – 7300 San Ramon Road, Dublin. (925) 829.9361

## **Yogurt/ Ice Cream**

Ben and Jerry's – 2130 Center Street, Berkeley. (510) 900.2460

Coldstone Creamery – 2252 Las Positas Road, Livermore. (925) 371.8290

Coldstone Creamery – 4920 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. (925) 875.1333

Colestone Creamery – 130 Main Street #349, Pleasanton. (925) 600.9177

Cream – 2375 Railroad Avenue, Livermore (925) 292-8527

Dairy Queen – 21001 San Ramon Valley Boulevard, Suite E5, San Ramon. (925) 560.6509

Loards Ice Cream – 1875 Second Street, Livermore. (925) 447.2708



Meadowlark Dairy – 57 W. Neal Street, Pleasanton. (925) 846.2261  
Yogurtland – 6851 Amador Valley Boulevard, Dublin. (925) 833.8238





## **VIII. Having Fun**

## Area Calendar of Events

### January

Boat Show – Pleasanton

Shinshun Omochi Tsuki (New Year Rice Cake Festival) - Pleasanton

### February

Chinese New Year Parade – Chinatown – San Francisco

### March

St. Patrick's Day Festival – Dublin

St. Patrick's Day Parade – San Francisco

San Francisco International Film Festival – San Francisco



### April

Cherry Blossom Festival – Japantown – San Francisco

San Francisco Giants (MLB) season begins – San Francisco

Oakland Athletics (MLB) season begins – Oakland

San Jose Earthquakes (MLS) season begins – San Jose

### May

Art & Wind Festival – San Ramon

Bay to Breakers Foot Race – San Francisco

Carnival – Mission District – San Francisco

Cinco de Mayo Festival – Pleasanton

KFOG KaBoom – San Francisco

Livermore Wine Country Festival – Livermore

Livermore Scottish Games and Gaelic Festival – Livermore

### June

Alameda County Fair – Pleasanton

Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade – San Francisco

Livermore Rodeo and Parade – Livermore

### July

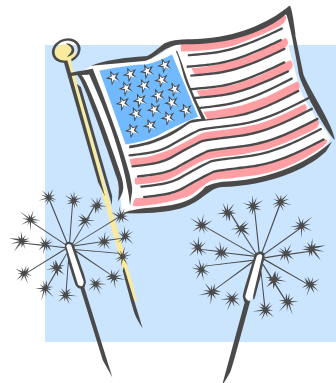
Chevron Family Theatre Festival – Walnut Creek

Fourth of July Celebration and Fireworks – San Francisco

Gilroy Garlic Festival – Gilroy

Old Fashioned 4<sup>th</sup> of July – Livermore

Star Spangled Spectacular – San Ramon



### August

Aloha Festival – San Francisco

Chinatown Street Fest – Oakland

Diablo Japanese American Club Summer Festival – Concord

Nihonmachi Street Fair - Japantown – San Francisco

### September

Children's Fair – Livermore

Harvest Wine Festival – Livermore

Solano Stroll – Albany

Splatter Festival – Emerald Glenn Park - Dublin  
San Francisco 49ers (NFL) season begins – Santa Clara  
Oakland Raiders (NFL) season begins – Oakland  
Scottish Highland Games – Pleasanton

**October**

California Independent Film Festival – Livermore  
Exotic Erotic Halloween Ball – San Francisco  
Fleet Week – San Francisco  
San Jose Sharks (NHL) season begins – San Jose

**November**

Golden State Warriors (NBA) season begins – Oakland

**December**

Christmas in the Vineyards – Livermore  
Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting – Livermore  
Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting – Pleasanton  
Holiday Tree Lighting – Dublin  
The Nutcracker – War Memorial Opera House – San Francisco



## Area Attractions

### Activity Places

- **Boomers!**  
2400 Kitty Hawk Road, Livermore  
(925) 447-7275  
<http://www.boomersparks.com/park/livermore/index.html>  
Bumper Boats, Go Karts, Lazer Tag, Miniature Golf, Arcade Games
- **Rockin' Jump**  
5875 Arnold Rd. #100, Dublin  
(925) 828.7676  
[dublin.rockinjump.com](http://dublin.rockinjump.com)  
Indoor trampoline park with dodgeball and basketball

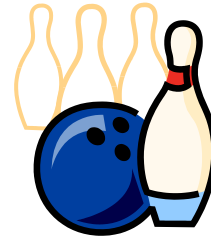
### Amusement Parks

- **Disneyland Resort**  
1313 Disneyland Drive, Anaheim  
(714) 781.4636  
[www.disneyland.com](http://www.disneyland.com)  
The Disneyland Resort consists of 2 theme parks. Disneyland and California Adventure. Disneyland open on July 17, 1955 and is the only theme park designed and built under the direct supervision of Walt Disney, the famous animator and movie producer.
- **Gilroy Gardens Family Theme Park**  
3050 Hecker Pass Road, Gilroy  
(408) 842-2121  
[www.bonfantegardens.com](http://www.bonfantegardens.com)  
A non-profit organization, this is California's only horticultural theme park designed for families with young children and garden lovers featuring 19 rides, 27 attractions, 6 majestic gardens and the world famous Circus Trees. Attractions are designed to educate guests and foster a greater appreciation of the natural world and man's ability to shape it.
- **Paramount's Great America**  
4701 Great American Parkway, Santa Clara  
(408) 988-1776  
[www.pgathrills.com](http://www.pgathrills.com)  
This amazing amusement park offers something for the whole family. You'll find thrilling rides for children, family rides, 3-D animation shows at the Paramount Action FX Theater and loads of adrenaline-packed excitement. It also boasts the world's tallest double-decker carousel.
- **Six Flags Discovery Kingdom**  
2001 Marine World Parkway, Vallejo  
(707) 643-6722  
[www.sixflags.com](http://www.sixflags.com)  
Experience wildlife and wild rides at the combination theme park, wildlife park, and oceanarium that contains more rides, shows and attractions than any other theme park in Northern California.



