

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)

Global Education Office (GEO)

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SHOPPING AND TRANSPORTATION IN ALBUQUERQUE

SHOPPING OVERVIEW

Shopping conventions are different in every country and city. Below is some basic information for those who are new to Albuquerque.

- ❑ **Hours** – Check the website or call before you go.
- ❑ **Sales Tax** – Most states and cities in the US charge an extra amount for certain items you purchase. The amount varies by state and city as well as the items subject to tax. Currently, in Albuquerque, a 7.75% tax is charged for all items purchased except food (not prepared in a restaurant) and prescription drugs.
 - *The first full weekend in August each year there is a [New Mexico Sales Tax Holiday](#) on items considered necessary for the school year.*
- ❑ **Returning Goods You Don't Want** – Items can almost always be returned with a receipt, sometimes even when used or damaged. You will usually be asked why you are returning the item. If you do not have a receipt, you may still be able to return the item for in-store credit. Make sure to check with the store on their return policy if you are unsure.
- ❑ **Paying for Your Purchases** – Debit cards, credit cards, and cash are most used for purchases. Bargaining is customary at garage sales, yard sales, and flea markets, when buying from a private individual, and for very expensive items such as cars. Otherwise, prices are fixed.
 - *Cash:* Accepted for most transactions; never send cash through the mail.
 - *Checks:* Checks are rarely used in stores. You may have to open a store account to use a check.
 - *Debit Card:* You must have money in your checking account for the purchase. The money will usually be withdrawn within one or two days.
 - *Credit Card:* Charges will be on your next monthly bill.
- ❑ **Getting the Most from Your Money** – Most students live on a very tight budget. Below are some tips for saving money:
 - Buy at discount stores, second-hand stores or garage/yard sales: Discount stores like Target and Walmart sell goods cheaply and can be found all over Albuquerque. Second-hand/thrift stores sell used goods and often have items that are in good condition. Garage/yard sales are sales of clothing, furniture, books, toys, etc. by private citizens on their property. They take place most weekends and are advertised in local newspapers or by signs on the street corner; the quality of items varies. Albuquerque also hosts a flea market (open-air market with used items) every Saturday and Sunday on the State Fairgrounds on Central Ave, between San Pedro and Louisiana.
 - Buy during sales and use coupons: Sales are advertised, and coupons are provided in newspapers or are delivered to your mailbox. Many sales occur around holidays.
 - Buy off-season: Think ahead and buy your clothes for next year at the end of the previous season. In other words, winter clothes are cheapest during holiday sales at the beginning of March. Summer clothes are cheapest at the end of July or early August.
 - Buy generic brands: Most stores offer a brand name item and a cheaper “generic” or store-brand equivalent (e.g., Tylenol vs generic acetaminophen). The generic items are often the same as the brand-name item for much less.
 - Don't buy at convenience stores: Whether on or off-campus they sell mostly junk food and necessity items at inflated prices. If you want to save money, try to avoid convenience stores.
 - Check listservs and internet options: International students and scholars who are leaving Albuquerque often post items for sale on the [UNM Global Community Facebook group](#). You may also want to check Craigslist or other internet sites for larger items such as cars.

BUYING BOOKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

- ❑ **UNM Bookstore** – More expensive than most other bookstores, but also extremely reliable. They do carry used textbooks, which are less expensive and sell out quickly at the beginning of the semester.
- ❑ **Online** – Websites usually have cheap deals on books for school, but you should use caution to make sure you are ordering the right edition of the book, especially with textbooks. Some sites include: www.amazon.com, www.cheapesttextbooks.com, <https://www.alibris.com/books/textbooks>.

TRANSPORTATION OVERVIEW

City buses are free in Albuquerque. Parking on campus is limited to permit holders most days of the week and typically **all day**. Parking permits are expensive and there is often a waitlist. Many people choose to ride bikes to campus. Bike theft is a big issue, so buy an expensive “U” lock if you ride and lock it properly.

