

TRANSPORTATION & DRIVING

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Car Rental - It is probably better to have a car while looking for a place to live, especially if you are looking for off campus housing. Here are the phone numbers & hours for the airport location of companies from which you can rent a car. There are several locations for each company throughout the city. To find the location nearest you, be sure to call the toll free phone number or check out their website.

National Car Rental (Nashville airport)

Tel: 1-800-227-7368; Local: 615-361-7467

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

Hours: Sun-Sat: 06:00 AM-11:59 PM

Alamo (Nashville airport)

Tel: 1-800-462-5266; Local: 615-275-1050

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

Hours: Sun-Sat: 6:00 AM-11:59 PM

Enterprise Rent-A-Car (Nashville airport)

Tel: 1-800-261-7331; Local: 615-275-0011

http://www.enterprise.com/car_rental/

Hours vary, call or look on-line for more information

Hertz (Nashville airport)

Tel: 1-800-654-3131; Local: 615-361-3131

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

Hours: Sun-Sat: 06:00 AM-11:59 PM

Dollar (Nashville airport)

Tel: 1-800-800-3665; Local: 615-275-1921

<http://www.dollar.com>

Hours: Sun-Thurs: 6:00 AM-11:59 PM; Fri & Sat: 6:00 AM-11:00 PM

Taxis - It is difficult to catch a taxi in the city unless you are at a large hotel or downtown on weekends. **Driving after drinking alcohol is strictly prohibited in Nashville!** Keep the phone numbers of taxi companies handy.

Music City Taxi: Tel.615-742-3030

United Cab: Tel.615-228-6969

Yellow Cab: Tel.615-252-0101

Bus - Bus schedules/routes can either be obtained at the ISSS Office, the Post Office at the Sarratt Student Center, or on the Nashville MTA website (since bus schedules/routes change occasionally, it is best to check the most updated schedule on the MTA website). Buses normally run every 20-25 minutes on weekdays from 5:30 am to 10:30 pm, and every hour on Saturday and Sunday from 6:30 am to 8:00 pm.

Nashville MTA

Tel: 615-862-5950

<http://www.nashvillemta.org/>

Fares:

Adult (Local Service) \$ 1.35

Adult (Express Service) \$ 1.85

31-Day Pass (unlimited rides for 31 days) \$65.00

7-Day Pass (unlimited rides for 7 days) \$18.00

Most MTA bus stops are marked with a blue and white sign. Signs in the downtown area have numbers and names of all routes serving that stop. If bus stops have not yet been installed on your bus route, walk to the nearest intersection of the street traveled by the bus you wish to board and flag it down when it comes in sight. Do not hesitate to ask the bus driver if you are unsure if you are on the correct bus.

Airport Shuttles

Gray Line Airport Express

Tel: (615) 883-5555

www.graylinenashville.com

Rates: one way - \$12, roundtrip - \$20 (check for any rate changes)

This shuttle services the downtown and West End area hotels (several which are near Vanderbilt campus). Service begins at 5:00 am and runs until 11:00 pm. Shuttles depart every 15-20 minutes from the airport and every 30 minutes for most hotels.

More information regarding airport transportation can be found at the Nashville International Airport's website at http://www.flynashville.com/ground_trans/default.aspx.

PLEASE NOTE: Public transportation is VERY limited in Nashville.

Driving

Automobiles - Because public transportation is limited in Nashville, you may want to consider purchasing a car, although many students are fine without one. In order to drive a car, you have to get a driver license issued by the state of Tennessee - even if you have an international driver license. As of October 1, 2007, international students and immigrants are only allowed to get a Temporary Driver License.

Temporary Driver License - Driver licenses are obtainable from Tennessee Department of Safety offices. To obtain one, you must pass a vision test, a written test examining your knowledge of Tennessee's traffic rules, and a road test (driving test). You can study the traffic rules and regulations from the official website of the Tennessee Department of Safety. You can also get a Tennessee Driver Handbook from this website.

