



LIVING IN THE U.S.A. – PRACTICAL / SURVIVAL INFORMATION

Information to help you stay in the U.S. comfortably

FALL 2025

DRIVING IN THE U.S.A.



Requirements:

1.) California Driver's License

2.) Automobile Insurance

3.) Vehicle Registration

Road Rules

1. **Seatbelt:** Required for **DRIVERS and ALL PASSENGERS**
2. **Right Turn on Red:** Okay, except if there is a sign saying you can't.
3. **School Buses:** Stop when the bus's red lights are flashing.
4. **Bicycle Lanes:** Bicyclist must follow the same rule as automobile
(**Ride on the right side of the road**)
5. **Pedestrians:** You must stop when pedestrians enter crosswalks
6. **Do Not Drink and Drive!**

Accidents

1. **Call the police when:** injury/death is involved; damages exceeding \$750
Ask the police officer how to get a traffic accident report.
2. If possible, try to **take pictures** before the cars are moved.
3. **Get the other driver's information:** name, DL number, telephone number, name of insurance policy and policy number.

DMV in San Marcos
1706 Descanso Ave
San Marcos, CA 92078
(800) 777-0133

DUI:

Driving under influence
(alcohol and/or drugs)

****Designated Driver** (DD)**

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

North County Transit District



Breeze

Commute to School. More stops.



Sprinter

Commute to School, Going Out East/West (From Escondido to the beach)



Coaster

North/South (Travel to Downtown San Diego)



Amtrak

Travel towards Los Angeles (Disneyland: Anaheim station)

The Amtrak train goes beyond the state of California.

Website: gonctd.com

HOUSING



Homestay: Futures Abroad, <https://www.fahomestay.com/>

Homestay Match, <https://homestaymatch.com/>

- * Private Room
- * Breakfast, dinner everyday
- * Lunchtime snack when at home

Rental: Apartment Guide Online



MEDICAL INSURANCE

How to Buy: Go to Palomar College | Home (mycare26.com)

Select 2025-2026 Palomar College – International.

Choose coverage by each semester or yearly. You need to open an account and get the App on your phone. Your insurance card is in the App.

Emergency Room

For common colds and sickness, make an appointment to see a doctor.

Go to Emergency Room Only with the following condition

- * Chest pain
- * Difficulty breathing
- * Severe bleeding or head trauma
- * Loss of consciousness
- * Sudden loss of vision or blurred vision



PALOMAR COLLEGE HEALTH SERVICES

Health Center building across from the Natural Science building



First Aid

Immunizations(MMR, Tetanus, Hepatitis B, Flu Shots)
Health Screening (blood pressure, hearing and vision, TB
Cholesterol screening, HIV testing)
Physical Exam
Non-prescription medications

Appointments for:

Nurse visit
Nurse practitioner visit
Physician visit





MENTAL SURVIVAL

You need to seek help for:

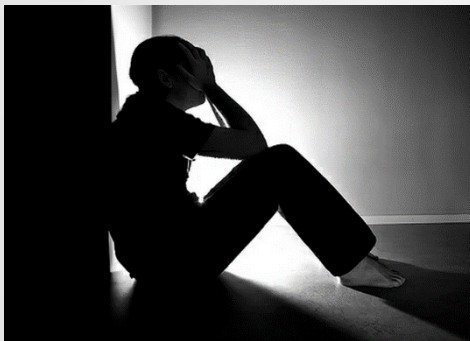
Depression

Eating Disorders

Alcohol and/or drugs dependency

Domestic Violence

Rape



We can refer you to the specialist

ON CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

Eligibility: In legal F-1 status; enrolled full-time
up to 20 hours per week

How to find it: [HR Student Employment board](#)
Cafeteria
Bookstore
Custodial Services (Facilities Office, RS-1)

After being hired

You will need to apply for a social security number

1. Letter from your supervisor
2. Letter from the Office of International Education
3. Take both letters with your passport, I-94 information and I-20 form to SSA office

SSA Office: 367 Via Vera Cruz, San Marcos, CA 92078
M-F, 9am to 4pm except federal holidays

