

# A GUIDE TO LIVING IN LOS ANGELES



# SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL



# SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL'S NEW ON-CAMPUS STUDENT HOUSING COMPLEX

**WELCOME  
TO LAW SCHOOL  
& WELCOME  
HOME**

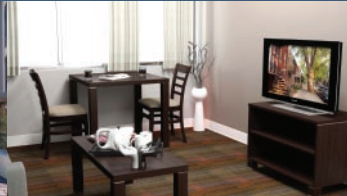


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**NEW FOR THE FALL 2013 ENTERING CLASS AND  
AVAILABLE FOR OCCUPANCY AUGUST 2013**

**Learn more at [www.swlaw.edu/studenthousing](http://www.swlaw.edu/studenthousing)**

*Images are architect's conceptual renderings; colors, finishes and furnishings subject to change.*





# Welcome to Los Angeles!

**W**hether you are from just outside the greater Los Angeles area or 3,000 miles away, this booklet has been designed to help you make informed decisions about your living arrangements during law school.

Our extraordinary campus will soon include a wonderful new state-of-the-art On-Campus Student Housing Complex. We encourage you to learn more about the complex, including details on the units, amenities, leasing and updates on construction progress, at [www.swlaw.edu/studenthousing](http://www.swlaw.edu/studenthousing).

This guide includes a variety of things to keep in mind when moving to a new place in general and to Los Angeles in particular – based on suggestions by Southwestern students and alumni. We encourage you to use this publication as a guide and urge you to take advantage of the numerous other resources available – especially students, faculty and staff who will be happy to share their ideas and experiences.

I look forward to meeting you in the coming months as you prepare to start your law school career in Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Austen Parrish". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Austen Parrish**  
*Interim Dean*



***Please note:*** *The information in this publication is intended as a general guide only. Southwestern does not endorse any third parties and makes no warranties or representations concerning the accuracy of information. Prices are subject to change without notice and may vary depending on location, amenities, etc. Also note that information in this guide is not exclusive – you may wish to research and consider other sources of information.*

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# I. Arriving in Los Angeles

## By Air

There are five airports serving the greater Los Angeles area:

<b>LAX</b>	1 World Way; Sepulveda Blvd. at Century Blvd. Located near the 405/105 freeway junction, just south of the 10 freeway 310.646.5252; <a href="http://www.los-angeles-lax.com">www.los-angeles-lax.com</a>
<b>Bob Hope Airport (Burbank)</b>	2627 N. Hollywood Way Located off of the 5 freeway, between the 170 and 134 freeways 818.840.8840; <a href="http://www.burbankairport.com">www.burbankairport.com</a>
<b>Long Beach Airport</b>	4100 Donald Douglas Dr. Located off of the 405 freeway, between the 710 and 605 freeways 562.570.2600; <a href="http://www.lgb.org">www.lgb.org</a>
<b>John Wayne Airport (Orange County)</b>	18601 Airport Way Located off of the 405 freeway, just southeast of the 55 freeway 949.252.5200; <a href="http://www.ocair.com">www.ocair.com</a>
<b>Ontario Airport</b>	Airport Drive and Vineyard Avenue Located near the 10/15 freeway junction, just north of the 60 freeway 909.937.2700; <a href="http://www.lawa.org/ont">www.lawa.org/ont</a>

## Transportation from the Airport

If you have not made arrangements to be met at the airport, we suggest that you take one of the many shuttle vans that take you 'door-to-door' from the airport to your destination; this is a registered and reliable means of transportation. The van will bring you from the airport directly to any location you wish. You can call for reservations in advance, although it is not necessary and depending on your destination, the cost is, on average, \$20-30. Prime Time Shuttle and SuperShuttle are two of the larger door-to-door shuttle services.

<b>Prime Time Shuttle</b> 800.RED.VANS <a href="http://www.primetimeshuttle.com">www.primetimeshuttle.com</a>	<b>SuperShuttle</b> 800.BLUE.VAN <a href="http://www.supershuttle.com">www.supershuttle.com</a>
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You can also use a taxi to get to your destination. However, the cost will likely be more than double that of an airport shuttle.

<b>United Independent Taxi</b> 800.822.8294	<b>LA Checker Cab Co.</b> 800.300.5007	<b>Yellow Cab</b> 877.733.3305
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Be sure to call the companies directly to determine the actual cost for your specific destination and board airport shuttles or taxis at officially designated places only.

## By Car

The Southwestern campus is just east of Vermont Avenue at Wilshire Boulevard between Westmoreland Avenue and Wilshire Place. The parking lot entrance is located on Wilshire Place at 7th Street.

- From the **Hollywood Freeway (101)**, take Vermont exit south. Proceed south on Vermont to Wilshire Boulevard. Turn left on Wilshire Boulevard, then turn right on Wilshire Place and enter the parking lot through the main entrance at the end of the block on the right.
- From the **Santa Monica Freeway (10)**, take Vermont exit north. Proceed north on Vermont to Wilshire Boulevard. Turn right on Wilshire Boulevard, then right on Wilshire Place and enter the parking lot through the main entrance at the end of the block on the right.
- From the **Los Angeles Airport (LAX)**, take the San Diego Freeway (405) north to Santa Monica Freeway (10) east. Take Vermont exit and head north to Wilshire Boulevard. Turn right on Wilshire Boulevard, then right on Wilshire Place and enter the parking lot through the main entrance at the end of the block on the right.
- From the **Wilshire/Vermont Metro Red Line Station**, walk two blocks east on Wilshire Boulevard and turn right on Westmoreland Avenue to the pedestrian entrance.

Additional driving directions are available at [www.swlaw.edu/directions](http://www.swlaw.edu/directions).

