



Commuter Student Guide to UT Dallas



Road Warriors Commuter Student Program

New Student Programs

The University of Texas at Dallas

Commuter Student Guide to UT Dallas

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Welcome

Welcome to the University of Texas at Dallas! We understand that as a student who is commuting to campus, you may have different priorities and needs. This handbook addresses specific concerns and offers resources to help you navigate your way to success at UT Dallas. The Road Warrior Commuter Student Program is sponsored by the New Student Programs office. If you are living off-campus, let Road Warriors be part of your off-campus and commuter student experience!

Tips for Commuters

Being a Successful Student Commuter

1. Take advantage of Road Warrior Commuter Student Programs.
2. Keep rush hour in mind when scheduling your classes and extracurricular activities.
3. Have backup routes to school in case there is traffic or construction.
4. If UT Dallas will be closed or have a delayed opening on bad weather days updates will be posted on the UT Dallas homepage.
5. If you live with your family, try to plan some meals with them to save money and stay in touch.
6. If you have friends who live on campus, ask if you can use their refrigerator to store food or use their stove to cook.
7. Have an emergency overnight bag in case bad weather prevents you from driving home.
8. Be active and informed with the UT Dallas community.
9. Connect with other student commuters in your classes/major.
10. Bring clothes and comfortable shoes to change into after presentations, interviews.
11. Get a locker on campus.
12. If you have a break between classes, instead of sleeping in one of the lounges, pass the time more efficiently and make connections on campus. You can attend an event on campus, visit your professors during office hours, or spend time in the Student Union.

Helpful Phone Numbers

Admissions	(972) 883-2270
Bursar (Cashier)	(972) 883-2612
Campus Operator	(972) 883-2111
Career Center	(972) 883-2943
Information Help Desk	(972) 883-2911
Dean of Students	(972) 883-6391
Financial Aid	(972) 883-2941
Galerstein Gender Center	(972) 883-6555
International Student Center	(972) 883-4189
Multicultural Center	(972) 883-6390
Military and Veteran Center	(972) 883-4913
New Student Programs	(972) 883-6171
Orientation Team	(972) 883-6171
Parking and Transportation	(972) 883-2344
Registrar's Office	(972) 883-2342
Residential Life/Housing	(972) 883-5561
Road Warrior Commuter Student Program	(972) 883-6171
Student AccessAbility	(972) 883-2098
Student Counseling Center	(972) 883-2575
Student Health Center	(972) 883-2747
Student Organization Center	(972) 883-6551
Student Success Center	(972) 883-6707
Student Transition Programs	(972) 883-6170
Student Volunteerism	(972) 883-6393
Student Wellness Center	(972) 883-4275
Transfer Student Services	(972) 883-6170
UT Dallas Bookstore	(972) 883-2665
UT Dallas Police Department	(972) 883-2222

Commuting to UT Dallas

Bicycles

Students using bicycles are required to follow all [bicycle regulations](#) and are encouraged to register bicycles. Bicycles can be registered at either University Village information center, or at any University Commons front desk. Bicycle racks are located near every University building.

Comet Cabs

Comet Cabs are a complimentary shuttle service operating from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., Monday–Friday. The cabs have a remote parking and residential route around campus. Comet Cabs may be waved down to pick up or drop off passengers anywhere along its circuit. Visit [the Comet Cab website](#) for more information.

Comet Cruiser

Route 883 provides transit service throughout the week connecting the University to the DART Light Rail system and local residential and shopping areas. This service is free to all riders and open to the public. No pass or identification is necessary. Visit [The Comet Cruiser website](#) for route and schedule information.

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) System

Students may apply for free annual [DART Transit Passes](#) online using the [application form](#). The Transit Pass is an annual pass program that permits the bearer unlimited access to all [DART](#) services: all local buses and express buses, the Red, Blue and Green lines of light rail and the [Trinity Railway Express](#) (TRE) Zone 1 from Union Station to Centreport Station. You can use the online DART Trip Planner to create personalized trip plans, customized schedules, and to find the DART stops nearest to your location.

Parking

All students, faculty and staff parking a motor vehicle on campus are required to purchase and properly display a valid [UT Dallas parking permit](#). Permits can be purchased online. Color-coded parking is enforced. See the [Parking and Transportation website](#) for more information.