The road test (driving test) takes about 10 minutes. There is no parking test except when you actually park your car at the end of the test. However, you should allot a full day to take the test as the testing centers can be very crowded, and it's hard to predict wait times. REMEMBER TO FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELT—it is required in Tennessee for all passengers.

For more information contact:

Tennessee Department of Safety

<http://www.state.tn.us/safety/>

1150 Foster Avenue Nashville, TN 37249

Tel: 615-741-3954

Tel: 615-251-5310 (Driver License Issuance)

All driver license information is available on this website, including a practice test

<http://www.state.tn.us/safety/dlmain.htm>

Required for taking the test:

**Please check the Tennessee Department of Safety website for detailed information on acceptable documents. **

- Proof of your age and full name, such as your passport or birth certificate, and proof of any name changes since issued (for example, a marriage license).
- Proof of legal status in U.S. – valid passport with I-94 card and valid I-20/DS-2019.
- Proof of Tennessee Residency (two statements or bills from official organizations showing your address in Tennessee: documents from your bank, utility service, your leasing contract or any other bills you receive at your home address).
- A car that you will use for the road test (most students own their own cars before taking the test and drive their car with an international license or some students borrow a car from a friend).

Test Centers

624 Hart Lane Nashville, TN 37216

Tel: 615-532-9780

<http://www.state.tn.us/safety/dlstations/davidson.htm>

Hours: Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*Note: 2nd Wednesday of the month Station opens 1 hour later. This one is more international friendly. The office opens at 8:30 but be prepared to arrive before 7:30.

6604 Centennial Blvd. Nashville, TN 37209

Tel: 615-741-4560, 741-4561

<http://www.state.tn.us/safety/dlstations/davidson2.htm>

Hours: Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*Note: 2nd Wednesday of the month Station opens 1hour later.

Buying a Car - In Nashville, there are several ways to search for a car. You can go to car dealers, look at advertisements in local newspapers or car magazines, or the classified ads posted by Vanderbilt students and alumni. Prices of used cars can be checked at the “Blue Book” website: www.kbb.com. Since the quality of used cars is hard to measure and buying a car may use up a significant portion of your finances, it is much better to consider the following options before making any decisions.

Car Dealers - There are two kinds of car dealers in Nashville – certified car dealers and non-certified car dealers. If you are considering spending more than \$8,000 on a used car or you want to search for a car less than 5 years old it is much better to buy it from certified car dealers. Those car dealers are the local distributors certified by specific car manufacturers. In other words, car manufacturers have to guarantee the quality of used cars sold in those car dealers, and you can also enjoy the maintenance services provided by them.

If you are considering spending less than \$8000 on a used car and you are not familiar the mechanics of cars, looking for a non-certified car dealers may be a reasonable choice. CarMax, which is located near the “100 Oaks Shopping Mall”, is the largest non-certified car dealer in the U.S. Just like the certified car dealers, it guarantees the quality of its used cars and offers maintenance services. However, the quality of the cars may not be comparable to that offered by certified car dealers. The price range of CarMax’s inventory is between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

If you want to spend less than \$5,000, you may consider buying a car from other non-certified car dealers. To minimize fraud, only buy a car from a non-certified car dealer which is authorized by the State of Tennessee. According to the law, all car dealers must have a license (posted in their office) authorized by the Tennessee state government.

Local Auto Dealerships:

Beaman Toyota 1525 Broadway Nashville, TN 37203

Tel: 615-251-8400

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

Hippodrome Nissan 1212 Broadway, Nashville, TN, 37203

Tel: 615-248-5100

<http://www.hippodromecars.com>

Crest Honda 2215 Metro Center Blvd Nashville, TN 37228

Tel: 800-236-4285

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

International
Student & Scholar
Services

Crown Ford 646 Thompson Lane Nashville, TN 37204

Tel: 800-432-2897

<http://www.crownford.com>

Saturn of Nashville 1535 Gallatin Pike North Madison, TN 37115

Tel: 615-868-0659

<http://www.saturnofnashville.com>

CarMax 2501 Powell Avenue Nashville, TN 37204

Tel: 888-661-9898 (Toll Free)

Tel: 615-269-3703

<http://www.carmax.com>

Individual Sellers - To find individual sellers, look in car magazines available at supermarkets/stores or search the classified ads in the automobile section of the Tennessean newspaper, <http://www.tennessean.com/>

If you buy a car from non-certified car dealers or individuals, consider the following procedures:

1. Check the VIN number of your favorite car
2. Use the VIN number to check the car's history from www.carfax.com in order to see any history of accidents or damage.
3. Drive and check the car yourself or with someone who is familiar with the mechanics of cars.

