

DC DIRECTIONS & TRANSPORT GUIDE

GETTING TO DC:

You have many options for getting to D.C. Following is an *estimated* cost for each. Please look around on the web to find the best deals, and **ask about student discounts.**

Bus: Grey Hound: about \$85 refundable fare, around \$60 for 14-day advance purchase. This is a long, 10-hour bus ride that goes through NYC and drops you off near Union Station in DC. Also, check out a good run down on VERY affordable buses between DC and NY found here: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/artsandliving/travel/busreview/>

Train: Amtrak: about \$92 at minimum but averages around \$130. It's a 9-hour train ride going through NYC and stopping at Union Station. *Save 15% with your student ID card.

Plane: Typically, about \$300 for a roundtrip ticket. Prices rise as dates near, so book early. Fly into Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA) and you can hop right on the metro. Flights into Dulles or Baltimore-Washington International are typically cheaper, but you will have to grab a cab, shuttle or the train to get into DC. Check out Super Shuttle for good shared van rates from IAD.

Rent a car: About \$100 for one day, one-way to DC. You must have a valid driver's license to rent a car, and many places require driver to be at least 25 years of age. Make sure to inquire about any additional mileage and insurance costs up front. Check Expedia or Hotwire for deals!

GETTING AROUND DC:

THE METRO

Metro is a convenient way to get around the Washington, DC metropolitan area. You can explore the city without the hassles of traffic and parking or the expense of gas.

- Metro's Trip Planner lets you plan routes between two destinations, allowing you to optimize your trip itinerary based on your preferences. Suggested trip itineraries also include the fare, the estimated travel time, and any walking directions
- Metrorail fares vary by time of day and the distance between stations.
- Metro System maps, time schedules, fares, etc can be found at: www.wmata.com
- The system runs 5:00am-11:30pm Monday-Thursday, 5:00am-1:00am Friday, 7:00am-1:00am Saturday and 8:00am-11:00pm on Sundays.

You will have to purchase a SmarTrip® card or weekly pass, depending on your usage.

- Permanent, rechargeable farecard online: www.wmata.com/riding/smartrip.cfm
- Available for \$2.00 at Metro stations or CVS pharmacies.
- Weekly passes may be a better bargain if you will only be in DC short term (1 or 2 weeks).
- Discounts only given to senior citizens, disabled passengers, or to students attending DC public schools.

TAKE THE BUS!

Frequently the bus can get you closer to your destination and is less expensive so don't ignore the bus system! Look into the schedule: http://www.wmata.com/timetables/bus_timetables.cfm

- Use your SmarTrip card on the bus!

The Circulator Bus:

- The Circulator Bus is only 1.00 and buses run every 10 minutes.
- There are several routes around DC:
<http://www.dccirculator.com/Home/BusRoutesandSchedules.aspx>

If you are going to use the Metro system (bus or rail), I HIGHLY recommend getting an app that shows you closest stops, routes and next arrival. My favorite is DC Bus Track.

PARKING

Parking in DC is expensive - upwards of \$18 per day! – and they ticket cars assiduously as it's a big revenue-generator, so your best bet is to use the easily-accessible public transportation system (buses and metro).

- There is NO PARKING at CSIS and street parking is reserved for residents within the District.
- You can apply for a [reciprocity permit](#) for street parking if you have a housing lease in DC or are staying in our student apartments. These cost about \$350 and run on one-year terms.
- Street parking is typically available if you are living in VA or MD.
- Many people bike in DC and there are a variety of low-cost ride options and car rentals which avoid the hassle of parking.

CAPITAL BIKE SHARE – PLEASE WEAR A HELMET!!

Capital Bikeshare puts over 1800+ bicycles at your fingertips.

- You can choose any of the 200+ stations across Washington, D.C., Arlington and Alexandria, VA and Montgomery County, MD and return it to any station near your destination.
- Check out a bike for your trip to work, Metro, run errands, go shopping, or visit friends.
- You can join Capital Bikeshare for a day, 3 days, a month, a year or try their new daily key option, and have access to the fleet of bikes 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- The first 30 minutes of each trip are free. Each additional 30 minutes incurs an additional fee.
- Capital Bikeshare bikes are easy, fun and safe to use and ride. They are step-thru frames, have 3 speeds, front and rear flashing LED lights and a handy front rack. Plus the internal hub gears, chain guard and fenders keep you riding clean, confidently and in style.