## When to Arrive

It is strongly recommended that you have your living arrangements resolved at least one month prior to the August Orientation. To have an apartment for early to mid-August, you need to be visiting apartments, making a deposit and signing a lease the first week of July. If you wait until the first week of August to begin your housing search, it will be likely that you will not be able to move until September 1, and therefore you should plan for temporary housing. For more information on housing, see page 4.

Incoming students who have an apartment and are looking for a roommate should contact the Admissions Office and place their information on the roommate list, or visit [www.swlaw.edu/student-services/student-life/information/roommates](http://www.swlaw.edu/student-services/student-life/information/roommates).

## Being Financially Prepared

When planning to arrive in Los Angeles, be sure to bring enough cash or traveler's checks to get through your initial three-week stay. All out-of-town checks when deposited in the bank are held for 5-10 days, and you are not able to draw out these funds until the checks have cleared. Check with your current bank to see if their services differ from other banks. For more information on banking, see page 12.

## II. Moving to Los Angeles

### Temporary Housing

Once you are in the city, your first concern will probably be where to stay while you look for housing. If you do not have relatives or friends who can offer a place to stay, you may want to consider some other alternatives.

The following list of hotels may be helpful, but feel free to contact others on your own. Rates will vary depending on date and season of arrival. Note that all hotels charge taxes in addition to their published rates. You might also find less expensive accommodations by visiting the various online travel or hotel reservation sites.

#### Hotels Near Southwestern

##### Radisson Wilshire Hotel

3515 Wilshire Blvd. 213.381.7411

##### Sheraton Los Angeles Downtown Hotel

711 S. Hope St. 213.488.3500

##### Quality Inn Mid Wilshire Plaza Hotel

603 S. New Hampshire Ave. 213.385.4444

#### Hotels Near LAX Airport

##### Marriott LAX

5855 W. Century Blvd. 310.641.5700

##### LAX Airport Hilton

5711 W Century Blvd. 310.410.4000

##### Four Points Hotel by Sheraton

9750 Airport Blvd. 310.645.4600

##### Courtyard By Marriott

6161 W. Century Blvd. 310.649.1400

Please remember that the hotels listed above are located in the center of a large urban area. The law school cannot guarantee the safety of any individual lodging, has not inspected the locations and does not endorse any of the listed lodgings. This information is provided solely as a reference guide.



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Learn more at [www.swlaw.edu/studenthousing](http://www.swlaw.edu/studenthousing)



## Other Long-Term Housing

Los Angeles, like any other major city in the U.S., can be an expensive place to live. Be prepared for a monthly rent of *at least* \$700-\$1,000 in a shared residence and *at least* \$900-\$1,600 for a studio or one-bedroom apartment.

### Roommates

Living with someone can offer many advantages, including sharing the cost of rent and utilities, making your personal cost of living much lower. It also often opens up a new network of friends; for people unfamiliar with L.A., having a roommate in the beginning is an easier way to get to know the area. The bulletin board in the Westmoreland Building, located in the stairwell leading to the basement, is often a good place to check postings from current students looking for roommates. The Admissions Office will also send you information about a roommate list that is put together each year (see [www.swlaw.edu/studentservices/studentlife/information/roommates](http://www.swlaw.edu/studentservices/studentlife/information/roommates)).

### Transportation

When choosing a place to live that is more than 10-15 minutes from campus, it is important to consider how accessible it is to the freeway system or public transportation. The majority of students at Southwestern commute and own vehicles, but there are some who take the Metro Rail to school.

There is a Metro Red Line stop less than two blocks from campus, so it's a good idea to look at the different routes and check out the areas that offer this alternative way of commuting in Los Angeles (see page 10 for more information on getting around Los Angeles, and page 21 for a map of the Metro Rail system).



### Looking For Housing

From Westside Rentals to Craigslist, there are a plethora of fee-based and free websites available for those searching for housing in Los Angeles. The information in this guide is provided to help you navigate what to look for and what to ask when looking at these options and visiting available housing.

## General Advice for New Renters

### Inspecting the Property

When looking for housing to rent, investigate the house or apartment with a critical eye. Make sure that all faucets work, you can get hot and cold water, and there are no signs of leakage in the plumbing. If there are obvious signs of problems, such as a bucket of water under the sink, ask the landlord about it. Make sure you get his reply in writing with a time estimate for repair.

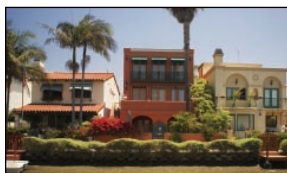
Check to see if all appliances, lights and outlets are in working order. Look at all wiring and make sure that bare wires are not exposed. Inspect the refrigerator, stove, oven and dishwasher to see that they work and are clean. Check the doors and windows to make sure they are secure and safe: Do the doors have strong locks? Do the windows have locks and screens? Open and close all doors and windows to be sure that they work properly.

Don't be afraid to ask the landlord any questions you may have. Make sure to get meaningful answers and take notes so you can remember the answers later. Much like a job interview, your interaction with the landlord will give you an idea of what it will be like to work with him in the future. You may also want to talk with neighbors to find out their impressions of the landlord and the neighborhood. Ask if repairs are quickly made; it is a good sign if other tenants speak highly of the landlord and the neighborhood.

### **Leases and Other Agreements**

Leases are legally binding rental agreements. *Do not* sign more than one lease thinking that you are only holding the apartments until you make a decision. Before you sign the lease, be sure you want the apartment and read it carefully. Do not be afraid to ask the landlord to add things to the lease regarding such things as repairs or appliances. Most leases are for a one-year period, but this may be negotiable. Normally, you are expected to pay rent for the entire leasing period, even if you move out early.

Also, make sure that all agreements with your landlord are in writing. Verbal agreements are usually worth nothing. If a landlord won't put anything in writing, you may not want to rent from him.



