



The Saudi Student Association

New Student Guide to Denton and
the University of North Texas

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Introduction

The Saudi Student Association welcomes you to the University of North Texas. This guide is designed to help ease the difficulties of settling in Denton. This guide will cover housing, banking, food, transportation, communication, time differences and prayer times.

Housing

If you are a single student, then you have 3 choices of housing: dorms, furnished apartments, and UN-furnished apartments. However, if you are with your family, then your choices are: furnished apartments, and UN-furnished apartments.

On-Campus Housing:

On-campus housing (dorms) has the most convenient location. However, on-campus housing presents some unique attributes. First of all, many dorms require all residents to share a room. All dorms require residents to share a bathroom with at least 1 other person. More information about on-campus housing can be found at the UNT Housing department located on the first floor of Crumley Hall. You can also go online to their website: <http://housing.unt.edu> University housing fees include all utilities (electricity, water and heating) as opposed to all other housing arrangements.

Apartments:

Apartments provide the second most convenient locations close to campus. Apartments come in many shapes and sizes. There are two kinds of apartments available around Denton:

- Furnished apartments provide all the furniture including desks, couches, beds, and most appliances.
- Unfurnished apartments only provide a refrigerator and a stove (and many provide a dishwasher).

Note: if you are looking for an apartment you can find information at these websites.

www.apartmentguide.com/apartments/Texas/Denton/

www.forumdenton.com/

www.theridgeatnorthtexas.com

www.apartmentdata.com/EXERequest/ADC_ShowResults.asp?SHOWPAGE=1&VIP=000

www.rent.com

Townhouses:

Almost as common as apartments, townhouses are larger, yet slightly more expensive. Townhouses are two stories high with a larger kitchen and a larger living space. It is most often a preferred living situation for families.

Houses:

The most expensive and least flexible of all housing arrangements around Denton are houses. They are also usually the furthest from the university's main campus and usually require a car.

Leases:

All housing requires a lease (contract). Most places require you to sign a lease. University housing leases differs from all other leases. For apartments and townhouses, they have leases between 3 months and a year. Houses have the longest leases and have a minimum of a 1 year lease up to a 2 year lease.

Most housing requires the payment of a deposit which is a percentage of the monthly rental rate. Some leasing offices also require you to pay the first and last month's rent at the time of signing the lease.

It is strongly advisable to take a friend who is fluent in English with you to make sure that nothing is missed in translation.

Note: if you are looking for a roommate just go and check out the website and you'll find some.

<http://www.roommates.com>

Moving out:

If you decided to move your luggage to another house, you can do that by renting a truck from U-Haul.



www.uhaul.com

Money

Bank accounts:

It is inadvisable for you to carry around large amounts of cash. \$20 should be the most cash you have on your person at any given time. Therefore it is extremely advisable for new students to open a bank account as soon as possible after arriving in Denton. The two most common types of bank accounts are checking and savings. A checking account usually has no minimum balance and does not accumulate interest. Checking accounts are also the only type of account that you can be issued checks for. Aside from providing you with checks, checking accounts also come with a debit card. This debit card can be used anywhere as a credit card. The difference between a credit card and a debit card is that a debit card has a lower daily limit and withdraws money directly from your bank account.

Saving accounts accumulate interest and depending on the bank you deal with, some will require a minimum balance and others will not. Of course saving accounts don't come with check books but you can get money out of your account through the ATM or visiting the bank.

Bank of America 
<https://www.bankofamerica.com>

Chase Bank CHASE 
<https://www.chase.com>

Wellsfargo 
<https://www.wellsfargo.com>

Fraud:

Often times you will receive calls notifying you that you have won a prize from a company (that you probably never heard of). The prize will follow your subscription/enrollment in the company/program. Many of these companies/programs are deceptive and are most likely after your credit card/check card number. Ignore all unsolicited calls from those companies and hang up immediately.