For detailed information and to sign up: <http://www.capitalbikeshare.com/>

PRE-RIDE BIKE CHECKS:

It's always a good idea to check out your bike before starting a ride. Below are a few simple things to check for a safe ride:

- Air: Push each tire hard against a curb. If you can flatten it, it needs air.
- Wheel Spin: Lift each wheel up and give it a slow spin (spin the back wheel forward so the pedals don't move). Check that the wheel spins freely and doesn't rub against the brake pads.
- Tires: Turn each wheel slowly and look for cuts, bulges, or bubbles.
- Shifting: Try all of your gears to make sure the chain shifts smoothly between gears.
- Brakes: Check that both brakes are functional.

- Loose Parts: Pick up the bike and shake it. You shouldn't hear anything rattling.

BIKE SAFETY

SAFETY

Whether riding Capital Bikeshare or your own bike, share the road and share the responsibility for making your bike trip a safe one. Cyclists, motorists, and pedestrians get along better when they show courtesy and consideration.

For more safety information, please visit www.CapitalBikeshare.com/Safety

 <p>WEAR A HELMET. Helmets dramatically reduce the risk of head injury in a bicycle accident.</p>	 <p>FOLLOW ALL TRAFFIC LAWS. Bicyclists are required to obey all regulatory signs and traffic lights.</p>	 <p>NEVER RIDE AGAINST TRAFFIC. Ride with traffic to avoid potential crashes.</p>
 <p>USE HAND SIGNALS to tell motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians what you intend to do. Be predictable.</p>	 <p>DO NOT DODGE BETWEEN PARKED CARS. Ride in a straight line at least 5 feet away from parked cars.</p>	 <p>RIDE IN SINGLE FILE, except when passing.</p>
 <p>RIDE ON SIDEWALKS ONLY WHEN NECESSARY and always yield to pedestrians. Riding on the sidewalk is illegal in downtown Washington, D.C.</p>	 <p>BEWARE OF PARKED CAR DOORS—THEY CAN OPEN AT ANY TIME. Ride at least 5 feet away from parked vehicles.</p>	 <p>BE ALERT. Scan the road. Always know your surroundings.</p>
 <p>BE CAREFUL AT INTERSECTIONS. Use caution since most collisions occur at intersections. Watch for turning vehicles.</p>		

DC BIKE LAWS:

Please be aware of the bike laws for DC. Here are some brief selected guidelines:

- **General:** Bicyclists traveling on roadways have all the general rights and duties of drivers of vehicles.
- **Where to Ride & Lane Use:** Ride with the flow of traffic on the right half of the roadway. Operate a bicycle in a safe and non-hazardous manner... so as not to endanger himself or herself or any other person.
- **Passing Cars:** Allowed to pass on left or right, in the same lane or changing lanes, or pass off road.
- **Cars passing bikes:** A person driving a motor vehicle shall exercise due care by leaving a safe distance, but in no case less than 3 feet, when overtaking and passing a bicycle.
- **Dooring:** No person shall open any door of a vehicle unless it is safe to do so and can be done without interfering with moving traffic.
- **Bicycling Two Abreast:** Allowed when it does not impede traffic. May not ride more than two abreast.
- **Mandatory Use of Bike Lanes:** Not required.
- **Cycling on sidewalks:** Yield right of way to pedestrians. Prohibited in the central business district (bounded by Massachusetts Ave. NW, 2nd St NE-SE, D St SE/SW, 14th St NW, Constitution Ave and 23rd St NW).
- **Audible Warning Devices:** Bell or other device required, sirens prohibited.
- **Helmets:** Required for any operator under 16 years of age
- **Lights at night:** Front white light and rear red reflector (or rear red light) required when dark, may be attached to operator.

You'll find specific wording and details in the PDF version of the [Pocket Guide on DC Bike Laws](#)