

# Know It All Document 1.1

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## 1. Apartment hunt

### For international student

Apartment hunt should start prior to Visa application, since you will be asked for an address in US. To do so, you should prepare one month early, before filling in your online application to have a negotiation period with rental agencies/landlords. It is also a good idea to print and bring the lease for visa interview, custom check and state ID/driver license application. Airbnb is a good alternative costs around \$60/two guests/night.

### Apartment

Apartments are usually one-floor, equipped with compact, full set kitchen appliances (stove, microwave, oven, dishwasher, refrigerator). Apartment buildings and facilities are managed by management company, usually responds faster with repairment requests. Common area may have swimming pool and gym, some of the apartments have elevators and washer/dryer in unit. Some apartments complex give discounts to students, so it's important to ask.

### Townhouse

To be frank, townhouse is a house linking with other houses. Townhouses tend to have two floors, with kitchen and living room on the first floor, and bedrooms on the second floor. You may get two bathrooms! HOA will be responsible for lawn and swimming pool caring, but they will also have a list of not-dos. You really need to check the condition of kitchen appliances and bathroom(s) prior to moving, and make sure to file a paper of impairments to your rental company/landlord with signature and save a copy.

### On Campus Living

Be early (March if not earlier) if you want to apply for Baity Hill, the only apartment site for graduate students on campus, application fee of \$300 should be paid after filing your application to get you in the queue.

UNC estimates living on/off campus costs around \$7,000 per year (10 months)<sup>1</sup>. Prices are usually lower in the spring, even if rental contract starts by fall. It's a good location if two buses routes or more pass by.

Pest control should be handled by anyone but you, you can ask for student legal service at:

<https://www.uncstudentlegal.unc.edu>

## 2. Shopping list to think about and options

\*Make sure big furniture can be disassembled to move in vehicles. \*

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<sup>1</sup> Costs. (2021, December 9). Office of Scholarships and Student Aid. <https://studentaid.unc.edu/current/costs/>

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1. Mattress and bedframe: foldable bedframes are lighter therefore easier to carry upstairs, but they are not as strong and stable as screw tightened ones.
  - a. Single person: size twin, twin XL
  - b. Two: full, queen, king, cal king (rare)
2. Desk and desk chair are not necessity if you can utilize Gilling's study spaces such as MHC open area and health science library across the road, you should be able to use empty classrooms as well.
3. Dresser is not a necessity if you can utilize a closet, can be replaced with plastic boxes with lids, easy to find in target on W Franklin St.
4. Dining table set will come with chairs, item without "set" normally is a single table
5. Kitchen items: pans, plates, bowls, silverwares, food containers, ice tray (maybe)
6. Electronics: coffee maker, slow cooker, kettle;
7. Additional lights: may need to purchase light bulb separately, test them if you are purchasing from thrift shops.

### **3. Thrift shop for furniture**

Thrift shop is good for budgeting your first month, you can buy and leave your purchase with a later pick-up date with no additional charge. Do note that the stores may assign 2-7 days for pick-up but usually no more than that, and usually they have a no-return policy.

#### **Community Worx Thrift Shop**

*125 W Main St #100, Carrboro, NC 27510*

Worx is a great shop if you live around Jones Ferry Rd or NC-54 (the road). They have good quality product in reasonable price. Normally, you can find a desk, a sofa, or a dresser with a \$30 price tag. Take off the tag to cashier, pay and pick up in a later day, you can ask the staff help you load your purchase into the car. You can also find small kitchen items like plates and bowls, normally they are \$1 each, but be sure to check the price sticker on them.

Bad thing about worx is that items are first come first serve – that's why you should take off the price tag if you want to buy a big piece furniture. I will recommend anyone to check worx several times to build an ideal home, normally they put up new items after 10 a.m. Bus stops at front door.

#### **Durham Rescue Mission Thrift Store**

*3900 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd, Durham, NC 27707*

Rescue Mission is a little far away from campus, but they can store items for pick up as well. It is a big warehouse, theoretically you should be able to find everything before the orientation starts. The price may not go as low as Worx as they may be in a better condition. Chairs on the second deck is \$10 each, very fair price.

Rescue Mission has coffee makers and slow cookers if you wondered.