UNM PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES (PATS):

- ❑ **The UNM PATS office** is Located near the UNM Bookstore and is open Monday-Friday, 7:00am – 6:00pm. PATS provides information on parking permits, shuttle schedules and routes, parking citations, maps, alternative transport and more. Most information is on their website: <https://pats.unm.edu>
- ❑ **Parking on and near the UNM Campus**
 - On-campus parking permits are expensive and parking lots are often far from the center of campus (shuttle service runs to campus from the farther parking lots)
 - Permit information is on the [PATS website](#) at or call (505) 277-1938
 - Parking is also difficult in the areas near campus. If you plan to park near campus you need to check posted signs for restrictions (i.e., permits required, hours, etc.)
 - Pay any parking tickets as soon as possible. Fines increase over time. Unpaid tickets result in a wheel lock to your car.

UNM POLICE SERVICES:

- ❑ **The UNM Police Department** offers bike safety information and safety escort services to anyone needing an escort from an on-campus location to another on-campus location. For an on-campus escort call (505) 277-2241. Wait times may be long.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

- ❑ **Albuquerque (ABQ) Ride** is the bus service for the City of Albuquerque. City buses are free.
 - Schedules, maps, bus stops, information on bus passes, are at <http://www.cabq.gov/transit/>
 - Get a free download of the [Where's My Bus](#) App for real time information about bus locations.
- ❑ **New Mexico Rail Runner Express** – Rio Metro offers a train that travels between Santa Fe and Belen (south of Albuquerque) several times daily. The train is a great option for visiting places around Albuquerque with several stops as well as connections with local buses. For more information go to <https://www.riometro.org/>

BICYCLES

- ❑ Biking is a great way to get around campus and to places near campus. There are streets with bike lanes or speed limits designed to optimize bike circulation.
- ❑ UNM has a [Bike Shop](#) with accessible prices for all UNM students. Rec Services also offers other [outdoor equipment](#) for the UNM community.
- ❑ ALWAYS lock your bike when you are not riding; a properly attached U-Lock is the only lock that can help to prevent bike theft.
 - Lock the bike frame and tires together, and always take your bike seat with you if it is detachable.
 - Never lock your bike to a handrail for door entrance as UNM Police will confiscate your bike.
- ❑ Always wear a helmet when riding a bike and use lights on your bike and body at night.
- ❑ [Register your bike](#) with the UNM Campus Police for possible return in case of theft.

- ❑ Bikes can be carried on all Albuquerque public buses. When the bus stops, place your bike on the front bike rack and then board the bus. Be sure to watch your bike while on the bus so someone else does not take it when getting off the bus. Bike maps and more information about biking in Albuquerque are available at <http://www.cabq.gov/bike/>

CARS

- ❑ You might decide that buying a car is a great option for you. It is important to do a lot of research about the type of car, price, and other factors such as car insurance or car maintenance.
- ❑ For advice and information on owning a car in New Mexico come to the GEO Car Buying Workshop offered at the beginning of each semester.
- ❑ For advice and information on buying a specific new or used car, visit www.kbb.com.
- ❑ Parking and traffic tickets are issued frequently by the City of Albuquerque parking enforcement or police department. If you get a ticket, you must pay it promptly to avoid increased fines, vehicle confiscations and even jail time. The city will find you, so PAY YOUR TICKETS!
- ❑ Car insurance is mandatory in New Mexico. While only liability insurance is required, it is a good idea to consider buying additional insurance coverage for cars of greater value. There are many choices for car insurance, so you should shop around for the best price. The amount you are willing to spend will affect your car coverage and deductible.
- ❑ It is illegal to talk on cell phones while driving in New Mexico, unless you have your phone connected to a hands-free device.
- ❑ If you have a car, keep your car doors locked when you are both in and out of it. When walking to your car, especially at night, have your car door key in your hand ready to unlock the door. Get in quickly and lock the door. Don't park in dark or isolated areas.

