

# WELCOME

Fall 2009



## Dear New Students!

On behalf of the Orientation Counselors, we want to say welcome and congratulations on getting accepted to UCSF. We are all very excited to meet you, and cannot wait until fall. Like you, some of us moved to San Francisco from very different places. Our transition was a whirl-wind of discovery, excitement, and sadness - all of which can simply be described as a roller coaster. Many of us had little guidance and went into things blindly, but we survived to tell you all about it! Out of our experiences, we put this packet together with the desire to make your transition a little easier. We hope you find this information useful, and as always we are a resource for any of your unmet questions or needs. Please feel free to contact us - we would love to give you a taste of how we became San Franciscans!

Your 2009 Orientation Directors

# WELCOME TO THE BAY AREA

## Tips for your transition...

### **Establishing California Residency:**

As you are probably aware, out-of-state tuition at UCSF is substantially higher than resident tuition. Therefore if you are interested in establishing California residency to reduce tuition after first year, make sure to thoroughly read through all of the tips on the following website:

<http://bts.ucsf.edu/pspg/students/currentstudents/academics/calres.html>

It is important to start your process of establishing residency as soon as you move to San Francisco. Make sure to keep documentation of your California residency process (i.e. voting slips, apartment lease, utility payments, etc...)

The official UCSF California Residency site is located here:

<http://saawww.ucsf.edu/admission/residency.html>

One key factor in establishing residency is demonstrating financial independence. Make sure to read through the section on financial independence on the UCSF California Residency page. An important note in that regard is that if you are under 24 it is important not to be claimed as a dependent (tax exemption) by your parents on 2009 income taxes.

### **Transportation:**

Public transportation is very convenient in San Francisco and the Bay Area. A majority of the students in pharmacy school get to and from school via the bus, light rail, or BART (a monorail system that goes around the Bay Area). Public transportation in the city is called MUNI which encompasses buses, light rail, and street cars.

The following is a document that provides information on how to ride the MUNI (in particular the light rail).

Note: The N-Judah line passes right behind UCSF and is frequently used by several students to get to school. It also goes to downtown San Francisco. The Outbound N-Judah refers to going west toward Ocean Beach. The Inbound N-Judah refers to going east toward downtown San Francisco.

Three key websites for using the transportation system are:

<http://tripplanner.transit.511.org/>

This site helps plan your trip using MUNI and/or BART. Enter two location addresses and the time of departure or arrival and it will display how to get to your destination using MUNI and/or BART.

<http://hopstop.com/>

This site can help plan your trip by allowing you to modify your transportation mode (bus, light rail, street car...etc) and walking and transfer preferences. Simply select San Francisco, enter in two location addresses, mark your transportation, walking, and transfer preferences, and it will display how to get to your destination and the approximate travel time. Unfortunately, unlike 511.org, trip itineraries cannot be scheduled based on arrival or departure time.

<http://www.nextmuni.com/>

This site is extremely helpful when riding the MUNI. MUNI is equipped with GPS systems that give you real-time predictions of when the bus/light rail will be arriving at your boarding point. However, it is important to know that on some rare occasions, Next Muni can give inaccurate readings. To use Next Muni simply select which line you will be riding, its direction, and the stop you will be boarding from. It will then give you a real time estimate of when the next 3 buses/light rails will be arriving at your stop.

### **Weather:**

"The coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco." - Mark Twain

The weather in San Francisco is not your typical "California weather." Due to its location and proximity to the ocean, San Francisco is constantly engulfed in cloudiness and fog for a large portion of the year. The temperature stays relatively constant with the highs ranging from mid 50s to 70 degrees Fahrenheit year round. The fall months (September and October) are considered to be the months with the best weather (i.e. warmer and with less fog). However, going just 10 miles out from the city substantially increases the warmth and sunshine.

The sunny days in San Francisco, however, are marvelous and there are plenty of opportunities to take advantage of the great attractions and outdoor activities this city has to offer.