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### **Habitat ReStore**

*5501 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd, Durham, NC 27707*

Habitat is also a little far-fetched, close to Rescue Mission. The warehouse is a good place to buy mattresses, bedframes, kitchen furniture and sofas. Go before orientation, and make sure the mattress you are getting fits into the bedframe, for example, twin XL is longer than twin size, even they are the same width.

Habitat may be the better place to get kitchen supplies since they have a few more shelves of them. And grab some LED bulb if you are living in an old house with filament bulbs.

### **FreeCycle for Free Furnitures**

<https://www.freecycle.org>

It's free. Report to the generous neighbor at once to lock that furniture. You will need a car and be prepared for a 30-minute drive.

## **4. Moving**

### **U-HAUL**

U-HAUL has vehicles designed for moving big furniture around. It charges on time, miles or both. The vehicle needs to be booked ideally many days before and you will go to a certain location to avoid the deliver charge. <https://www.uhaul.com>

### **Choose a LUCKY friend**

An ideal LUCKY friend will have a car bigger than SUV with foldable back seat, great muscle strength if you need furniture carried to upper floor, and willing to help you for a few days so both of you can have rest in between. You know what to do after moving.

## **5. Food Expenses and options**

Normal, weekly grocery in local supermarket costs around \$30-50 (including tax); dining in restaurants costs around \$15-20 (including tax and tip). There are many choices of supermarket/market around campus.

### **Harris Teeter**

*Carr Mill Mall, 310 N Greensboro St, Carrboro, NC 27510*

*University Mall, 2110 S Estes Dr, Chapel Hill, NC 27514*

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Harris Teeter is the local supermarket for some Chapel Hill residents. 5% discount with free VIC membership card (apply with driver license/state ID/passport), and additional 10% student discount with Onecard to a certain time.

University Mall site has more discount and merchandise choices.

### **Food Lion**

*104 NC-54 Unit A, Carrboro, NC 27510  
602 Jones Ferry Rd A, Carrboro, NC 27510  
1720 Fordham Blvd, Chapel Hill, NC 27514*

Grocery is reasonable priced; it is also a big supermarket to shop from if not the biggest.

### **Target**

*143 W Franklin St Ste 120, Chapel Hill, NC 27516*

Target on Franklin is a small supermarket, a few budget-friendly things to look for are laundry baskets, trash cans, towels and mirrors. 20% discount for upcoming students to a certain time.

### **Trader Joe's**

*1800 E Franklin St, Chapel Hill, NC 27514*

Trader Joe's is slightly more expensive than the other supermarkets, they have some branded pre-prepared food worth a try.

### **Whole food**

*81 S Elliott Rd, Chapel Hill, NC 27514*

Whole food is known by expensive, organic food. It is still a supermarket choice with some rare food options.

### **Carrboro/Chapel Hill Farmer's Market**

*301 W Main St, Carrboro, NC 27510  
201 S Estes Dr, Chapel Hill, NC 27514*

Local farm produces markets open by 8-12 a.m. Saturday, and 3-6 p.m. Wednesday. They are good places to realize the population of UNC area, listen to music and having a good time.

## **6. Identification in US**

### **State ID**

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The North Carolina State ID can be used as a prove of residency for tuition purpose. It is recommended to register a state ID once all required documents are ready. State ID of North Carolina are issued by local DMV office, one office within reach is located by the entrance of Carrboro Plaza on NC-54: *100 NC-54 #104-JJ, Carrboro, NC 27510.*

The DMV office in Carrboro takes online scheduled appointments and walk-ins. Online appointments are looking at 2-3 months waiting period as this document drafted in September 2022, therefore, it is recommended to utilize walk-in as an alternative. Walk-in individuals are grouped by 5 for indoor waiting with appointment tickets, next group(s) are instructed to waiting in line outside of the office. It is estimated to take 2-4 hours through the whole process. Although DMV closes by 5 p.m., walk-in appointments may end before that, it should be noticed that officers take lunch breaks as well.

Things to bring with you:

1. Passport with current Visa stamp
2. I-20 form printed
3. Most recent I-94 printed
4. Lease or Utility bill including: electricity, water, gas, internet, etc.
5. Photo for ID will be taken at DMV.
6. Payment of \$14

If you are in line and found materials missing, the UPS store in plaza provides computer charged by time usage and printing services. Make sure to get an appointment ticket to saving some waiting time if you were entering indoor waiting.