## Bowling

- **Earl Anthony's Dublin Bowl**  
6750 Regional Street, Dublin  
(925) 828-7550  
[www.earanthonysdublinbowl.com](http://www.earanthonysdublinbowl.com)
- **Granada Bowl**  
1620 Railroad Avenue, Livermore  
(925) 447-5600  
[www.granadabowl.com](http://www.granadabowl.com)



## Comedy Clubs

- **Tommy T's Comedy Club and Steakhouse**  
5104 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton  
(925) 227-1800  
[www.tommyts.com](http://www.tommyts.com)
- **Bunjo's Comedy Club**  
6513 Willow Street, Dublin  
(925) 264-4413  
[www.bunjoscomedy.com](http://www.bunjoscomedy.com)

## Concerts

- **Bankhead Theater**  
2400 First Street, Livermore  
(925) 373-3800  
[www.liverperformingarts.org](http://www.liverperformingarts.org)
- **Sleep Train Pavilion at Concord**  
2000 Kirker Pass Road, Concord  
<http://www.livenation.com/venues/14806/sleep-train-pavilion-at-concord>
- **Wente Vineyards**  
5050 Arroyo Road, Livermore  
(925) 456-2424  
<http://www.wentevineyards.com/concerts/>

## Golf

- **Dublin Ranch Golf Course**  
5900 Signal Hill Drive, Dublin  
(925) 445-7040  
[www.dublinranchgolf.com](http://www.dublinranchgolf.com)
- **Las Positas Golf Course**  
917 Clubhouse Drive, Livermore  
(925) 443-3122  
[www.laspositasgolfcourse.com](http://www.laspositasgolfcourse.com)
- **The Course at Wente Vineyards**



5050 Arroyo Road, Livermore  
(925) 456-2475  
[www.wentegolf.com](http://www.wentegolf.com)  
Designed by the famous golfer Greg Norman

### Golf Driving Range

- **Tri Valley Golf Center**  
1780 Freisman Road, Pleasanton  
(925) 455-4653  
[www.trivalleygolfcenter.com](http://www.trivalleygolfcenter.com)

### Minigolf

- **Boomers!**  
2400 Kitty Hawk Road, Livermore  
(925) 447-7275  
<http://www.boomersparks.com/park/livermore/index.html>
- **Golden Tee Golfland**  
3533 Castro Valley Boulevard, Castro Valley  
(510) 537-4073  
[www.golfland.com/castrovalley/](http://www.golfland.com/castrovalley/)
- **Golfland**  
1199 Jacklin Road, Milpitas  
(408) 263-6855  
<http://www.golfland.com/milpitas/>

### Movie Theaters

- **Livermore Cinemas**  
2490 First Street, Livermore  
(925) 443-7469
- **Regal Cinemas Hacienda Crossing 20 & IMAX**  
5000 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin  
(925) 560-9600
- **The Vine Cinema**  
1722 First Street, Livermore  
(925) 447-2545



### Museums

- **Blackhawk Museum**  
3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville  
(925) 736-2280  
[www.blackhawkmuseum.org](http://www.blackhawkmuseum.org)
- **Dublin Heritage Center**  
6600 Donlon Way, Dublin

(925) 452-2100  
<http://dublinca.gov/index.aspx?NID=269>

### Ice Skating

- **Dublin Iceland**  
2712 San Ramon Road, Dublin  
[www.dubliniceland.com](http://www.dubliniceland.com)
- **Tri Valley Ice**  
6611 Preston Avenue, Ste. D, Livermore  
[www.trivalleyice.com](http://www.trivalleyice.com)  
(925) 606.6900



### Science Museums

- **Chabot Space and Science Center**  
10000 Skyline Boulevard, Oakland  
[www.chabotspace.org](http://www.chabotspace.org)
- **Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Discovery Center**  
7000 East Avenue, Livermore  
(925) 423-9051  
[www.llnl.gov](http://www.llnl.gov)

### Swimming

- **Del Valle Regional Park**  
7000 Del Valle Road, Livermore  
[http://www.ebparks.org/parks/del\\_valle](http://www.ebparks.org/parks/del_valle)
- **Dolores Bengston Aquatic Center**  
4455 Black Avenue, Pleasanton  
<http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/cs/aquatics/default.asp>  
(925) 931-3420
- **Dublin Swim Center**  
8157 Village Parkway, Dublin  
(925) 556-4590  
<http://www.ci.dublin.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=258>
- **Robert Livermore Pool**  
4444 East Avenue, Livermore  
(925) 373-5751  
<http://www.larpd.org/aquatics/rlc.html>
- **San Ramon Valley Olympic Pool and Aquatic Park**  
9900 Broadmoor Drive, San Ramon  
(925) 973-3240  
<http://www.sanramon.ca.gov/parks/programs/aquatics.htm>
- **Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area**  
2500 Stanley Boulevard, Pleasanton