### **Security Deposit**

Most landlords will require a security deposit; it is usually the equivalent of one month's rent. The security deposit is the landlord's insurance against damage or the tenants leaving without paying rent. The landlord may subtract the cost of any damage and/or cleaning

incurred after you move out of the apartment. However, the landlord may not charge you for normal wear-and-tear on the apartment or excessive cleaning charges if you have cleaned the apartment before you move out. You are legally entitled to receive your security deposit back at the end of your lease (minus any charges for excessive damage or cleaning costs).

### **Ask the following questions:**

- When will the apartment be available?
- How much is the security deposit?
- Is the apartment furnished (refrigerator included), and if so, is there an extra deposit?
- If applicable: Are pets allowed, and if so, is there an extra deposit?
- Which utilities (such as water, trash, gas and electricity) are included in the rent?
- On average, how much are utilities per month?
- Is air conditioning/heat available, and if so, how much does it cost on average?
- Is there parking available, and is it covered/gated?
- Does parking cost extra?
- Are there laundry facilities available on site?
- Is shopping available nearby?
- Is the neighborhood safe/quiet? (you may want drive by the area in the evening)

See the "Apartment Hunting Notes" on page 23 for a detailed checklist.

**The following information may be required when arranging your rental contract:**

- Your previous address and phone number
- Your previous landlord's and employer's address and phone number
- Your bank account and credit card information
- Your driver's license number

Remember to bring your checkbook or cash for a credit report fee (usually \$25-50) and be ready to put down a deposit once the credit report comes back. Also, before you move in, document any existing problems or noticeable markings that were there prior to your signing the lease. Having photographs showing the state of the apartment to accompany the notes is a good idea.

As in any big city, there may be neighborhoods where you may not feel comfortable. You may call the Admissions Office to ask about a specific area before signing a lease. Also, see the "Neighborhoods at a Glance" section on page 18 for detailed information on select areas.

*In general, do not spend more than 30-40 percent of your income or monthly budget on rent and utilities.*

## Telephone

Although there are a variety of options available for phone service, the two primary local telephone companies are AT&T and Verizon. Information is available online for either company ([www.att.com](http://www.att.com) and [www.verizon.com](http://www.verizon.com)). When you call for the initial set-up, be prepared to spend a good deal of time establishing the account; it is also helpful to call ahead of time.

**You will need to provide the following information:**

- Your new address, including apartment number
- Your employer or previous employer
- Your former address and phone number
- When you want the service connected (starting date)
- The options you do (or do not) want, such as call waiting, caller ID, voice mail, etc.
- And, whether you've had an account with this company before

If you have not had phone service before, you may be required to pay a deposit; the phone company will apply it as a credit on your first bill. There may be other installation charges as well. Once you contact the telephone company to set up your phone line and the service is connected, don't forget to check that the phone jacks in your apartment work.

As a student, you should of course also consider whether you need high-speed internet access from the telephone company or another service provider.

## Other Utilities

Additional utility companies that you might need to contact are listed below. Check with your landlord or manager to see which utilities are covered by the property and/or already set up (usually water and trash). You may be able sign-up for most services online or you may have to call to speak with a customer service representative.

<b>Los Angeles Department of Water and Power</b>	800.DIAL.DWP www.ladwp.com
<b>Southern California Gas Co.</b>	800.427.2200 www.socalgas.com

*It's a good idea to call about utilities as far in advance as possible, in case there is a problem or the company needs to send a representative to set up the new service.*

## Mail

Remember to have your mail forwarded to your new address in Los Angeles. This service is offered by the United States Postal Service. You may sign up online at [www.usps.gov](http://www.usps.gov) or stop by any post office and pick-up a moving guide, complete with mail-forwarding postcards and valuable moving information.

## Thing to Do Before the Move

- Obtain important documents and records, such as medical information.
- Close all old accounts, utilities, etc.
- Sell or donate things you don't want to take with you.
- Keep all necessities in a bag, separate from moving boxes.
- Alert your family and friends and leave contact information or a forwarding address.

# III. Living in Los Angeles

## Driver's License and Official Picture ID

In California, most business transactions are carried out by showing your driver's license as a form of identification. If you do not wish to get a driver's license, we suggest that you consider obtaining a California Identification Card. Both are available from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). A passport will also suffice for most business transactions.

According to the DMV, if you are a visitor in California over 18 and have a valid driver's license from your home state or country, you may drive in this state without getting a California driver's license as long as your home state license remains valid. However, if you take a job here or become a resident, you must get a California driver's license within ten days (residency is established by paying *resident* tuition, voting in a California election, filing for a homeowner's property tax exemption, or any other privilege or benefit not ordinarily extended to nonresidents). For more information on applying for a California Driver's License or Identification Card, visit [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov).

### Obtaining a License

Before a driver's license can be issued, the DMV requires both a written and road test. The written test examines your knowledge about driving rules and regulations in California, while the road test checks your driving skills, including a road sign test. If you pass both tests, you will complete a form with personal information (name, address, etc.) and take a vision test (first time applicants must also present evidence of date of birth, such as a birth certificate or passport). Your photo will also be taken and the license will be mailed to you when it is ready. In the interim, you will be issued a temporary license that will allow you to drive while waiting to receive the official picture license.

For more information on these and other DMV services for those who are new to California, visit [www.dmv.ca.gov/newtoca/newtoca.htm](http://www.dmv.ca.gov/newtoca/newtoca.htm).