Thus when getting ready to move to San Francisco (and packing your clothing in particular) make sure to take the weather into consideration!

### **Housing:**

In terms of finding housing, UCSF has created a very thorough and informative website that details all of the various options for finding campus or off campus housing:

<http://pharmacy.ucsf.edu/pharmd/enteringstudents/home/>

Similarly, several students have used the Yahoo Groups, Facebook, and/or Craigslist in finding potential roommates.

# TRANSPORTATION

UCSF Orientation



## Dear New Students:

Learning the metro system is essential to getting around San Francisco. It is reliable, easy to use, quick, and a direct line to UCSF. The most used lines by students are the N line and the T line. As you can see all lines overlap downtown (from Van Ness station to Embarcadero), making for easy transfer. We hope you find this quick overview of both the metro and bus systems helpful:)

Your OC Crew

## Getting around town... ...by muni

### How much it costs...

Monthly pass\*:  
\$55/month

One 90 minute ticket:  
\$2.00

Cable Cars:  
\$5.00/ride

\* Monthly pass allows you transportation on ALL muni vehicles (including cable cars)

### Where to buy a pass...

You can get a pass at UCSF from University Express or the transportation services both at the Millberry Union. Muni Booths downtown, Safeway, and other retailers also sell them.

### Planning your trip...

You can find maps for all the San Francisco routes (bus, metro and cable cars) at: <http://www.sfmta.com/cms/mmmaps/official.htm>.

If you are terrible at reading maps, you can use the "Trip Planner" at: <http://triplanner.transit.511.org>. This allows you to put in your starting point and ending point as well as the time you wish to arrive by - very useful for beginners.

If you are in a bind, and just need information from a live person you can call 311 within San Francisco. The operator should be able to help you find your way!

# TRANSPORTATION

## Getting around town... ...by muni

### Still Need Help?

Ask the drivers  
or passengers!

As we were  
learning the  
city and its  
transportation,  
the most useful  
information was  
given to us by  
fellow riders!

For more information  
please visit:

[http://www.sfmta.com/cm  
s/mhome/home50.htm](http://www.sfmta.com/cms/mhome/home50.htm)

or

[http://pharmacy.ucsf.ed  
u/pharmd/enteringstuden  
ts/getaround/](http://pharmacy.ucsf.edu/pharmd/enteringstudents/getaround/)

### Checking on the next train/bus...

If you have internet from a cell phone or a computer type in:

<http://www.nextmuni.com> or  
<http://www.511.org> .

If you do not have internet access then just grab a phone and dial 511.

### How to get on the metro...

Opening the doors: There is a small button to the left of the train. When it is lit, you can press it and the doors will open. If the door does not open, then run to a door that either is open or has a lit button.

Using a monthly pass: Hop on any of the cars (no need to show pass).

Using cash: Hop on the front of the first car. Put \$2.00 (exact) into the money machine. The money machine takes dollars, and all change. Take a transfer from the driver, which is good for 90 minutes on any Muni vehicle.

### How to get on the bus...

The bus driver will automatically open the front doors. Enter from the front doors, and either show the bus driver your pass or transfer. You may also pay using the cash machine. Again, exact change of \$2.00 is required. If you are paying cash ensure that you receive a transfer. This is your proof of payment.

### Getting off the metro...

Opening the doors: Press on the bar on either side of the stairs. The doors will only open when the light above is lit.

Generally: The metro stops at every stop listed on the map. To be sure that it will stop, you can signal the driver by pulling the cord that runs along either side of the train. This will light up the "Stop Signaled" sign at the front of each car.

### Getting off the bus...

The bus drivers prefer you to exit at the middle of the bus, so as not to interfere with the incoming passengers. Make sure you exit carefully!

### General tips...

There are seats at the front of each train/bus, and those are reserved for the elderly, disabled, pregnant, etc. It is federal law that you give the seat up.