(925) 846-4900  
[http://www.ebparks.org/parks/shadow\\_cliffs](http://www.ebparks.org/parks/shadow_cliffs)

## Water Parks

- **Aqua Adventure Water Park**  
40500 Paseo Padre Pkwy, Fremont  
(510) 494-4426  
<http://www.goaquaadventure.com/>
- **Emerald Glen Recreation and Aquatic Complex**  
4201 Central Parkway, Dublin (opening Summer, 2017)  
[www.dublin.ca.gov/thewave](http://www.dublin.ca.gov/thewave)
- **Raging Waters**  
2333 South White Road, San Jose  
(408) 238-9900  
[www.rwsplash.com](http://www.rwsplash.com)  
Northern California's largest waterpark.
- **WaterWorld**  
1950 Waterworld Parkway, Concord  
(925) 609-1364  
<http://www.waterworldcalifornia.com/>  
This East Bay water park is fun for people of all ages and is filled with dozens of water activities to enjoy. Some of its most popular rides include high speed water slides, double tube slides, shotgun slides, a wave pool, and a 20,000 square foot activity pool. Park amenities include free innertubes, lounge chairs, and lifejackets, a raft ride slide where six people go at a time, a public picnic area outside the park, lots of parking, lockers to rent, a first aid station, arcade, souvenir boutique, ATM, and changing rooms with shower facilities.

## Wineries

The Livermore Valley Wine Country is home to 60+ wineries.

- **The Steven Kent Winery**  
5443 Tesla Road, Livermore  
(925) 456-2357  
[www.stevenkent.com](http://www.stevenkent.com)  
Tasting Room, Cindy works here on Saturdays.
- **Wente Vinyard Restaurant & Events Center**  
5050 Arroyo Road, Livermore  
(925) 456-2450  
[www.wentevineyards.com](http://www.wentevineyards.com)  
Tasting Room, Group Tasting Tours





## Zoos

- **Oakland Zoo**  
9777 Golf Links Road, Oakland (Off I-580)  
(510) 632-9525  
[www.oaklandzoo.org](http://www.oaklandzoo.org)
- **San Francisco Zoo**  
1 Zoo Road, San Francisco  
(415) 753-7080  
[www.sfzoo.org](http://www.sfzoo.org)



## Sports

You can watch and participate in almost every sport imaginable. The San Francisco Bay Area has several professional sports teams that attract hundreds of thousands of people a year. All teams sell tickets to their own games, some offer student rates. The professional teams whose games you might like to see are:

### (American) Football

#### Oakland Raiders

Oakland- Alameda County Coliseum, Oakland

[www.raiders.com](http://www.raiders.com)

The Oakland Raiders play in the American Football Conference (AFC) of the National Football League (NFL).



#### San Francisco 49ers

Levi's Stadium, Santa Clara

[www.49ers.com](http://www.49ers.com)

The San Francisco 49ers play in the National Football Conference (NFC) of the NFL.



### Baseball

#### Oakland Athletics (A's)

Oakland- Alameda County Coliseum, Oakland

[www.oaklandathletics.com](http://www.oaklandathletics.com)

The Oakland Athletics take the field at the Coliseum, located next to the Oracle Arena in Oakland. This multi-use facility is located north of downtown Oakland along Interstate 880. It is also accessible by BART, which puts on extra service for home games. They play in the American League (AL) West Division of Major League Baseball (MLB).



#### San Francisco Giants

AT&T Park, San Francisco

[www.sfgiants.com](http://www.sfgiants.com)

The 2014 World Series Champion San Francisco Giants play in the National League (NL) West Division of MLB.



### Basketball

#### Golden State Warriors

Oracle Arena, Oakland

[www.warriors.com](http://www.warriors.com)

The 2014-2015 NBA Champion Golden State Warriors represent the Bay Area in the National Basketball Association (NBA) professional basketball league, playing in the Pacific Division of the Western Conference. Basketball season usually goes from November through June. Tickets for professional games can be purchased at most BASS and Ticketmaster outlets. For more information, refer to the sports section of the newspaper. They play their games at the Oracle Arena in Oakland. It is assessable by BART or by car on Interstate 880 North, exit at 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue.



### Ice Hockey

#### San Jose Sharks



SAP Center, San Jose

[www.sjsharks.com](http://www.sjsharks.com)

The San Jose Sharks play in the Pacific Division of the Western Conference of the National Hockey League (NHL).



### **Soccer (Football)**

#### **San Jose Earthquakes**

Avaya Stadium, San Jose

The two time MLS Champion San Jose Earthquakes play in the Western Conference of the Major Soccer League (MLS) <http://sjeearthquakes.com>. They opened a beautiful new soccer specific stadium in San Jose in 2015.

