Welcome to UCSC!

Like many students, you may have decided to attend UC Santa Cruz because of its natural beauty: towering redwoods, rolling oak grasslands, and spectacular views of Monterey Bay. Or maybe you appreciate our reputation for environmental protection and stewardship. Or you’re concerned about climate change and demand lifestyle choices that contribute to a positive change in our world. Whatever the reason, here’s a simple tip: Use your feet and walk! Walking is the single most sustainable means of getting around the UCSC campus. This map can help you find your way, and experience one of the most beautiful and unique places in the world – the UCSC campus – while promoting your health and the health of the planet.

Walk This Way
Walking is often the most direct and quickest way to travel around campus. Once you learn your way around on foot, you’ll avoid arriving late to class because you waited for a shuttle. You will also discover the unique features that make UCSC a special place, many of which can’t be seen from the roadways.

It’s Easy Being Green
Getting around by foot dramatically reduces our carbon footprint. Less reliance on motor vehicles helps reduce green-house gas emissions while conserving fossil fuels. You don’t have to walk every trip; even a few walking trips will reduce your carbon footprint, save transit fee dollars by reducing impacts on the campus shuttles, and provide you with some great exercise.

Walking Etiquette
Campus paths and sidewalks see a lot of use during peak times (e.g., between class periods), so it’s important to be a conscientious traveler. If you’re walking with a group, make sure you’re not blocking the way for others.

If you’re listening to music through headphones, keep the volume low enough so that you can hear cyclists (or fast-moving walkers) approaching and yield to them. Anytime you’re using headphones, it’s important to stay aware of your surroundings – especially when fast-moving vehicles are present.

Above all, stay out of bike lanes and off the down-hill lane of the UCSC Bike Path. On a hilly campus like ours, bikes can easily hit speeds of 30 miles an hour, limiting their ability to swerve to avoid pedestrians. Avoid the conflicts and stay safe.

Traffic Control
Be on the lookout for the campus traffic program. Teams of students wearing bright yellow gloves facilitate turn-taking at key campus intersections during class breaks. Vehicles move more efficiently, cars spend less time idling in traffic, and pedestrians are provided safe passage through crowded areas. If the Traffic Control program isn’t operating at an intersection you need to cross, take a moment and look at the traffic situation. If you can help ease the traffic backup by letting a car go through, please do. Keeping buses and shuttles moving through campus helps everyone.

Are You Experienced?
Get out and explore the campus. It’s like living in a state park – in fact, UCSC borders two state parks (Wilder and Henry Cowell) and a huge city-owned open space called the Pogonip. The fire roads and trails of the upper campus are great for mountain biking, running, or just a hike. You can even find beautiful, secluded spots right in the center of campus; here are a few to start you off: the Upper Quarry amphitheater, the pedestrian path between the Music Center and Oakes College, the Great Meadow below the Academic Resources Center, and the pedestrian bridge between the Classroom Building and Earth & Marine Sciences. Happy hiking!

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Using the grid below, find the intersection between your starting point and destination to locate the average walking time. Keep in mind that going uphill will take longer than going downhill. You may need to switch your start with your destination to use the grid (e.g., if you’re going from Cowell to Oakes, you’ll need to find Oakes in the first column and read right to find Cowell).