Toll Tags

Texas toll ways provide convenient routes to campus. Drivers who purchase a Toll Tag from the North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) receive a lower rate than those without a Toll Tag. [Register at nttta.org](#) to order a toll tag.

Zipcar

[Zipcar](#) is UT Dallas' ride share program. To use a UT Dallas Zipcar, simply register as a member, reserve a car online or by phone, use your Zipcard to enter the car, and drive away. Return the car to the same location where you picked it up. Low hourly and daily rates include gas and insurance.

Between Classes

Activity Center

Stay active at the UT Dallas [Activity Center](#), which has a fitness center, four racquetball courts, two squash courts, four basketball courts, a 25-yard swimming pool and two multipurpose fitness rooms. Students can also utilize Rec Center West, located next to Residence Hall West. There are badminton and volleyball courts, as well as a cardio fitness space, and a multipurpose fitness room. A Comet Card must be presented when entering.

Computer Labs

The Founders Commons (FO 1.206) and the McDermott Sonora Lab (MC 1.314) offer open computers, printing and help desk assistants to answer questions regarding NetID issues, wireless configurations and software installation. Visit the [Information Resources](#) website for hours and more information.

Jonsson Performance Hall and University Theater

Located in the Erik Jonsson Academic Center (JO), these [venues](#) offer various musical and theatrical performances throughout the year, many hosted by the School of Arts and Humanities.

Locker Rentals

Lockers are located in Jonsson (JO) and Green Center (GC) and can be rented through the Comet Center for \$2 per semester. The Activity Center also offers lockers starting at \$5 per semester, and the Jindal School of Management (JSOM) offers lockers at a minimal fee to students taking JSOM classes.

Lounge Areas

Lounge areas are a great place to study or chat with friends during your down time. Popular areas include the Comet lounge, the Orion lounge and the TV lounge located in the Student Union. The third floor of the Founders Building, the McDermott Library, the Student Services Center atrium and the Visitors Center atrium also offer lounge areas.

McDermott Library

The library offers group and quiet study locations, printing and copying, computer lounges and special literary collections. The [McDermott Library](#) also houses the Veteran Services Center and the Student Success Center.

Student Union

The [Student Union](#) is a hub of campus, offering billiards, table tennis, video games, air hockey, chess, TV and study lounges. In the Student Union, you'll also find dining areas, Student Media, Fraternity and Sorority Life and the Student Organizations Center.

Dining on Campus

Coffee Shops

There is a variety of coffee shops across campus that also offer grab-and-go sandwiches and baked goods. The McDermott Library offers Novel Brew, the Student Union has a full service Starbucks Coffee. There is a Coffee Corner in the Jindal School of Management, as well as a bookstore coffee shop located in the Visitor Center.

Comet Café & Student Union Food Court

The [Comet Café](#) and Student Union Food Court offer a wide variety of delicious food options, including brands such as Ben & Jerry's, Chick-Fil-A, Moe's, Panda Express, Subway, Outtakes, and Create.

Dining Dollars

Dining Dollars operate like a debit account with a declining balance and can be used in the Comet Café, Dining Hall, The PUB in the Student Union, or Coffee Corner in the Jindal School of Management. For more information visit the [Dine On Campus website](#).

Dining Hall

The [Dining Hall](#) in Residence Hall West offer all-you-care-to-eat fare with multiple different stations. Specific [meal plans](#) for commuters are available and can be used to purchase meals in each dining hall, the Comet Cafe, and other on-campus eateries.

Parking Structure 3

[Parking Structure 3](#) located near the Residence Halls has an IHOP Express and an Einstein Brothers Bagels. Order your bagel ahead by calling 972-883-7470.

The PUB

[The PUB](#) is located in the Student Union and offers burgers, Tex-Mex, salads, Starbucks coffee and more. In addition to food, The Pub offers TVs tuned to sports and news programs, pool tables and a venue for special events throughout the year.

UTD Food Truck Park

Grab a quick bite at the UTD Food Truck Park, which brings a variety of local food trucks to campus Monday through Thursday from 11AM-2PM! Students can pay with cash or credit card. Details on which trucks are coming to campus can be found on the [Dining Services Food Truck](#) website.

