



Santa Clara University Policy on First-Year Student Live-On-Campus

Santa Clara University resident students are not permitted to bring cars to campus for the duration of their first year (Fall through Spring quarters). This includes students who have enough credits to be considered sophomores at any time during their first academic year at Santa Clara.

Because the University recognizes the impact its students have on parking in the residential areas surrounding the campus as well as the need for parking availability related to University special events, first-year students are not allowed to park their vehicles on campus if they are living in a campus residence hall.

Parking restrictions have been applied to first-year students, as it is The University's belief that they will be least impacted by this policy. First-year students are strongly encouraged to live in residence halls with board plans, and any first-year student who needs a job may obtain one on campus. First-year students are also supported by a wide array of special social activities in their residence halls and elsewhere on campus.

Unlike many universities, resident students at Santa Clara have enjoyed the privilege of being able to park as close as possible to their residence halls. By restricting car usage in the first year, we hope to better protect this privilege for other resident students. It is also our hope that by restricting cars in the first year, students will take advantage of the many alternative transportation options available to them, and will think twice about the need to bring their cars in subsequent years.

While no resources can truly match the convenience of a private car, the University believes there are sufficient on-campus activities throughout the year, coupled with excellent availability of public and other transportation choices for first year students so that the need to bring a car to campus is minimal. For a list of upcoming Student Activities go to <https://www.scu.edu/osl//>

Interpretation and Enforcement of this Policy

Campus Safety Services will not sell parking permits to freshmen, and other members of the SCU community who are eligible for a parking permit will not be permitted to purchase one for a first-year resident student. Attempts to do so will result in having any future parking privileges of both parties revoked.

In addition, we ask that students comply with the spirit of this policy by not bringing cars to campus with the expectation that they can be parked on the streets or public areas of our neighboring communities. SCU works with its neighbors to reduce traffic flow and parking in nearby off-campus neighborhoods, and students are expected to help Santa Clara be a good neighbor.



Santa Clara
University

Exceptions

Students transferring to Santa Clara University from another college or university that have completed a full year of academic study are not impacted by this policy.

Students who can demonstrate a compelling need or who would suffer undue hardship under this policy can apply for a waiver. Waivers will be reviewed by committee (including student representative(s) chosen by the ASSCU), and will be kept to an absolute minimum.

Applications are on a quarter-by-quarter basis and committee decisions regarding issuance are final. After the submission deadline, the application process is closed until the next quarter. To obtain a copy of the Application for a Waiver, go to <https://university-operations.scu.edu/campus-safety/parking-and-transportation-services/parking-services/first-year-undergraduates/>

Alternative Programs & Available Transportation

The ASSCU, in conjunction with the Office of Student Life plans a number of student events and activities throughout the school year to provide first-year student with things to do on campus. In addition, they have created the “Bronco Bus”, an inexpensive way to take periodic excursions throughout the Bay Area including San Francisco. Many campus venues have expanded their hours of operation to attract student participation.

The University’s Transportation page scu.edu/transportation lists a number of public transportation alternatives for freshman including VTA and CalTrain which has a station directly across the street from SCU’s main entrance.



First Year Resident Parking Policy FAQ's

[What if I have enough units to be classified as a second-year student during my first year at Santa Clara?](#)

The policy also applies to students who have enough credits to be considered second-year student at any time during their first academic year at Santa Clara. This policy does not apply to transfer students.

[Why have first-year students been restricted from bringing cars?](#)

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It is our hope that by restricting cars in the first year, students will take advantage of the many alternative transportation options available to them, and will think twice about the need to bring their cars in subsequent years. Unlike many universities, resident students at SCU have enjoyed the privilege of being able to park as close as possible to their residence halls. By restricting car usage in the first year, we hope to better protect this privilege for other resident students.

[Can I bring a car anyway and park it somewhere else?](#)

We ask that students comply with the spirit of this policy by not bringing cars to campus with the expectation that they can be parked on the streets or public areas of our neighboring communities. SCU Staff works with its neighbors to reduce traffic flow and parking in nearby off-campus neighborhoods, and students are expected to help SCU be a good neighbor.

[What if I really need a car on campus?](#)

Students who can demonstrate a compelling need and who would suffer undue hardship using public transportation under this policy can apply for a waiver. Applications for a waiver will be reviewed by committee (including a student representative chosen by the ASSCU), and will be kept to an absolute minimum.



How will I get around if I don't have a car?

The University's Transportation page scu.edu/transportation, lists a number of public transportation alternatives for first-year students including VTA and CalTrain which has a station directly across the street from SCU's main entrance.

How will I get food, toiletries, and the basic necessities without a car?

The Cellar Market in the basement of the Benson Center is open daily for your convenience. Safeway, a full-service supermarket is across the street from Sobrato Hall. Mission City FCU has a branch on campus in Benson; and a number of other banks are within walking distance. Westfield Valley Fair, a regional shopping Mall and Santana Row is a 15 minute bus ride (Route 60)g from the CalTrain station (across from SCU's main entrance); and a number of major department stores are accessible on El Camino Real in Santa Clara and Sunnyvale by taking the VTA Route 22 bus.

What If I have Guests?

Guests arriving during the school week may purchase a daily parking permit (\$8 all day; \$6 after 5 PM) at the University's Main Gate on Palm Drive or at Campus Safety. On weekends there is no charge for vehicle parking on campus. In addition, students receive a free temporary MOVE-IN and MOVE-OUT permit at the beginning and end of each academic year.