<b>Dept. of Motor Vehicles</b>	800.777.0133 <a href="http://www.dmv.ca.gov">www.dmv.ca.gov</a>
<b>DMV – Los Angeles</b>	3615 S. Hope St. Los Angeles, CA 90007
<b>DMV – Santa Monica</b>	2235 Colorado Ave. Santa Monica, CA 90404
<b>DMV – Glendale</b>	1335 W. Glenoaks Blvd. Glendale, CA 91201

## Cars and Traffic

Los Angeles is the city of freeways. Regardless of where you are traveling between 7 and 10 a.m. or 3 and 7 p.m., it can be aggravating. But, in general, freeways are still the best way to go long distances.



### Checking Traffic

If you are going to be driving any real distance in Los Angeles, it is always wise to check the traffic reports before you start out. Nearly every radio and television station has them during commuting hours, and most of the local news stations post real-time traffic maps on their websites. Smart phone traffic apps and AM-radio stations with all-news or all-talk formats are good sources during the day. For live streaming traffic videos and other traffic information before you leave your house, visit [www.video.dot.ca.gov](http://www.video.dot.ca.gov).

### Carpooling

Sharing the ride with a friend can make the drive easier, because a number of freeways in Los Angeles have carpool lanes for those cars with two or more people. This will usually cut a considerable amount of time off of your drive, and Southwestern offers special parking rates/privileges for students who carpool.

### General Advice

General driving considerations while in Los Angeles: If there are no speed limit signs posted, the default maximum speed is 25 miles per hour on city streets and 65 miles per hour on freeways. In California, drivers and passengers in private vehicles must always wear seat belts. A few other things to keep in mind when driving in L.A. are:

- You may turn right after stopping at a red light, unless a sign directs otherwise.
- Pedestrians have the right of way.
- Drunk-driving laws are strictly enforced.
- Open containers of alcoholic beverages are not permitted in vehicles.
- It is illegal to use a cellphone without a hands-free device while driving.

Be sure to carefully read all signs detailing the days or hours you may park at any particular location, because in L.A., illegally parked vehicles get ticketed very quickly and may be towed away. A red curb means no parking; a green curb means parking is for a limited time (limit usually posted); and a white or yellow curb is for loading and unloading passengers only. Parking is generally available in lots or garages, but prices can vary.

## Other Transportation

### Metro Buses and Metro Rail

The Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) buses operate throughout the greater Los Angeles area, with service lines down Wilshire Blvd., including stops directly in front of Southwestern. Fare information and MTA bus schedules can be found in the basement of the Westmoreland Building or online at [www.mta.net](http://www.mta.net).

And, believe it or not, Los Angeles does have a subway system. There is a Metro Red Line subway stop at the corner of Wilshire Blvd. and Vermont Ave., two blocks from Southwestern, which connects to Union Station and other places throughout the greater Los Angeles area. Subway schedules are also available on campus or online.

Bus and subway pass applications for students are available in the Registration and Academic Records Office (W102), and tokens are available in the Administrative Services Office (W100). To qualify for discount transportation passes, students must be enrolled for a minimum of 12 units of in-classroom study per week for a minimum of three consecutive months.

***Metrolink College Discount Program – [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com)***

To apply for a Metrolink discount pass, students must complete the application available in the Registration and Academic Records Office, and submit it along with a 1" by 1 ½" photo back to the Registration Office. Students can purchase one pass per individual, and only during the time when proof of enrollment can be verified. These passes are non-refundable, non-replaceable and non-transferable. Orders are due by the 10th day of the month for passes to be used for the following month. Passes are available to students from the last week of the previous month until the 10th of the month used. Students must pay for passes upon receipt. Cash only; no personal checks will be accepted.

***MTA College/Vocational Student Identification Card – [www.mta.net](http://www.mta.net)***

To apply for a MTA College/Vocational Student Identification Card, students must complete the application available in the Registration and Academic Records Office and submit it in person, along with a 1" by 1 ¼" photo, to an MTA Customer Service Center. Applicants may apply for an Identification Card at any time during their current school term; however, once a term has ended, only proof of full-time enrollment for the next school term will be accepted.



**Bicycles**

For those living near Southwestern, bicycling can be a quick and efficient way to get to and from campus. Please check with the local municipality in which you reside for their specific rules on bicycle licenses. A bicycle license is inexpensive and will enhance the chance of recovering your bicycle if it is stolen. It is recommended that all riders wear an approved bicycling helmet, available at any bike shop or sporting goods store. Also, be sure to buy a lock and lock your bike every time you leave it unattended. Smart Traveler ([www.smart-traveler.com](http://www.smart-traveler.com)) provides bicycle safety tips, information regarding bikes on transit in Southern California, links to Los Angeles and Orange County bicycling resources, and information on bicycling clubs.

**Taxis**

Unlike New York City, Los Angeles streets are not filled with taxis. However, a taxi can be requested by phone fairly quickly from one of the following companies:

**United Independent Taxi**  
800.822.8294

**LA Checker Cab Co.**  
800.300.5007

**Yellow Cab**  
877.733.3305

## Banking

Southwestern recommends that you open a bank account as soon as you arrive in Los Angeles. This will give you access to ATMs and will also allow you to write checks from a local bank. Please keep in mind that a ten-day hold is usually required by banks when cashing checks drawn on out-of-town accounts. Southwestern does not cash personal checks.

International students must remember that all law school tuition and fees are required to be paid in U.S. dollars, by check or U.S. money order (payable to Southwestern Law School). Checks must be drawn from U.S. bank accounts or from banks that have branches in the U.S. No money orders in non-U.S. currency will be accepted.

There are ATM machines available at Southwestern on the lower level of both buildings. They accept virtually all ATM/Bank-system cards. There is a \$2 transaction charge, and there may be a usage charge by your bank according to its policies.

Listed below is a selection of banks and useful information about each, including their branch closest to the Southwestern campus. This is intended for reference purposes only; Southwestern does not endorse these companies or their services.