Get Involved

Spirit Programs

[Spirit Programs](#) include UT Dallas Cheerleaders, Power Dancers, our mascot Temoc, the Pep Band and the Crush Crew. Students can also participate in Pride Points and win great prizes throughout the year just for showing comet spirit. Student Union (SU) 2.408, (972)-883-6159

Fraternity and Sorority Life

UT Dallas [Fraternity and Sorority Life](#) includes scholarship, service and social awareness opportunities. Fraternity and Sorority life also gives students a chance to develop leadership skills and meaningful friendships. Student Union (SU) 1.610B, (972)-883-6523

Multicultural Center

The [Multicultural Center](#) sponsors cultural programs and events throughout the year, including diversity dinner dialogues, heritage celebrations and the Multicultural Peer Advocates, a group of students available to assist you while you are at UT Dallas. Student Services Building (SSB) 2.400, (972)-883- 6390

Office of Student Volunteerism

The [Office of Student Volunteerism](#) (OSV) provides UT Dallas students with a variety of service opportunities that fit many interests, passions, skills and schedules, including the UT Dallas Community Garden and Alternative Spring Break trips. Student Services Building (SSB) 3.600, (972)-883-6393

University Recreation

[University Recreation](#) offers a variety of club sports, group fitness classes, nutritional guidance programs, CPR training, aquatics programs and special events throughout the year. Activity Center (AB), (972) 883-2096

Road Warrior Commuter Student Program

The [Road Warrior Commuter Student Program](#) is committed to enriching the collegiate experience of commuter students. Commuter students attend campus socials, university sports events, educational programs and more. Free and open to all students. Student Services Building (SSB) 3.600, (972)-883-6171

Student Government

[Student Government](#) is the official representative body and voice of UT Dallas students. Students have the opportunity to participate through serving on committees, running for office or voting in elections. Student Government provides many free services for students, including legal counsel, an online book exchange and the [Comet Discount Program](#), which offers students discounts at participating area businesses. Student Union, (SU) 2.604, (972) 883-2284.

Student Leadership Programs

Non-credit classes in [leadership education and development](#) are intended to grow and enhance competence and self-knowledge as it pertains to leadership and being part of a global society. Student Union (SU) 2.432, (972) 883-2242.

Student Media

[Student Media](#) includes *The Mercury*, UT Dallas' award-winning student newspaper, Radio UTD, the student-run internet radio station, *AMP*, a tabloid-style publication that focuses on student life, global politics, arts, events and social commentary, and UTD TV, which broadcasts news, entertainment shows and other online media content produced by students, staff and faculty. Student Union, (SU) 1.601, (972) 883-2290

Student Organization Center

[Student organizations](#) play an important role in campus life. Throughout the year, various organizations sponsor activities and service projects for the campus community. With more than 230 active student organizations, you're sure to find one for you, but if not, you can easily create your own! Student Union, (SU) 2.400, (972)-883-6223

Student Union & Activities Advisory Board (SUAAB)

The [Student Union & Activities Advisory Board](#) is a student leadership group that offers a variety of events to promote student participation including the UT Dallas Homecoming dance, Casino Night, Springapalooza, movies, comedians, concerts and more. Student Services Addition (SSA) 13.451, (972) 883-6438

Student Services

Career Center

The [Career Center](#) offers a variety of services for students, including resume reviews, career expos, internship programs and career assessments. Students should register online through CareerWorks to find on- and off-campus employment, internship and volunteer opportunities. Student Services Building (SSB) 3.300, (972)-883-2943

Galerstein Gender Center

The [Galerstein Gender Center](#) promotes mentoring, advising/professional counseling, lectures addressing gender diversity and social justice, leadership development, community engagement and support for girls and women in STEM fields, and advocacy for the LGBTQ community. The center offers study space for students and the Lilly Pad, a private room for nursing mothers. Student Services Building (SSB) 4.300, (972)-883-6555

Office of Financial Aid

The [Office of Financial Aid](#) provides federal, state and institutional financial assistance to eligible students to enable them to meet their personal and educational goals.