Food

This is a non-Muslim country. Pig-products and alcohol are common in foods. You must be aware and cautious of any food or drinks you purchase. One easy way to check if a food product contains any pig products is to look at the ingredients on the back of the package. Pig products have many names, most common of which are: ham, pork, bacon, lard, sausage, pepperoni, salami and hog. Also some seemingly innocent ingredients might be made with pig products such as: gelatin, lard and animal fat.

Alcohol is commonly used in the manufacture of sweets. Some names to look out are: liquor, wine (red, white, etc.) and beer.

One guaranteed safe source of food is any food labeled as Kosher. Kosher food is food that is acceptable to orthodox Jews who do not eat pig products or consume alcohol. There are other restrictions in Kosher law that do not affect Muslims one way or the other.

Arabian Supermarkets and Restaurants:

INdo PAK

2548 Dickerson Parkway
Carrollton, TX 75006
972-323-2002

Babylon Food Mkt.

1017 E Irving Blvd
Irving, TX 75060
972-438-8417
972-554-1712

World Food Market

13434 Floyd Circle
Dallas, TX 75243
972-480-9911

Sara'a Mediterranean Food's

750 S. Sherman St.
Richardson, TX, 75081
972-437-1122 , 972-437-1123

AFrah Resturant

314 E. Main St.
Richardson, TX, 75081
972-234-9898

Fadi's Mediterranean

Dallas - location 1

3001 Knox St.
Suite 110
Dallas, TX
214-528-1800

Dallas - location 2

14902 Preston Road
Dallas, TX
972-934-8500

Frisco - location 1

2787 Preston Road
Frisco, TX
972-712-1600

Western Supermarkets:

- Wal-Mart **WAL★MART®**
www.walmart.com
- Kroger 
www.kroger.com
- Target 
www.target.com

Transportation

Public Transportation:

In Denton there are two types of public transportation: buses and taxis. The DCTA buses are available around most of Denton (and free to UNT students). Taxis in Denton must be called and cannot be hailed on the side of the road.

Personal Vehicles:

Once you have established yourself in Denton, you will probably want to obtain a car. There are many rules and regulations that you must follow in order to obtain and operate a motor vehicle.

In order for you to operate any vehicle you need a driver's license. The international driver's license only allows you to drive in Texas within 90 days of entering the United States. You will need to go to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) on Loop 288 in order to apply for a driver's license. You can find more information on that from the International Welcome Center in Kendall Hall room 120.

Taxis:

A's Cab

220 Fry St.
Denton, Texas
(940)566-2755

North Texas Airport Transportation

1212 W University Dr.
Denton, Texas
(940)565-9936

Executive Taxi

309 W Oak St.
Denton, Texas
(940)591-1152

AA Taxi

1232 W Oak St.
Denton, Texas
(940)566-2744

Note: you can order a taxi by phone.

Rental cars:



www.budget.com

(800) 527-7000



www.enterprise.com

(940) 383-2212



www.avis.com

(940) 484-2082

Note: you can get a ride by calling them and mentioning that you need a ride.

Getting pulled over:

In case you violate traffic laws (and a police officer has seen you) you will be “pulled over” by the officer. There are many differences between getting stopped by an American police officer and being stopped back home. First and foremost: **DO NOT EXIT THE VEHICLE** unless ordered to do so by the officer. Secondly, pull over on the side of the road or into a parking lot away from traffic. Thirdly, be courteous (polite) when speaking to the police officer, they’re just doing their job. Finally, always keep your hands visible. The best place for you to put your hands is on top of the steering wheel. Make sure you have your driver’s license and proof of insurance with you while driving.