4. Take the car to Firestone Tire & Auto Center (1221 Broadway 615.255.6627) for an inspection test before making your purchase.
5. Make sure that the name and address on the title is the same as the seller's name and address by checking their ID. (Individual sellers only)
6. Take the title of the car entitled by the previous owner (Individual sellers only) or the document of transfer entitled by the car dealer.
7. Obtain a temporary plate issued by the car dealer in order to drive the car before getting your "official" plate from the County Clerk.

Car Registration

1. A Vehicle Emissions Inspection is required prior to obtaining your state license plates. The fee is \$9.00. There are 10 locations in the area. Visit <http://www.nashvillevip.org> or call (615) 340-5656 for information.
2. Visit <http://www.tennessee.gov/revenue/vehicle/index.htm> for instructions and information on vehicle titling and registration. Take the title of your car signed by the previous owner and your identification documents to the County Clerk's Office for registration. (County Clerk's office is at 523 Mainstream Dr., 615-862-6050, Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., M-F)
2. Pay the registration fee and get your plates.
3. The title certificate will be sent to your mailing address.

Automobile Insurance - If you purchase your own car, **you must have third-party automobile insurance**. Prices vary so check with several agents before deciding. Often your car dealer will offer an insurance contract but this may not always be the cheapest route. Sufficient coverage is recommended; otherwise you will be liable for any damages incurred in an accident.

To find insurance companies, contact the companies listed below directly or access www.yahoo.com auto section and compare quotes for each company.

Auto Club South (Progressive)
2501 Hillsboro Rd., Ste. 1, Nashville, TN 37212
Tel: 615-297-7700
<http://www.aaa.com/>

GEICO Tel: 1-800-861-8380
<http://www.geico.com/>

State Farm 1-877-SF4-BANK (1-877-734-2265)
<http://www.statefarm.com/>

Auto Repair and Services

Carl Wood's Garage

108 28th Avenue N (Behind McDonald's on West End): 615-327-3861

Eddie's Garage

412 40th Avenue North: 615-321-3601

Sears Automotive Center

5252 Hickory Hollow Parkway: 615-731-9528

Whaley's Paint and Body Shop

5300 Alabama Avenue (off Charlotte Pike, near I-40): 615-298-5437

Wilkie's Safety Lane

4400 Charlotte Avenue: 615-292-3464

International
Student & Scholar
Services

Parking

If you drive a car on campus and plan to park on University property, you have to register for a parking permit from Vanderbilt University. You can apply for this at the Office of Traffic and Parking located on the ground floor of the Wesley Place Parking Garage. You can also apply via their website. The parking permit costs about \$252/year. This permit is valid one year from August to August, so if you are participating in the summer program, you need to get a temporary permit during July. Do not to park on campus without permission, or you will receive a parking ticket and your car may be towed.

Office of Traffic and Parking

Wesley Place Garage

2043 Scarritt Place Nashville, TN 37203 Tel: 322-2554

http://www.vanderbilt.edu/traffic_parking

E-mail: parking@vanderbilt.edu

Traffic

Traffic is often heavy in the morning (7:30-9:00 a.m.) traveling toward downtown, and in the evening (4:30-6:00 p.m.) traveling away from downtown in Nashville. It might be necessary to plan on adding thirty minutes to your commute depending on traffic conditions. You may also check current traffic conditions on the Tennessee Department of Transportation's website at <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/tdotsmartway/>.

International
Student & Scholar
Services