Student Services Building (SSB) 2.300, (972)-883-2941

Military and Veteran Center

The [Military and Veteran Center](#) is a resource center for veterans, reservists, eligible dependents and active duty military students attending UT Dallas. Staff in the center can help students access information about VA benefits, financial aid, scholarship opportunities and on- and off-campus veterans support services. The center offers a veterans' lounge that allows students to meet and greet other vets. The office of the VA certifying official is also located in the center. Student Services Addition (SSA) 14.250, (972) 883-4913

Student AccessAbility

The primary function of the [Office of Student AccessAbility](#) (OSA) is to provide academic accommodations for eligible students with a documented physical, mental or sensory disability, facilitation of non-academic and environmental accommodations and services, resources and referral information, and advocacy support as necessary and appropriate.

Student Services Building (SSB) 3.200, (972)-883-2098

Student Counseling Center

Programs in the [Student Counseling Center](#) help students maintain the emotional well-being necessary for success. Help is given to students to manage academic and personal demands more effectively. The Student Counseling Center's staff of licensed psychologists and counselors are available by appointment or in times of emergency. All counseling is confidential. Student Services Building (SSB) 4.600, (972)-883-2575

Student Health Center

The [Student Health Center](#) offers free primary and preventative care for students, including minor emergency care, treatment of chronic stabilized diseases, sports physicals and more. Students, faculty and staff can also take advantage of free flu shots offered while supplies last. Student Services Building (SSB) 4.700, (972)-883-2747

Student Success Center

Whether it is individualized tutoring, Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL), Supplemental Instruction (SI), coordinated group study, or another approach to improving academic achievement, the [Student Success Center](#) makes every attempt to assist students in achieving their academic goals across a wide variety of subject areas. Services include the Math Lab, Writing Center, Success Coaching, Testing Center, and Peer-Led tutoring. McDermott Library (MC 1.302), (972)-883-6707

Student Transition Programs

The [Student Transition Programs](#) office provides programming, services, involvement opportunities and websites specific to transfer, sophomore, junior and senior student populations. Student Transition Programs help UT Dallas students adjust, get connected, stay focused and make a more seamless transition from one classification to the next. Student Services Addition (SSA) 14.431 972-883-6170

Student Wellness Center

The [Student Wellness Center](#) promotes health, fitness and responsible personal choices among UT Dallas students through educational programs, resources and individual consultations. Staff members can craft programs appropriate for students, groups, departments, professors or staff members regarding topics such as sexual responsibility, gender-specific health, fitness, alcohol/other drugs, and other wellness topics.

Student Services Building (SSB) 4.500, (972)-883-4275

Transfer Student Services

[Transfer Student Services](#) offers support to new and returning transfer students through transfer orientations and connecting them to information, resources and success tips specifically for transfer students. Student Services Addition (SSA) 14.431, (972)-883-6170

Safety on Campus

Campus Alerts and Warning Systems

Mass Notification System

In the event of an emergency or natural disaster, the campus community will be notified as quickly as possible through several means of communication, including via a campus alert email, the University's website, campus and local media, text-messaging, building fire alarm or indoor warning systems, and outdoor warning systems. Visit utdallas.edu/textme to opt-in to these services.

Safety Awareness

- Keep your car doors locked and windows up, both while traveling and when the vehicle is parked. Check the inside of your car before entering.
- Lock your car doors while driving. Lock your car doors and roll up your windows when leaving your car parked.
- Keep your car in good running condition.
- Accessories such as cell phones, laptops, iPads, iPods etc. are prime targets for thieves. Do not leave items in full view.

Campus Escorts

A [walking escort service](#) is available 24 hours a day, year round. A police officer, police guard, Student Patrol Officer or a police explorer will meet you at your location and walk with you to any area on campus. To request an escort, call 972-883-2222.

Emergency Call Stations

Emergency call boxes are bronze in color on the academic portions of campus and blue in the residential areas of campus. All E-Phones have a blue light which illuminates beginning at dusk. E-Phones are strategically located throughout campus and are designed for use in emergency situations. E-Phones are connected directly to the UT Dallas police communications center. If a call box is activated, a police officer will be dispatched to the location immediately.