<b>Bank of America</b>	<a href="http://www.bankamerica.com">www.bankamerica.com</a>
3045 Wilshire Blvd.	323.730.9140
Los Angeles, CA 90010	800.900.9000

<b>Chase</b>	<a href="http://www.chase.com">www.chase.com</a>
3183 Wilshire Blvd.	213.249.9862
Los Angeles, CA 90005	800.788.7000

<b>Wells Fargo</b>	<a href="http://www.wellsfargo.com">www.wellsfargo.com</a>
3550 Wilshire Blvd.	213.383.1090
Los Angeles, CA 90005	800.869.3557

*A Word of Caution: No matter what bank you choose, organize your finances as soon as possible and allow for all checks to clear. There is nothing more frustrating than having funds held up when you need them.*

## Student Health Insurance

Southwestern is committed to providing an environment that fosters academic excellence and personal success. An important aspect of that mission is ensuring the physical and mental well-being of our students. In furtherance of this goal, Southwestern requires all students to have basic health insurance coverage, commencing with the Fall 2009 class. Every student will be eligible to enroll in the Kaiser Student Health Insurance Plan available through Southwestern **OR** will have the option of waiving out of the plan by providing proof of alternative insurance coverage.



Information regarding the Kaiser Plan coverage dates and deadlines, rates, enrollment options and the waiver process will be provided by the Student Affairs Office prior to the start of school. Please contact the Student Affairs Office with any questions about the Plan.

## Hospitals

In case of emergency, call 911 from any telephone. This will connect you with fire, medical and police officials. Major local hospitals in the area include:

<b>Cedars Sinai Medical Center</b>	8700 Beverly Blvd. 310.423.3277
<b>Good Samaritan Hospital</b>	1225 Wilshire Blvd. 213.977.2121
<b>Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center</b>	1300 N. Vermont Ave. 310.413.3000
<b>Midway Hospital</b>	5925 San Vicente Blvd. 323.938.3161
<b>St. Vincent Medical Center</b>	2131 W. 3rd St. 213.484.7111

## Safety and Security

Los Angeles is a large, vibrant, diverse, modern city with all the benefits and challenges of urban life. Being in the heart of a major metropolitan area is exciting, providing many cultural, professional, recreational, historical and educational opportunities. However, you also need to be smart about your safety and security. What can you do to protect yourself from crime? Southwestern is committed to protecting you in every way possible; however, you are ultimately responsible for your personal safety. Take time to do some planning and learn how to keep yourself safe. The following are a few helpful hints to keep in mind.

### When Walking on the Street:

- Pay attention to your surroundings.
- Avoid walking alone, especially at night.
- Walk with a friend or use the escort service provided by on-campus security.
- Avoid dark streets.
- Walk near the curb and avoid shrubs and dark doorways.
- Have your keys in your hand, so you can open your car or home immediately.
- Keep a tight hold on your bag or purse.
- If a driver asks you for directions, don't get too close to the car.
- If you feel you are being followed, move away fast, change directions and always walk into a well-lit public area, store or building.

### Protecting your Property:

- Keep your books, laptop computer or bags with you. Don't leave them unattended on campus or in other public places.
- Don't leave books, bags or other valuable items visible in your car.
- Don't carry large amounts of cash on you.
- Lock your car or bike.

### Security Assistance on Campus

There are three safety intercoms/buzzers on each floor of the campus parking structure that are directly connected to campus security, as well as one in every campus restroom area. The parking structure is also monitored by surveillance cameras. Report any incidents on campus by using one of these intercoms or calling one of the campus security numbers (213.738.6735 or 213.738.5793).

### Parking On Campus

Parking is available for students on the law school campus, and parking permits may be purchased on a semester basis. More information will be sent to you with registration materials. You may also visit [www.swlaw.edu/directions/student\\_parking](http://www.swlaw.edu/directions/student_parking) for further details.

*Parking is complimentary for new students visiting campus prior to the beginning of classes.*



### Fitness Center and Recreation Room

Students are welcome to use Southwestern's Fitness Center and Recreation Room, located on the lower level of the Bullocks Wilshire Building, free of charge, seven days a week. New students may begin using the facilities once Student ID cards are activated and Fitness Center waivers are signed and processed.

The state-of-the-art, 10,000 sq. ft. Fitness Center includes cardiovascular machines, weight circuit equipment, free weights and an enclosed exercise studio equipped for workout videos, as well as lockers, showers and bathroom facilities. The Recreation Room, adjacent to the Fitness Center, includes air hockey, ping pong and billiards tables. For more information and Fitness Center hours, visit [www.swlaw.edu/campus/fitnesscenter](http://www.swlaw.edu/campus/fitnesscenter).

# IV. Foreign Student Information

## Obtaining Your Visa

If you are a non-immigrant student, your stay in the United States will require compliance with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Government. These rules and regulations are complex and subject to change. Helpful information is available at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' website ([www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)); the U.S. Department of State's page regarding U.S. visa policy and procedures ([http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa\\_1750.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1750.html)); and the U.S. Network for Education Information ([www.ed.gov/NLE/USNEI](http://www.ed.gov/NLE/USNEI)). Internet research will be a valuable resource for the most up-to-date, first-hand information on the appropriate process for your particular situation. Please understand that it is your responsibility to attain current, valid procedural information regarding your specific visa requirements.

## Planning Ahead

To allow time to overcome any unforeseen problems that might arise, be sure to have a valid passport and apply for your visa several weeks before you plan to travel. It is important to remember that applying early and providing the requested documents does not guarantee that you will receive a visa. Also, because each student's personal and academic situation is different, two students applying for the same type of visa may be asked different questions and be required to submit different documents.