### **Collegiate Sports**

#### **Las Positas College Hawks**

Las Positas College offers the following Intercollegiate Athletics:

Basketball (Men, Women)

Cross Country (Men, Women)

Soccer (Men, Women)

Swim and Dive (Men, Women)

Water Polo (Men, Women) (new in Fall 2015)

Visit the Athletics Department website at: <http://www.laspositascollege.edu/athletics/index.php>.



## Places to Visit

### **Berkeley**

Eclectic, lively, inquiring and experimental, Berkeley exudes an atmosphere befitting its position as one of the country's leading educational centers.

**U.C. Berkeley** – U.C. Berkeley with its 39,000 students, is regarded as one of the nation's leading public universities. A beautiful 1,232-acre campus, U.C. Berkeley is the oldest UC campus and is the birthplace of the Free Speech Movement, a pivotal event for the civil liberties movement in the 1960s.

### **Big Sur**

The magnificently rugged 90-mile long, 20 mile wide stretch of pristine California coast, mountains and valleys runs from Carmel by the Sea to San Simeon. Winding State Highway 1 traverses this route offering spectacular views of the Santa Lucia Mountains on one side and waves crashing against the rocky cliffs along the other.

### **Lake Tahoe**

Lake Tahoe is the largest, most beautiful and pristine alpine lake in North America. The California/Nevada state line runs vertically through the middle of the Lake. Snow skiing enthusiasts flock to the lake to enjoy their favorite winter sport. The 1960 Winter Olympics were held in Squaw Valley.

### **Monterey Peninsula**

The fishing industry was the original anchor of the area's economy, with whaling the mainstay, but the peninsula's natural beauty restored tourism to the economic forefront after the collapse of the sardine industry. In addition to the attractions offered by the dramatic coastline beaches and the surf, the Peninsula also consists of gently rolling hills, streams and forests and the area has become famous for golf, with Pebble Beach being one of the highlights of professional golf.

**Monterey Bay Aquarium** - One of the country's finest aquariums, this non-profit aquarium is home to more than 6,500 specimens of Marine life indigenous to the Monterey Bay.

**17 Mile Drive** – This scenic route along the Monterey Peninsula is a highlight of a visit to the coastal region. A private toll-road, the drive meanders through Pebble Beach, offering stopping points for grand views of the Pacific Ocean shoreline. A beautiful scene often associated with the area and of California is the Lone Cypress.

**Cannery Row** - the colorful local of John Steinbeck's novels, galleries, shops and restaurants have replaced the sardine canneries.

### **Oakland**

Oakland is a major West Coast port and manufacturing center.

**Jack London Square** – Named after the famous author who worked at the port's docks, Jack London Square is a colorful waterfront area with shopping and dining options. A statue of the author is on the wharf.

**Chinatown** – Although not as large as the tourist-oriented Chinatown in San Francisco, this neighborhood reflects Oakland's diverse Asian American community

and is bustling with activity and is considered to be more authentic to many. It also offers some wonderful restaurants for dim sum

### **Sacramento**

The town was laid out on Captain John Sutter's property in 1848, the same year that gold was discovered near the South Fork of the American River to start the gold rush. It quickly grew into a major supply center and was chosen as the state capitol in 1854, which it remains today.

**State Capitol** – Built in 1860 in a style similar to that of the U.S. Capitol. The main building contains art exhibits, statuary and murals that depict important events California's history.

**Old Sacramento** – A four block section, this was the commercial district during the gold rush. The area has been redeveloped with museums, restaurants, and shops that preserve its historical character.

**California State Railroad Museum** – This houses 21 restored locomotives and train cars as well as more than 40 interpretive exhibits, pictures and murals and film presentation document the history of the American railroading.

### **San Francisco**

San Francisco is a unique and breathtaking city, built on a series of hills that offer memorable views of the San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean. Besides featuring renowned museums and art galleries, almost every neighborhood is a treasure of its own including a variety of restaurants and shops that reflect the City's great ethnic and cultural diversity. These links provide general information about visiting San Francisco, an experience that should be repeated over and over.

**Alamo Square** – Possibly the most photographed spot in the City. These colorful Victorian houses also called "Painted Ladies" with the San Francisco skyline in the backdrop have graced many postcards and movies scenes.

**Alcatraz** – Spanish for "pelican" after the birds that were the island's only inhabitants until the 1850s when it served as a military fortification and incarceration facility for war prisoners during the Spanish-American War. In 1934, Alcatraz became the infamous maximum-security prison for members of organized crime and high-risk convicts. Although the island is only a mile from shore, there is no evidence of any successful escapes across the icy bay.

**Cable Cars** – The cable car was introduced to San Francisco on August 2, 1873. Wire-cable manufacturer Andrew Hallidie conceived the idea after witnessing an accident in which a horse-drawn carriage faltered and rolled backward downhill dragging the horses behind it. These cable cars created a vital link in San Francisco's public transportation system and opened the door for building on steep hills which until this time was thought to be impossible. The 1906 earthquake and fires destroyed most of the lines, but a few of the existing lines were restored. These beloved cable cars are the only vehicles of their kind still in operation and are designated National Landmarks. A favorite route is to take the Hyde Street Cable Car from Powell Street Station to Aquatic Park near Fisherman's Wharf.