Lost and Found

The police department maintains the Lost and Found for the University. Lost and Found items can be dropped off or picked up at the Comet Center, Student Union 2.204. To check the status of a lost item, visit the [Lost and Found website](#) and submit an inquiry using the online form provided.

Vehicle Assistance

Vehicle assistance is offered to individuals who need a battery jump and other help. To request assistance, call 972-883-2222.

VIN Etching

The [VIN etching program](#) is a free service where law enforcement etch your vehicle identification number, or VIN, onto each glass window of a vehicle. The process takes about 10 minutes to complete and makes your vehicle less desirable to a car thief. You are also eligible to save up to 10 percent on your comprehensive car insurance premium. Contact the UT Dallas crime prevention unit at 972-883-4322 for the next scheduled event.

Weather Emergencies

Tornado

The Texas Tornado season generally lasts from March to May.

- A Tornado Watch means you should be aware of approaching storms.
- A Tornado Warning means a tornado has been spotted by storms spotters, radar, or that a tornado is imminent. You should shelter indoors immediately.

Be aware of tornado danger signs, including a dark greenish sky, hail, low-lying clouds or loud roaring sounds.

What to Do in the Event of a Tornado

On Campus

- Be aware. Know the severe weather shelter areas on campus.

- In a building, go directly to an enclosed, windowless area on the lowest floor in the center of the building, away from glass, and crouch, covering your head.

En Route

- If outside with no shelter available, take cover in a ditch or on low ground, but be aware of flooding.
- Do not go under an overpass; it can become a wind tunnel.
- Never stay in a vehicle or chase a storm. Watch out for flying/falling debris
- Do not call 911 unless you need to report an emergency.

Flooding/ Flash Floods

Major storms or water main breaks can cause flooding. Flash floods can develop quickly, sometimes in just a few minutes and without any visible signs of rain. Listen for information from media, public safety or facilities. Move to a safe area and assist anyone with special needs, but do not walk through moving water. A foot of water will float most vehicles.

Extreme Heat

Summers are long and hot in Texas, and it is important to take precautions to avoid heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Keep a supply of water handy and drink plenty of water even if you do not feel thirsty. Try to stay inside during the warmest hours of the day and limit sun exposure. Protect your face and skin by wearing a hat and light-colored clothing. Muscle pains and spasms are usually the first indicator of heat exhaustion.

Winter Weather

In the event of freezing weather, monitor media for weather and closure information. Be careful if walking during or after a snow or ice storm to avoid personal injury. Keep safe distances while driving.

Vehicle Emergency Kit

For simple roadside assistance, an emergency kit can come in handy. Make sure you have these items in your vehicle in case of an emergency:

_____ **Auto-club card or roadside-assistance number.** If you belong to an auto club or roadside-assistance program, be sure you have the necessary information in your vehicle.

_____ **First-aid kit.** Choose one that allows you to treat a range of problems, from small cuts or burns to ones that require major bandaging.

_____ **Flashlight.** Choose one that is bright and weatherproof. Also, have extra batteries available.

_____ **Foam tire sealant or a portable compressor and plug kit.** For minor punctures, a non-flammable foam tire sealant can be a temporary fix. Only use it in an emergency. Note that many tire shops will refuse to repair a tire because of the sticky residue these sealants leave behind.

_____ **Gloves, hand cleaner and clean rags.** Even simple jobs can get your hands dirty.

_____ **Jack and lug wrench.** Almost all vehicles come with these items for changing a tire.

_____ **Jumper cables or a portable battery booster.** Jumper cables are easy to use as long as you have a second car available to provide a jump. A portable battery booster eliminates the need for a second car.

_____ **Spare fuses.** If you experience an electrical problem, your first check should be for a burned-out fuse. Keep an assortment on hand of the proper type for your vehicle.

_____ **Tire gauge.** It is a good idea to test the tire gauge when a significant change in temperature occurs and during monthly tire checkups.

_____ **Warning light, hazard triangle, or flares.** Look for a battery-powered warning light that can be placed far from the vehicle. Reflective hazard triangles and flares are also effective and don't require batteries.

_____ **Windshield scraper.** Good visibility is your most important safety item, but persistent snow and ice can build up quickly and make it hard to see. A long-handled, soft-bristled brush can also come in handy.