*Southwestern's Registration and Academic Records Office can often answer visa questions.*

## Longer-term Temporary Housing

If you find the need for longer-term temporary housing than is included in the information on page 4, you may want to look into the resources below and consider the following options:

<b>L.A. Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau</b>	213.624.7300 <a href="http://www.lacvb.com">www.lacvb.com</a>
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### Short-Term Leases

<b>Days Inn</b>	888.440.2021 <a href="http://www.daysinn.com">www.daysinn.com</a>
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<b>Extended Stay America</b>	800.804.3724 <a href="http://www.extendedstayamerica.com">www.extendedstayamerica.com</a>
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<b>Oakwood – Corporate Housing Toluca Hills</b>	877.902.0832 or 818.942.2787 <a href="http://www.oakwood.com">www.oakwood.com</a>
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## Youth Hostels

**Banana Bungalow – Hollywood @ The Orbit Hotel**  
 603 N. Fairfax Ave. 800.4.HOSTEL  
 West Hollywood, CA 90036 bananabungalow.com  
 westhollywood@bananabungalowus.com

**Hostelling International (HI)**  
 1436 Second Street 310.393.9913  
 Santa Monica, CA 90401 Fax: 310.393.1769  
 reserve@HILosAngeles.org  
 www.hiusa.org or www.lahostels.org

## International Banking Transactions

If you need to transfer money from abroad, Travelex Global Payments is one option to assist in exchanging funds. They convert nearly any foreign currency into U.S. dollars and offer a competitive exchange rate regardless of the amount. More information is available at [www.travelexinsurance.com/products](http://www.travelexinsurance.com/products). Southwestern does not specifically endorse this vendor – it is listed only as an example of a service provider that you may wish to explore. Please consult their website for more information, and contact them directly to determine whether you can benefit from their services. See page 12 regarding financial transactions with the law school.

## Obtaining a Social Security Number

If you are temporarily in the U.S. as a student, you *do not* need a Social Security number or card to register for or attend Southwestern.

However, if you plan to obtain a California driver's license from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), you will first need a Social Security number (SSN). In order to obtain this, you must present the following items at a local Social Security Office:

- proof of lawful alien status
- documentation from the DMV stating your need for the SSN
- at least two original or notarized documents (not photocopies) as proof of age and identity, which can include your birth certificate or passport (and one additional piece of documentation with your name and photograph, such as a passport or a school identification card).

The Social Security Administration (SSA) will verify your documents before they issue a Social Security card, and this process can take one to four weeks. There is no charge to get a Social Security card; it is a free government service. Please contact the Social Security Administration or visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) for more information and to ensure requirements and procedures have not changed.

**Social Security Administration** 800.772.1213  
[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

**SSA – Wilshire Center** 4000 Wilshire Blvd.  
 Los Angeles, CA 90010

<b>SSA – Hollywood</b>	1122 N. Vine St. Hollywood, CA 90038
<b>SSA – West L.A.</b>	11500 W. Olympic Blvd. Suite 300 Los Angeles, CA 90064
<b>SSA – Glendale</b>	710 S. Central Avenue Suite 320 Glendale, CA 91204
<b>SSA – Torrance</b>	22600 Crenshaw Blvd. Torrance, CA 90505

Office Hours for all Social Security Offices are Monday through Friday, 9 am to 4 pm.

## **International/California Driver's License**

If you plan to rent or purchase a car in Los Angeles, you should bring an international driver's license with you, as it takes a few weeks to get a California driver's license. Please be aware that most banks or stores will not accept an international driver's license as an identification card. However, your passport will work fine for this purpose.

### **Obtaining a California Driver's License**

Once you have received your official Social Security card, take it along with your passport, I-20 Form and proof of residency to the DMV. To avoid long lines at the DMV, you can make an appointment online or over the phone. Further information regarding California driver's licenses can be found on page 9 and at [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov).

## **Foreign Student Health Insurance Policy**

It is mandatory for foreign students to have health insurance while attending Southwestern. For more information on student health insurance, see page 12.

# V. APPENDIX

## Neighborhoods at a Glance

### *INCORPORATED CITIES*

#### **BEVERLY HILLS**

One of the most famous cities in the world, Beverly Hills offers more affordable housing south of Wilshire Blvd., between Century Park East and San Vicente Blvd. (zip code 90212).

#### **BURBANK**

Burbank is one of the more economical L.A. communities. Home to major entertainment studios, including Disney, Warner Brothers and NBC, the housing is well balanced between homeowners and renters (about 55% are condos and apartments).

#### **CULVER CITY**

This area is also home to several major entertainment studios, including Sony and Fox. Though only five-square-miles and bordered on all sides by other parts of L.A., Culver City is its own municipality and is more affordable than the other surrounding Westside area, with many apartments and single-family homes.

#### **GLENDALE**

Glendale's affordability makes it a popular choice for newcomers and has attracted a diverse community. Most apartment buildings are clustered around the downtown area, which has a more small-town feel.

#### **PASADENA**

Pasadena's "old town" is a revitalized area brimming with people on the weekends. The newly renovated buildings house an array of unique stores, movie theatres, restaurants and antique shops. At first glance, single-family homes appear to be the majority of housing, but about half of the city's residents are renters.

#### **SANTA MONICA**

Santa Monica is the quintessential L.A. beach town, bounded on the north by Brentwood and Pacific Palisades, the east by West L.A. and the south by Venice and Culver City. The city is broken down into several subsections. The area around Main Street boasts new galleries, bars, cafes, etc.; Third Street Promenade is always bustling with people; and the upscale community around Montana Ave. has a high-end shopping district.

#### **TORRANCE & THE BEACH CITIES**

Torrance and the beach cities, including Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach and Manhattan Beach, are located between Los Angeles and Orange Counties (in L.A. County). Torrance is a prime business center for this region known as the South Bay. Among local attractions include the beaches; Del Amo Fashion Center, the largest enclosed shopping mall in the west; and very affordable housing.