For more information, please refer to ISSS webpage at: <https://iss.unc.edu/resources-2/drivers-licensestate-identification-card/>

### **Social Security Number (SSN)**

Things to bring with you:

1. Passport with current Visa stamp
2. I-20 form printed
3. Most recent I-94 printed
4. Employment letter from employer
5. Approval letter from ISSS
6. SSN application form filled

The office is located in 3511 Shannon Road, Suite 200, Durham, NC 27707. The recommendation is to arrive early as the office Service is on a walk-in basis, first-come first-serve, so the waiting times can be long.

## **7. Immunization**

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## COVID-19

### Flu Vaccination

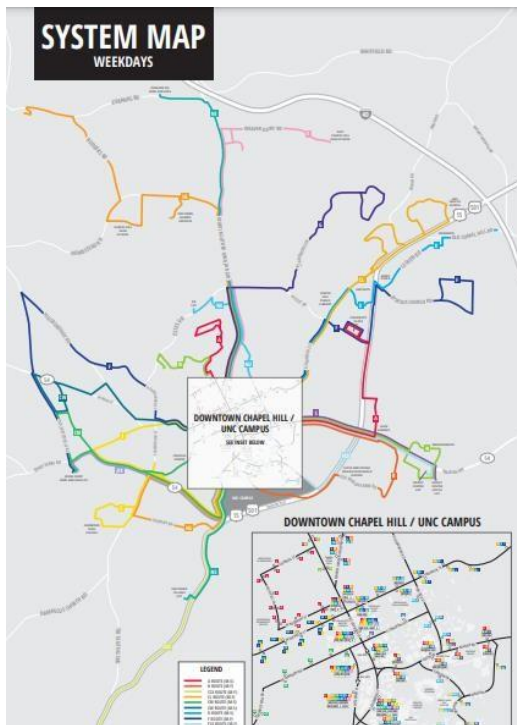
Flu shots are offered free of charge in the basement of Campus Health *James A. Taylor building* open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Things to bring with you:

1. Insurance Card
2. One Card

## 8. Transportation

Buses in Chapel Hill and Carrboro are for free, giving service all week. Some buses (400 and 800) also give free service to Durham and Raleigh



## 9. Travel outside US

To travel outside US it's important to verify with the ISSS the I-20 form as there's a process where the ISSS representative needs to sign your I-20.



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## 10. Coming with family to UNC

There are several processes and places that are worth considering if you come with a partner and/or children

### Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools

Website: <https://www.chccs.org/>

Within the public-school system there is a bilingual program: English – Spanish and English – Chinese. For this programs it is important to visit the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools website for more information on the requirements and application process.

### Museums for kids in the Triangle Area

#### Kidzu Children’s Museum

<https://www.kidzuchildrensmuseum.org/>

Address: 201 S. Estes Drive Chapel Hill 27514

Kidzu’s is a multi-sensory, play-centered, and focused on providing area children and their families an ever-changing menu of exhibits and programs that inspire creativity, collaboration and community.

Kidzu’s offers memberships for annual access to the museum and for activities.

Aprox. cost per person: \$8.50

Hours:

Tuesday – Saturday | 10:00 am – 5:00 pm    Sunday | 12:30 pm – 5:00 pm

#### Marbles Kids Museum

<https://www.marbleskidsmuseum.org/>

Address: 201 East Hargett Street Raleigh, NC 27601

Marbles it’s a kid’s museum that offers IMAX movies, exhibits, and various activities for kids and families in Raleigh, NC.

Aprox. cost per person: \$9.00

Marbles offers memberships for annual access to the museum and for activities.

Tuesday – Sunday | 10:00 am – 5:00 pm    Thursday | 10:00 pm – 7:00 pm

### Parks for kids in Chapel Hill/Carrboro

#### Southern Community Park In Chapel Hill

1000 Sumac Rd, Chapel Hill, NC

Great facilities with lots of green space, waking paths, dog park with lots of room and tennis courts.