**Chinatown** – The largest Chinatown outside of Asia, Chinatown is home to 10,000 of the City’s Chinese residents. You will find many fine restaurants serving dim sum, temples, fortune cookie factories, garment factories, and grocery stores.

**Fisherman’s Wharf** – Famous for its Italian seafood restaurants serving Dungeness crab and a signature San Francisco dish, clam chowder in a sourdough bread bowl. Be sure to visit PIER 39, home port to the Blue & Gold Fleet and offers two levels of specialist shops and restaurants, the Aquarium of the Bay, and the famous sea lions (seasonal).

**Golden Gate Bridge** - Acclaimed as one of the world's most beautiful bridges, there are many different elements to the Golden Gate Bridge which make it unique. With its tremendous towers, sweeping cables and great span, the Bridge is a sensory beauty featuring color, sound and light.

**Golden Gate Park** – Among the world’s greatest urban parks, the treasure is approximately 3 miles long and a half mile wide. You will find the California Academy of Sciences, Conservatory of Flowers, the Japanese Tea Garden, and the deYoung Museum here.

**Lombard Street** – Located in the Russian Hill district, Lombard Street is known as “the crookedest street in the world” because of its eight sharp turns on a 40-degree slope. The street zigzags around beautiful flowers and shrubs and offers a nice view of the Bay.

### **San Simeon**

The town lies on a scenic stretch of Highway 1 that extends from San Francisco to San Luis Obispo.

**Hearst Castle** - The Castle, once the estate of the newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst, consist of 165 rooms and breathtaking views of the pool and the Pacific Ocean.

### **Santa Cruz**

Primarily known as a beach town, Santa Cruz has become an internationally renowned surfing site. The town also hosts a UC campus, UC Santa Cruz, that was founded in 1965 on a 2,000 acre ranch overlooking Monterey Bay.

**Beach Boardwalk** - A famous 100 year old beach boardwalk with an amusement park with a famous wooden roller-coaster. Free Friday night concerts on the beach during the Summer.

### **Yosemite National Park**

Glaciers transformed the rolling hills and meandering streams into the colossal landscape of unusual beauty. With thousand-foot waterfalls and framed by monumental granite spires - including Half Dome – Valley View in Yosemite Valley is the most famous glacially carved landscape in the world. Mariposa Grove is one of the finest giant sequoia groves in the Sierras.

## Travel Timetable from Livermore (one way)

Allow extra time depending on traffic

Anaheim (Disneyland)	5 hours 22 minutes	587 km	365 miles
Berkeley	42 minutes	63 km	39 miles
Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona	11 hours 19 minutes	1207 km	750 miles
Lake Tahoe (South Lake)	3 hours 15 minutes	304 km	189 miles
Las Vegas, Nevada	7 hours 59 minutes	851 km	529 miles
Los Angeles	5 hours 5 minutes	547 km	340 miles
Monterey	1 hour 48 minutes	172 km	107 miles
Napa	1 hour 9 minutes	98 km	61 miles
Oakland	34 minutes	51 km	32 miles
Sacramento	1 hour 23 minutes	140 km	87 miles
San Diego	7 hours 2 minutes	742 km	461 miles
San Francisco	46 minutes	71 km	44 miles
San Jose	41 minutes	56 km	35 miles
San Simeon (Hearst Castle)	3 hours 32 minutes	323 km	201 miles
Santa Cruz	1 hour 13 minutes	109 km	68 miles
Yosemite National Park	3 hours 8 minutes	240 km	149 miles









## **IX. Cultural Issues**

## U.S. Holidays

### **New Year's Day** – January 1

New Year's Eve, December 31, is more important to U.S. Americans than New Year's Day itself. Everyone gathers with friends and family to ring out the old and ring in the new. New Year's Day is an official holiday on which schools, offices, banks, and stores are closed. No classes

### **Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday** – Third Monday in January

Dr. Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. organized and led the non-violent Civil Rights movement in the U.S. during the 1960's for desegregation in the South, for which he received the Nobel Peace Prize. His birthday became an official holiday in 1986. No classes.

### **Groundhog Day** – February 2

The groundhog is a small burrowing animal that hibernates during the winter months. Legend has it that in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, if the groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil emerges on February 2 and sees his shadow (a sunny day), he will be frightened and return to his burrow and this is supposed to indicate 6 more weeks of wintry cold weather. If he doesn't see his shadow, then spring will come soon. Not an official holiday. See the very funny movie Groundhog Day starring Bill Murray for more information about this day.

### **Valentine's Day** – February 14

A special day to treat the special someone in your life with roses or chocolates. Many children exchange cards to classmates, and couples go out for a romantic date. Many people wear red on this day. This day originated from a Roman named Valentine. It was forbidden for men in the Roman Army to marry, but the Christian Valentine presided over many weddings anyway. He was sent to jail because of this and was martyred for refusing to give up Christianity. He died on February 14, 269 A.D., the same day that had been devoted to love lotteries. Legend also says that before his death, St. Valentine had left a farewell for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend and signed it "from your valentine". Not an official holiday.

### **President's Day** – Third Monday in February

Commemorates the birthdays of two of the most famous U.S. presidents; George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. George Washington was the Commander in Chief of the Revolutionary Army that freed the United States from the colonial rule of England and first president of the United States. Abraham Lincoln served as president during the U.S. Civil War (1861-1865), a period that has a profound effect on the history of the nation. He acted to free the slaves and bring the seceded Southern states back into the Union. No classes.