#### **WEST HOLLYWOOD**

At the foot of the Hollywood Hills, just east of Beverly Hills, this densely populated city has a business base as diverse as the community itself. It is home to some of the

trendiest places in L.A., including Sunset Blvd. (with the House of Blues and The Laugh Factory) and Melrose Avenue (featuring the current must-haves in fashion).

## **AREAS IN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

### **HOLLYWOOD**

To live in Hollywood, you must love the energy and edginess of the area. Most apartment complexes were built in the 50's and 60's and are usually filled with budget-minded people pursuing the American dream. With the addition of the Hollywood and Highland complex,

it has become a popular place to see or be seen.

### **LOS FELIZ, SILVERLAKE & THE HOLLYWOOD HILLS**

More affordable than the Westside, this area is located a few miles north of Southwestern and is considered one of the trendier communities that hug the Santa Monica Mountains between Hollywood and Dodger Stadium.

### **MID-WILSHIRE**

Closest to campus, this area (also known as Mid-City or Wilshire Center) features affordable housing minutes from downtown, with accessibility via the subway or buses to the many retail and community resources. Like most metropolitan cities, the more inexpensive areas vary in safety, so look for buildings that include enhanced security. You may also call the Admissions Office for advice on better neighborhoods in this area. Architectural highlights include the Wiltern Theater, the Wilshire Boulevard Temple, the Immanuel Presbyterian Church and of course, the Bullocks Wilshire Building!

### **MIRACLE MILE & THE FAIRFAX DISTRICT**

Miracle Mile and the Fairfax District boasts one of the town's most popular shopping and entertainment center: The Grove at Farmer's Market, a favorite for locals. Also in this area is Museum Row, including the L.A. County Museum of Art and the La Brea Tar Pits. You can find reasonably priced rentals in everything from multi-unit apartment buildings to small houses.

### **STUDIO CITY, VAN NUYS & NORTH HOLLYWOOD**

Typical of many areas in the Valley, the majority of businesses line Ventura Blvd., including grocery stores, banks and restaurants that serve the needs of the locals. Housing includes everything from plush apartments, newly-built condos and single-level family homes to a variety of apartment buildings in both bustling and quiet neighborhoods, and it tends to be more affordable.

### **WEST LOS ANGELES**

West Los Angeles (including Westwood, Brentwood and "Beverly Hills Adjacent") spans a large amount of land between Santa Monica and Beverly Hills and is home to many famous attractions. Luxury apartments can be found in Brentwood and some parts of Westwood, while more affordable rentals are available in the lower portion of Westwood, "Beverly Hills Adjacent," Mar Vista and Palms.

# Los Angeles Area Map





# Los Angeles Metro Map



Map courtesy of the LA County Metropolitan Transit Authority

## Common Rental Advertising Abbreviations/Terms

<b>A/C</b>	Air Conditioned	<b>KIT</b>	Kitchen
<b>AMEN</b>	Amenities: luxury conveniences	<b>LG</b>	Large
<b>APPL</b>	Appliances	<b>LIV RM</b>	Living Room
<b>APT</b>	Apartment	<b>LOFT</b>	Split-level apartment with an open upper level
<b>AVL, AVAIL</b>	Available	<b>M</b>	Male
<b>BA</b>	Bathroom	<b>MBR</b>	Master Bedroom
<b>BLC, BALC</b>	Balcony	<b>M/F</b>	Male or Female
<b>BLKS</b>	Blocks	<b>MOD</b>	Modern
<b>BR</b>	Bedroom	<b>NONSMKR</b>	Non-Smoker
<b>CABLE READY</b>	Electrical structure ready for Cable T.V.	<b>NR</b>	Near
<b>COED HS</b>	A house shared by males and females	<b>PREF, PREF'D</b>	Preferred
<b>CPT</b>	Carpet	<b>PROF</b>	Professional (includes graduate or law students)
<b>DEN</b>	A small office/extra bedroom/TV room	<b>PKG AVL</b>	Parking available (may be an additional charge)
<b>DIN RM</b>	Dining Room	<b>PVT ENTR</b>	Private entrance
<b>DUPL</b>	Duplex (one building split into two apartments)	<b>RENOV</b>	Renovated
<b>D/W</b>	Dishwasher	<b>SEC DEP</b>	Security deposit (usually one month's rent)
<b>EFF</b>	Efficiency (a studio or one-room apartment)	<b>SH, SHR</b>	To share
<b>F</b>	Female	<b>SMKR</b>	Smoker
<b>FP, FPL</b>	Fireplace	<b>TH</b>	Townhouse
<b>FURN</b>	Furnished	<b>UNFURN</b>	Unfurnished
<b>HRDWD FLR</b>	Hardwood Floors	<b>UTILS</b>	Utilities (water, heating and oftentimes electricity)
<b>HS</b>	House	<b>W/D</b>	Washer and dryer
<b>IMMED</b>	Immediately	<b>W/W</b>	Wall-to-wall (ex: w/w carpeting)
<b>INDR</b>	Indoor		

## Apartment Hunting Notes

- Size/layout
- Type of apartment/number of units?
- Controlled-access?
- Furnished? (extra deposit?)
- Refrigerator?
- A/C & heat?
- Gas or electric stove?
- Carpet or wood floors?
- Dishwasher?
- Balcony/patio?
- Parking? (extra monthly cost?)
- Laundry facilities – location?
- Trash – location?
- Quiet building/neighborhood?
- Pets? (extra deposit? how much?)
- Date available:
- Rent:
- Security deposit:
- Utilities included:
- Length of lease:

## Things to Do and Places to See In or Near Los Angeles

### L.A. AREA INSTITUTIONS

The Grove/Farmer's Market  
 La Brea Tar Pits  
 Hollywood and Highland  
 Hollywood Walk of Fame  
 Hollywood Sign  
 Melrose Avenue  
 Metro Rail  
 Olvera Street  
 Pink's Hot Dogs  
 Queen Mary  
 Rodeo Drive  
 The Sunset Strip  
 Third Street Promenade

### STUDIOS

CBS Television Tapings  
 NBC Studio Tour  
 Paramount Studios Tour  
 Sony Studios Tour  
 Warner Brothers Studio Tour

### THEATERS

El Capitan Theater  
 Grauman's Chinese Theater  
 Greek Theater  
 Hollywood Bowl  
 Music Center of L.A.  
 Nokia Theater  
 Pantages Theater  
 Shrine Auditorium  
 Walt Disney Concert Hall

### SPECTATOR SPORTS

Angel Stadium  
 Dodger Stadium  
 Home Depot Center  
 Rose Bowl  
 Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum  
 Santa Anita Racetrack  
 Staples Center



Pictured from left: Walt Disney Concert Hall (©Southwestern), Dodger Stadium, Encounter Restaurant at LAX (both ©LA INC/LACVB)

## AMUSEMENT PARKS

Disneyland  
 Disney's California Adventure  
 Knott's Berry Farm  
 Six Flags Magic Mountain  
 Universal Studios/City Walk

## THE OUTDOORS

Angels Walk L.A.  
 Catalina Island  
 Descanso Gardens  
 Griffith Park  
 Huntington Library and Gardens  
 La Brea Tar Pits  
 Los Angeles Equestrian Center  
 Malibu  
 Mulholland Drive  
 Pacific Coast Highway  
 Santa Monica Mountains  
 Santa Monica Pier  
 Venice Beach Boardwalk

## MUSEUMS/ZOOS/AQUARIUMS

Aquarium of the Pacific  
 California African American Museum  
 California Science Center  
 Getty Center/Getty Villa  
 Griffith Park Observatory  
 Japanese American National Museum  
 Los Angeles County Museum of Art  
 Los Angeles Zoo  
 Museum of Contemporary Art  
 Museum of Latin American Art  
 Museum of Tolerance  
 Natural History Museum  
 Skirball Cultural Center



Pictured from left: Hollywood Bowl (©LA INC/LACVB), Kodak Theater, Downtown Los Angeles from the Freeway (both ©Ambient Images)

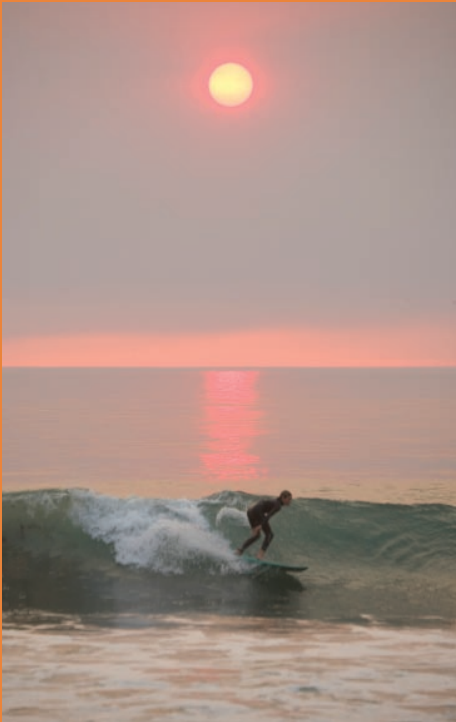


## Campus Contact Information

Department	Email Address	Phone Number
Academic Support Program	academicsupport@swlaw.edu	213.738.6813
Administrative Services	administrativeservices@swlaw.edu	213.738.6800
Admissions	admissions@swlaw.edu	213.738.6834
Alumni Affairs	alumni@swlaw.edu	213.738.6814
Bookstore	swlaw@bkstr.com	213.738.6736
Career Services	careerservices@swlaw.edu	213.738.6794
Dean of Students and Diversity Affairs	deanofstudents@swlaw.edu	213.738.6871
Disability Services	disability@swlaw.edu	213.738.6888
Financial Aid	finaid@swlaw.edu	213.738.6719
Journal of International Law	lawjournal@swlaw.edu	213.738.6857
Law Library	library@swlaw.edu	213.738.5771
Law Review	lawreview@swlaw.edu	213.738.6744
LL.M. - Individualized Studies	llmgeneral@swlaw.edu	213.738.5707
LL.M. in Entertainment & Media Law	llmadmissions@swlaw.edu	213.738.6602
Moot Court Honors Program	mootcourt@swlaw.edu	213.738.6760
Negotiation Honors Program	negotiation@swlaw.edu	213.738.6707
Registration and Academic Records	registrar@swlaw.edu	213.738.6734
SCALE®	scale@swlaw.edu	213.738.6690
Student Affairs	studentaffairs@swlaw.edu	213.738.6716
Student Bar Association	sba@swlaw.edu	213.738.6743
Trial Advocacy Honors Program	tahp@swlaw.edu	213.738.6848
Writing Center	writingcenter@swlaw.edu	213.738.5747

*For a complete list of contacts **by department**,  
visit [www.swlaw.edu/contact](http://www.swlaw.edu/contact).*

## Additional Notes



(TOP) Museum of Contemporary Art, Grauman's Chinese Theatre (both ©LA INC/LACVB) - (CENTER) Surfer at Venice Beach (©Robert Caudillo/ California Stock Photo), LA County Museum of Art (©Ambient Images) - (BOTTOM) Staples Center, Pacific Palisades (both ©LA INC/LACVB)