#### Chapel Hill Community Center Park

120 S Estes Dr, Chapel Hill, NC

Plenty of areas for kids to play with trails to run, basketball and tennis courts

#### Henry Anderson III Community Park

302 N Carolina Hwy 54 W

The park has trails back in the woods, has a disc golf course, fenced dog park, playgrounds and a lake

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### **Wilson Park**

110 Williams St, Carrboro, NC

Great for hiking, has tennis courts, kid's area and baseball field

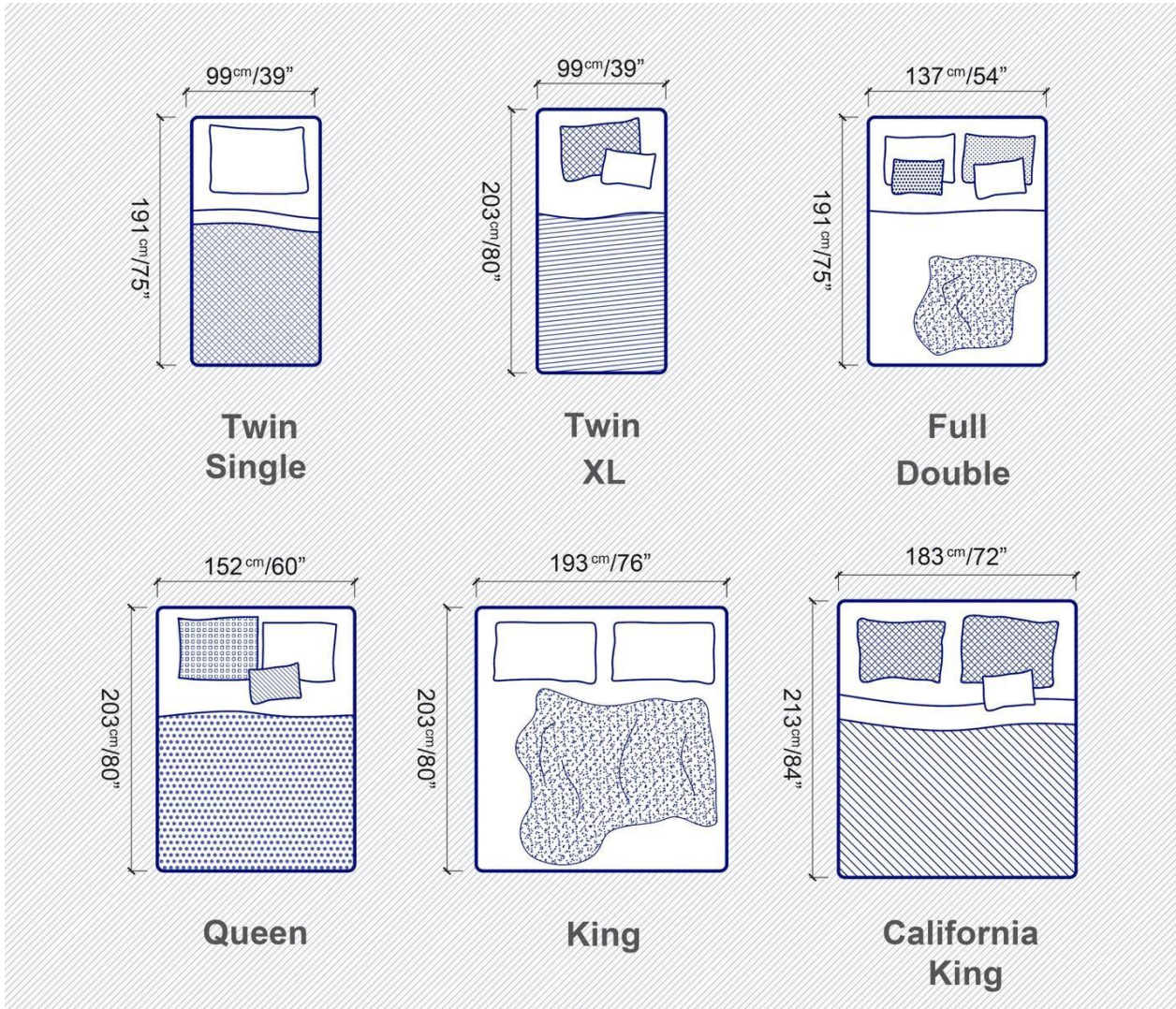
### **Umstead Park**

399 Umstead Dr, Chapel Hill, NC

Kid's area, place for grill's , 2 spinners, bars for climbing /swinging, plenty of space for running, basketball and volleyball courts

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## Appendix 1 Mattress size



*Bed guide: 5 tips on choosing the right size mattress. (2022, August 9).*

ArchDaily. <https://www.archdaily.com/986716/bed-guide-5-tips-on-choosing-the-right-size-mattress>