### **St. Patrick's Day** – March 17

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, and this holiday was brought to the U.S. by Irish immigrants. People celebrate this day by wearing green and getting together with friends to party and sing Irish folk songs. The city of Dublin, California has a parade and week-end festival to celebrate the day. Not an official holiday.

### **Good Friday** – A Friday in March or April, depending on the lunar calendar

Christians remember the day that Jesus was crucified and died on the cross on this day. Not an official holiday.

### **Easter** – A Sunday in March or April, depending on the lunar calendar

A religious holiday for Christians who believe that it was on this day that Jesus rose from the dead. Many folk traditions are now connected with Easter, including the decoration of brightly colored eggs and the giving of Easter baskets full of candy to children. Not an official holiday.

**April Fool's Day** – April 1

As in many other countries, this day is marked by the custom of playing practical jokes on one's friends and colleagues. Not an official holiday.

**Cinco de Mayo** – May 5

The holiday of Cinco De Mayo, *The 5th Of May* in Spanish, commemorates the victory of the Mexican militia over the French army at The Battle of Puebla in 1862. In the United States, this event has become the medium to celebrating the culture of Mexico and contributions of Chicanos (Mexican-Americans) in the U.S. People often go to parties or Mexican restaurants and have Mexican food and drink, often accompanied by Mexican music. Interestingly, although celebrated in the city and state of Puebla, it is not widely celebrated in Mexico. Also, it is not as many people think, Mexico's Independence Day, which is actually September 16. Not an official holiday

**Mother's Day** – Second Sunday in May

U.S. Americans honor their mothers on this day by sending them flowers, buying small gifts, and taking them out to eat so that they don't have to do any work around the house. Not an official holiday.

**Memorial Day** – Last Monday in May

This is the day on which U.S. Americans remember those who died in the service of their country. Many families visit graves and decorate them with flowers, and the day is also marked with patriotic parades. This day is also considered the unofficial beginning of the summer season. No classes.

**Father's Day** – Third Sunday in June

Fathers are honored on this day. Children give them cards and gifts. Not an official holiday.

**Independence Day** – July 4

A national holiday that commemorates the day the Declaration of Independence was signed in Philadelphia in 1776. This holiday is celebrated all over the country with picnics, political speeches, and parades that culminates in fireworks displays. No classes

**Labor Day** – First Monday in September

This official holiday was established in recognition of the labor movement's contribution to the productivity of the country. It is the unofficial end of the summer season and is celebrated with picnics and other outings.

**Columbus Day** – Second Monday in October

This day honors Christopher Columbus who is credited with discovering the Americas in 1492. Italian Americans celebrate this day as a cultural pride day. This day is also known as Indigenous People's Day in some cities, like Berkeley, to recognize that there were already Native Americans living in the Americas at the time of Columbus' "discovery" and that this encounter was eventually devastating to them and their civilizations.

**Halloween** – October 31

This was originally a religious holiday, the holy night before All Saint's Day, November 1. It is now celebrated mostly as a children's day. Traditions include carving out pumpkins with funny faces as well as dressing up in costumes and going around the neighborhood to trick-or-treat, receive treats of candy, fruit, and cookies. Many adults also dress up and go to parties or watch scary movies. Not an official holiday.

**Veterans Day** – November 11

Remembrance of all who have served in the Armed Forces, as well as the ending of World War I in 1918. Also called Armistice Day or Remembrance Day. No classes

**Thanksgiving** – Fourth Thursday in November

The first Thanksgiving was observed by the Pilgrims at Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts in 1621 to give thanks for the bountiful harvest and their triumph of survival over the wilderness. The Pilgrims were saved by the generosity of the Native Americans in the area. Now, it is a time when Americans give thanks for the good life they enjoy and celebrate by getting together with family to eat traditional foods such as turkey, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, and pumpkin pie. This is an official holiday and there are no classes on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday during this week.

**Christmas** – December 25

An official holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus. Many U.S. Americans of Christian faith regard this as the most important holiday of the year. Family members travel great distances to be together for this day on which gifts are exchanged and a traditional dinner is shared. It is especially exciting for children, as they are taught that Santa Claus visits their homes and gives them presents under the Christmas tree while they are sleeping. Even families who do not have strong religious convictions decorate a Christmas tree and join in the festivities of the season.

## U.S. American Cultural Characteristics

Although many U.S. Americans do not think of their country as having shared characteristics and values, there is a distinct culture in the U.S. just as there is in other countries. The following are generalizations of how U.S. Americans think and act, and hopefully, by understanding some of the core values of U.S. American culture, you can meet and understand individual U.S. Americans a bit easier.



**Achievement** – U.S. Americans put high value on competition and respect achievement. Expressions of praise such as “she’s a hard worker” conveys admiration for a person who approaches a task conscientiously and persistently, seeing it through to a successful conclusion. U.S. Americans admire achievers, people whose lives are centered around efforts to accomplish some physical, measurable thing. Books and movies are judged not so much on quality, but on how many copies are sold, or how many dollars in profit are made. In universities too, there is an emphasis on achievement, on grades and one’s GPA (grade point average).