OTHER WAYS TO GET AROUND:

- ❑ **Uber & Lyft:** are inexpensive ways to get around town. Both reservations and payment are done through the cell phone app. For more information download the Uber or Lyft app.
- ❑ **Car Rental:** For longer term car rental (i.e., to take a trip), there are several car rental companies to choose from. It is usually cheaper to avoid renting the car from the airport location

Shopping Resource List

Grocery Stores Closest to Campus (food, household and pharmacy items)

La Montañita Co-op	3500 Central Ave SE	(505) 265-4631
Smith's Food & Drug (near UNM)	320 Yale Blvd	(505) 266-0201
Smith's Food & Drug (near Nob Hill)	3701 Constitution	(505) 256-9423
Sprouts Farmers Market	5112 Lomas Blvd NE	(505) 268-5127
Whole Foods Market	2100 Carlisle Blvd NE	(505) 260-1366

International/Ethnic Grocery Stores

999 Seafood Supermarket (Asian foods)	5315 Gibson Blvd (505) 268-2422	(505) 268-2422
Ariana Halal Market & Café (Middle Eastern foods)	1401 San Mateo Blvd NE (505) 255-1325	(505) 255-1325
Facebook (Café Istanbul) (Mediterranean foods)	1415 Wyoming NE (505) 294-9900	(505) 294-9900
Talin Market World Food Fare (Global food options)	88 Louisiana Blvd SE (505) 268-0206	(505) 268-0206

Pharmacy & Healthcare

UNM Student Health and Counseling Center	Located on Main Campus	(505) 277-3136
Walgreen (near UNM)	2950 Central Ave SE	(505) 262-1745
Walgreen (near Nob Hill)	3501 Lomas Blvd NE	(505) 255-8908

Superstores

Target	2120 Louisiana Blvd NE	(505) 200-3234
Walmart Supercenter	2701 Carlisle Blvd NE	(505) 268-6611

Discount Stores

Big Lots	9500 Montgomery Blvd Ne, Suite A	(505) 266-9486
Family Dollar	1400 Gibson Blvd SE	(505) 539-1203
Dollar Tree	4610 Cutler Ave NE	(505) 415-7883

Secondhand/Thrift Stores

<u>The Salvation Army Family Store & Donation Center</u>	<u>4501 Silver Ave SE</u>	(505) 254-1778
<u>Savers</u>	<u>2620 Carlisle Blvd NE</u>	(505) 888-0116
<u>Thrift Town</u>	<u>3900 Menaul Blvd NE</u>	(505) 872-0647
<u>Goodwill</u>	<u>6001 Lomas Blvd NE R</u>	(505) 881-6751

Department Stores

<u>ABQ Uptown</u>	<u>2200 Louisiana Blvd NE</u>	(505) 792-1929
<u>Coronado Center Shopping Mall</u>	<u>6600 Menaul Blvd NE</u>	(505) 881-2700
<u>Ross Dress For less</u>	<u>4201 Central Ave NW</u>	(505) 831-0334
<u>Ross Dress For Less</u>	<u>5001 Montgomery Blvd NE</u>	(505) 831-0334
<u>T.J. Maxx</u>	<u>2100 Louisiana Blvd NE</u>	(505) 830-9499
<u>Winrock Town Center</u>	<u>2100 Louisiana Blvd NE #51</u>	(505) 883-6132

Furniture Stores

<u>American Home Furniture Outlet and Clearance Center</u>	<u>801 Comanche Rd NE</u>	(505) 761-3200
<u>Mor Furniture For Less</u>	<u>4920 Menaul Blvd NE</u>	(505) 883-4944

School Supplies and Bookstores

<u>Staples</u>	<u>6001 Menaul Blvd NE</u>	(505) 830-3322
<u>Office Max</u>	<u>5001 Cutler Ave NE</u>	(505) 881-3145
<u>UNM Bookstore</u>	<u>UNM Main Campus</u>	(505) 277-5451

Online Bookstores

<u>Chegg</u>	<u>Campus Books</u>	<u>Amazon</u>	<u>Barnes and Noble</u>
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