**Action** – The U.S. is a highly active society, full of movement and change. U.S. Americans believe it is important to devote significant energy to their job or to other daily responsibilities. Beyond this, they tend to believe that they should be doing something most of the time. They are not usually content, as people from many other countries are, to sit for hours and talk with other people. They get restless and impatient. They believe they should be doing something, or at least making plans and arrangements for doing something later.

**Competition** – U.S. Americans place high value on achievement and success, and this leads them to compete with each other. You will find friendly and not so friendly competition everywhere. The U.S. American style of friendly joking “getting the last word in” and the quick reply are subtle forms of competition.

**Cooperation** – Although always in competition, U.S. Americans also have a good sense of “teamwork” of cooperation with others to achieve a common goal.

**Directness** – Discussing issues, events and ideas openly with other individuals is considered quite proper in the United States. U.S. Americans might bring up in conversations issues which you would consider sensitive or embarrassing or rude. Try not to be offended. U.S. Americans are also quick to get to the point and not to “beat around the bush” particularly in business situations. They do not spend much time on polite social talk, as do many other nationalities.

**Equality** – U.S. Americans believe in the ideal as stated in their American Declaration of Independence that “all men are created equal”. Although they sometimes violate the ideal in their daily lives, particularly in matters of interracial relationships, U.S. Americans have a deep faith that in some fundamental way, all people (or at least all U.S. American people) are of equal value, no one is born superior to anyone else. They really don’t believe this is true in terms of ability, but it is true in terms of opportunity and in terms of social, legal and political rights. There are many “equal rights movements” going on at this time in the United States such as equality rights for women, ethnic minorities, homosexuals, and for the disabled.

**Goodness of Humanity** – The future cannot be better if people are not fundamentally good and improvable. U.S. Americans assume that human nature is basically good, not basically evil.

International visitors will see them doing many things that are based on the assumption that people are good and can make themselves better.

**Individuality** – Most U.S. Americans want to be treated as individuals, rather than as representatives of a certain class, position, or group. Where in many countries people often seem to think of themselves primarily as members of a group or community, U.S. Americans see themselves as individuals and this individuality makes them suspicious of authority in any form. Their basic concept of government is that it exists to serve them, not the other way around.

**Independence** – U.S. Americans tend to see dependence in any form as dangerous and a sign of weakness. They dislike being dependent on other people. They are taught to be self-reliant and “fend for yourselves” at an early age. In contrast to many other countries, many U.S. American parents have their newborn infants sleep in his or her own bedroom to encourage this independence.

**Informality** – In most cases, U.S. Americans avoid elaborate social rituals. U.S. Americans are not without polite forms, but they tend to be casual and informal most of the time. This is particularly true in California. This is due more to a lack of concern for social ceremony, and a value on equality, than a lack of respect.

**Progress** – U.S. Americans are generally less concerned about history and traditions than are people from other societies. “The past doesn’t matter” many of them will say. “It’s the future that counts”. They look ahead. This fundamental U.S. American belief in progress and a better future contrasts sharply with the fatalistic attitude that characterizes people from many other countries where there is a pronounced reverence for the past. In those cultures, the future is considered to be in the hands of “fate”, “God”, or at least the few people or families that dominate the society.

**Punctuality** – Time is a “resource” for U.S. Americans, that like water or coal, can be used or “spent” well or poorly. “Time is money” they say. The future will not be better than the past or the present, as Americans are trained to see things, unless people use their time for constructive, future-orientated activities. The ideal person is punctual and is considerate of other people’s time. Therefore you are expected to be “on time” in the United States. If you have an appointment at 10:30 am with the dentist, plan to be there at 10:30 and no later. If you are invited to dinner at 7:00 pm, be there at 7:00 or within 20 minutes or so thereafter (not earlier though, as your hosts may still be preparing). If you cannot keep an appointment or if you cannot avoid being late, it is extremely important that you telephone immediately and explain. If you are late and have not called, you may find the person you are meeting to be abrupt and even unpleasant. Most social functions, lectures, church services, etc. begin on time.



## **Cultural Adjustment**

### **Culture Shock**

Do you ever feel homesick, depressed and critical of your new home country? These are common and usual feelings among those adjusting to a new culture. These tips may help you overcome such feelings now and when you return to your country.

People traveling in other countries sometimes experience emotional discomfort due to their being in a culture different from their own. They may feel irritable, critical, bitter, homesick or depressed. These may be symptoms of what is commonly called “culture shock”. It is very normal to have these feelings. For some people, culture shock is brief and hardly noticeable. However, for most of us, culture shock is something we have to deal with over a period of at least several months and possibly a year or more.

Culture Shock comes from:

- Being in different situations from what you have been used to for a long period
- Being cut off from what had been your everyday life
- Bringing your own values from your country into a country with new and different values

In order to minimize culture shock, you should:

- Expand your knowledge and understanding of U.S. American culture and values
- Develop U.S. American friendships in order to feel related to U.S. American people and to understand their culture better
- Be curious and try new things
- Try to understand before you judge
- Think positively as much as possible
- Have a sense of humor

### **Reverse Culture Shock**

Many travelers do not expect they will get reverse culture shock, or re-entry shock, when they return to their countries. Often they are not aware that have it. Reverse culture shock symptoms are similar to culture shock: discomfort, irritability, resentment and depression. They may even have “homesickness” for the United States.

If you have you some knowledge of reverse culture shock, your problems will be easier to solve.

Reverse Culture Shock occurs because:

- With all your new experiences living abroad, you will have changed somewhat while being in the United States (although you may not be aware of it).
- Your home country, family, and friends will possibly also have changed.
- Your family and friends will expect you to have the same behavior you had before and they do not expect new behavior.
- Your family and friends may not be interested or can not relate to your stories about the U.S. as much as you expect. Just like you, they want to talk about what happened to them.

Here are some suggestions for re-adjustment:

- Say good-bye to everyone and everything you may miss before leaving the U.S.
- Share the feelings you had in the U.S.A. with your friends and family members, but do not always expect that they can relate to your experiences.
- Catch up with trends: new vocabulary, fashion, food, music, current events.

- Research various groups that interest you: schools, clubs, international and intercultural groups, travel agencies, and exchange organizations. You may want to apply your new intercultural skills and experiences that you developed in the U.S.
- Find someone who can share the experiences or skills with you, such as people with international experience and foreigners in your country.







## **X. Metric Conversions**

## Temperature Conversations

Most temperatures in the United States are given in Fahrenheit degrees, unless otherwise noted.

Conversion F to C

Subtract 32

Multiply by 5

Divide by 9

For example: To convert 80 F

$$80 - 32 = 48$$

$$48 \times 5 = 240$$

$$240 / 9 = 26.67 \text{ C}$$

Conversion C to F

Multiply by 9

Divide by 5

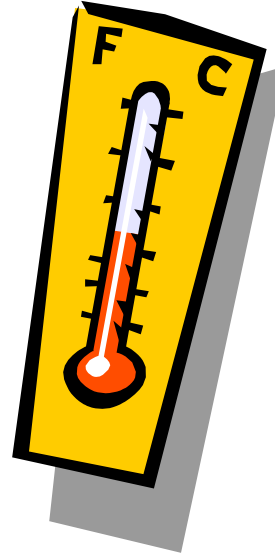
Add 32

For example: To convert 27 C

$$27 \times 9 = 243$$

$$243 / 5 = 48.6$$

$$48.6 + 32 = 80.6 \text{ F}$$



## Oven Heat

250 F (120 C) = very slow

300 F (150 C) = slow

325 F (165 C) = moderately slow

350 F (180 C) = moderate

375 F (190 C) = moderately hot

400 F (205 C) = hot

450 – 500 F (230 – 260 C) = very hot

## Length

1 millimeter (mm) = .0397 inches

1 centimeter (cm) = 10 mm = .3937 inches

1 meter (m) = 100 cm = 1.0936 yards

1 kilometer (km) = 1000 m = .6214 miles

1 inch (in) = 25.4 mm

1 foot (ft) = 12 in = .3048 m

1 yard (yd) = 3 ft = .9144 m

1 mile = 1,760 yd = 1.6093 km

A helpful website for conversions is: <http://www.worldwidemetric.com/metcal.htm>



## **XI. Campus Map**

# LAS POSITAS COLLEGE CAMPUS MAP

3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 • [www.laspositascollege.edu](http://www.laspositascollege.edu)

## KEY TO BUILDINGS

- 100 Classrooms
- 400 English Classrooms & Lab
- 500 Fine Arts
- 600 Classrooms, ILC (Integrated Learning Center), Open Math Lab
- 600A/B Fire Service Technology Training
- 700 Visual Communications, Photography Studio, Computer Lab
- 800 Lecture Hall, Computer Labs, Auto & Welding Labs, Singg Reference Center, Horticulture Viticulture, Garden Classrooms, Greenhouse
- 1000 Classroom Building
- 1100 Central Utility Plant
- 1300 Bookstore
- 1310 Veterans Resource Center
- 1600 Student Services & Administration Building
- 1690 Academic Services, Vice President's Office
- 1689 Administrative Services, Vice President's Office
- 1679 Admissions & Records
- 1642 Assessment Center
- 1620 Cadetena
- 1604 Career/Transfer Center
- 1663 Community Education
- 1616 Counseling Center
- 1615 DSPS High Tech Center
- 1668 EOPS, CARE, CALWORKS
- 1650 Financial Aid
- 1658 International Student Program
- 1672 Online Service Center
- 1680 President's Office
- 1643 Student Government
- 1669 Student Services, Vice President's Office
- 1643 Welcome Center
- 1700 Campus Safety, Student Health Center, Copy Center, Mail Room
- 1800 Science Technology Center 1
- 1850 Science Technology Center 2
- 1900 Information Technology Services (ITS)
- 2000 Library (Learning Resource Center)
- 2100 Faculty Offices
- 2200 Classrooms
- 2300 Child Development Center
- 2400 Multi-Disciplinary Education Building
- 2401 Tutorial Center
- 2420 Lecture Hall
- 2900 Physical Education Complex (Gym)
- 2600 Aquatics Center
- 2700 Campus Hill Vineyard
- 3000 Maintenance & Operations Building
- 3100 Maintenance & Operations Building
- 3200 Field House
- 4000 Merets Center for the Arts
- 4119 Main Theater
- 4128 Black Box Theater