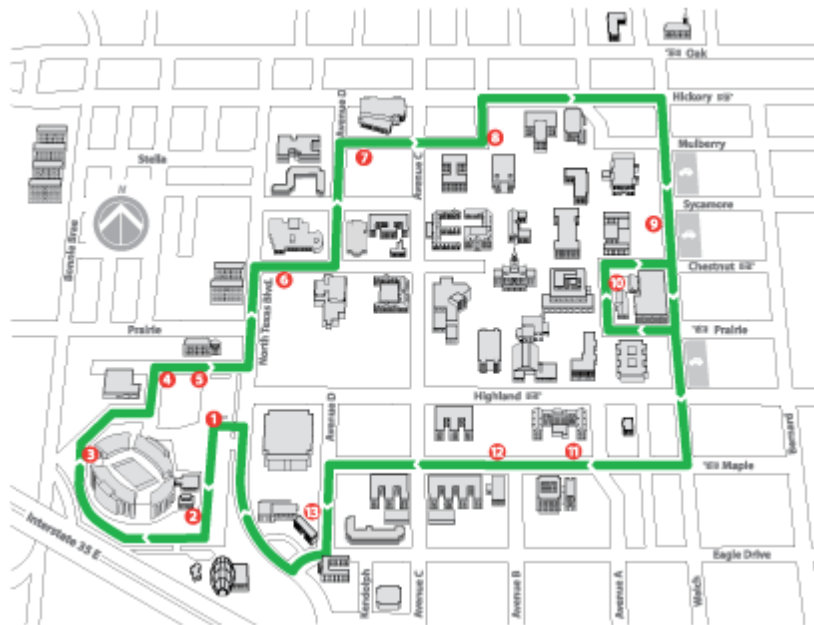
Public Transportation:

DCTA Connect is the main public transportation service for UNT. The University of North Texas has partnered up with the Denton Country Transportation Authority in hopes to provide the UNT community with local routes and a reliable bus service. DCTA Connect is a fixed, local bus service that operates in the cities of Lewisville and Denton. Connect mainly operates Monday through Saturday—other than major holidays. UNT students are able to use these busses free of charge by validating their school affiliation through showing a UNT ID. The configured routes provide convenient accessibility to

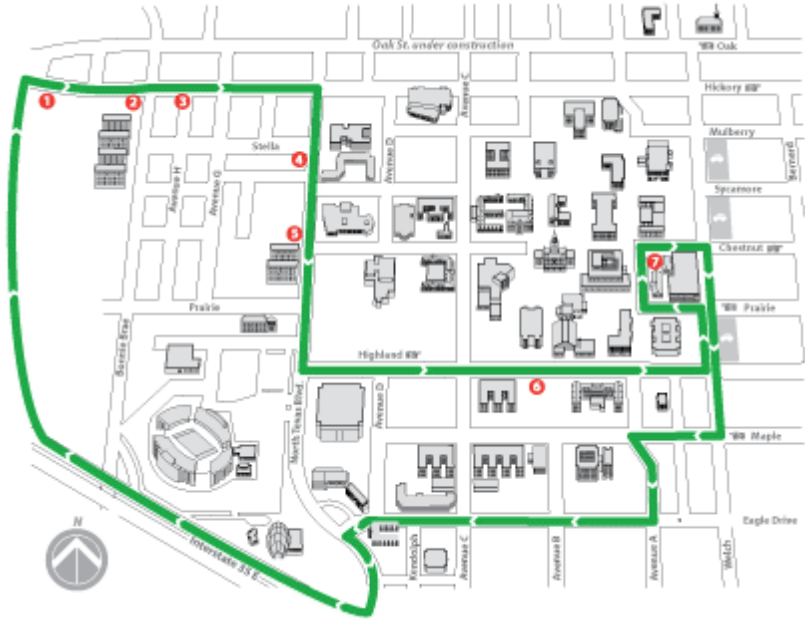
many important destinations in both of these cities. There are nine busses in circulation around Denton:



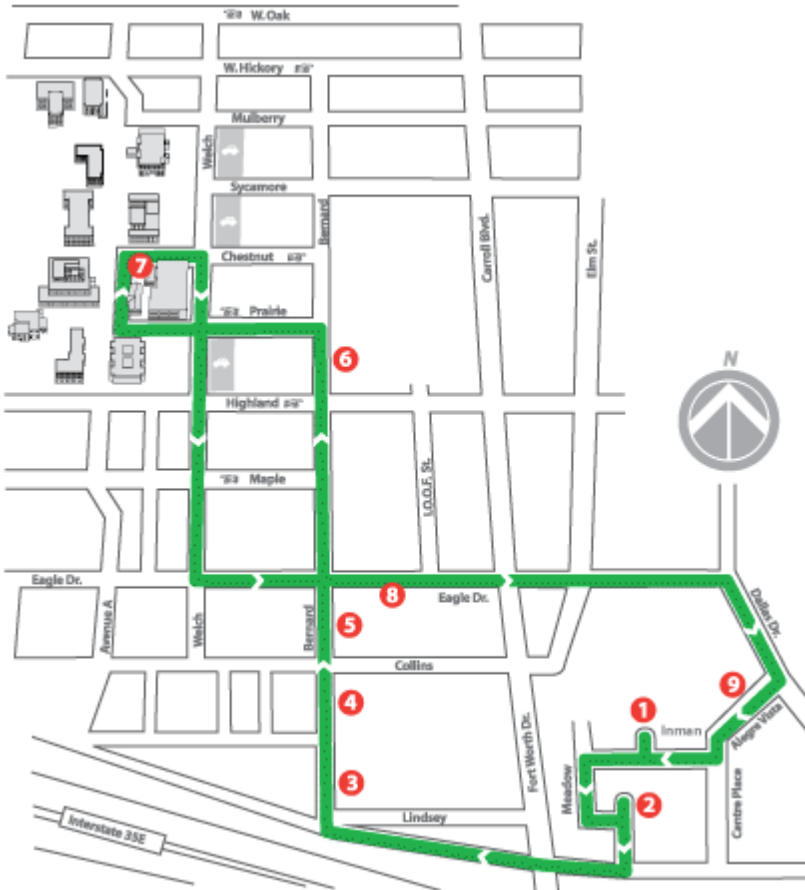
Mean Green



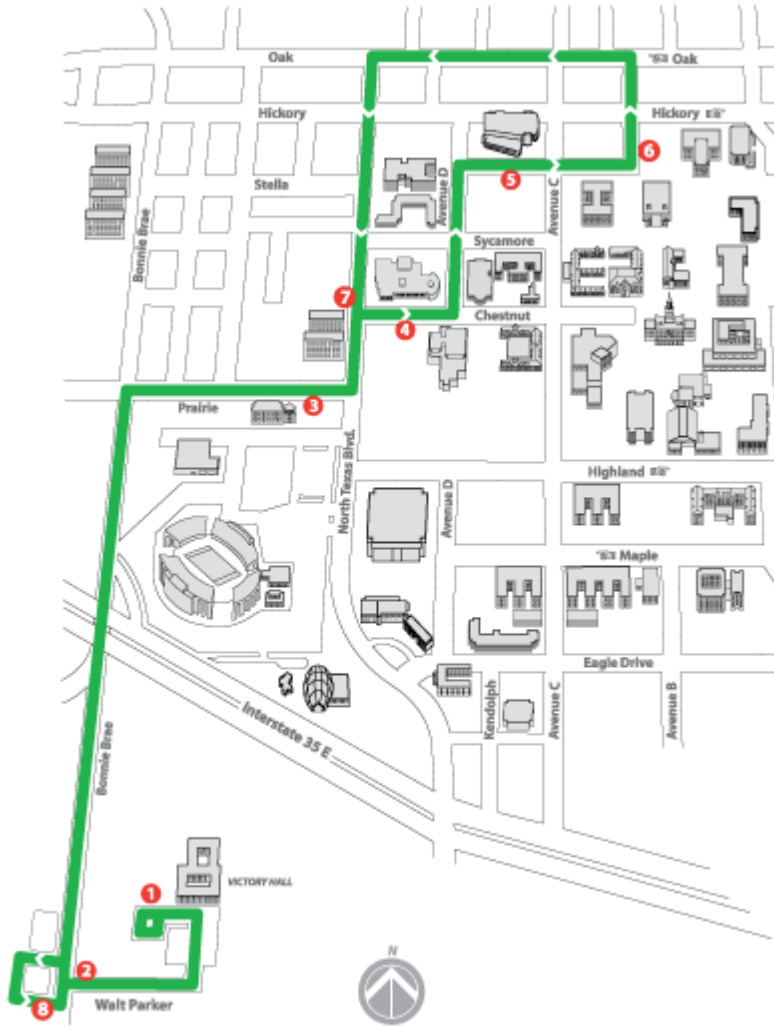
North Texan



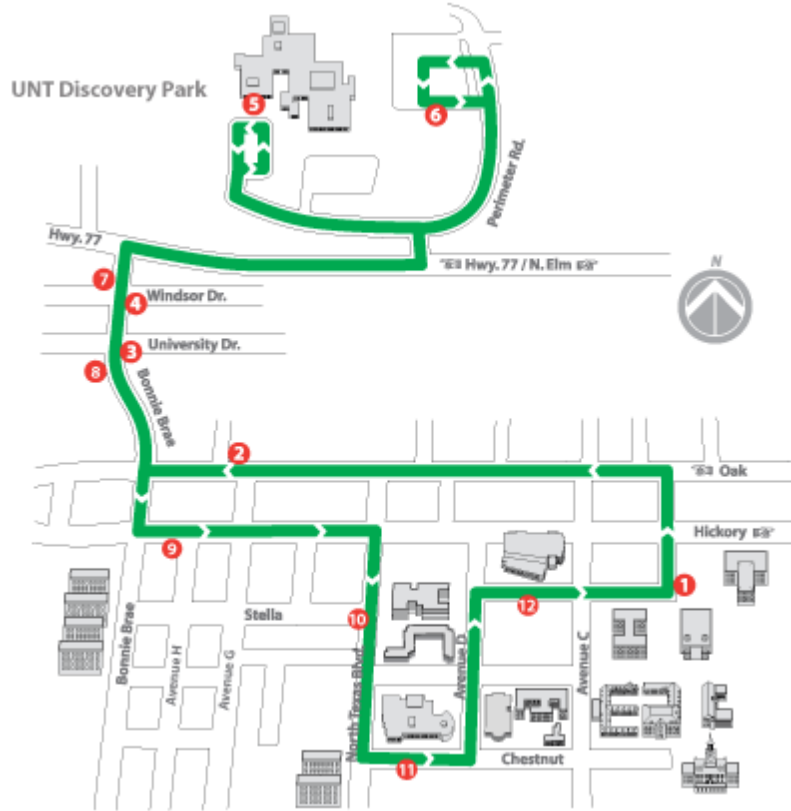
Centre Place



Eagle Point



UNT Discovery Park



Bernard Street



Colorado Express

Sam Bass



You can get more information about exact times and schedules at unt.com/transportation

Traffic Collisions:

In the event of an accident (god forbid) make sure that everybody is okay and dial 911 to report the collision. Do not move the vehicle; doing so will make it impossible for the police to determine fault.

Insurance:

There are many insurance options and different levels of coverage. The Saudi Student Association recommends the following insurance companies:

Geico: www.geico.com



Allstate: www.allstate.com



Allstate®
You're in good hands.

Statefarm: www.statefarm.com



AAA: www.aaa.com



Air Travel:

Be sure to book your ticket well in advance since the sooner you book your ticket the less expensive it will be. Most people prefer to book their tickets on the internet. Some popular websites are: orbitz.com, CheapTickets.com, and priceline.com.

Communication

Post Mail:

In order to send a letter by post you will need three things.

- First, you will need the destination address. That should be written on the front of the envelope.
- Secondly, you will need the proper postage (stamps) on the top right hand corner of the front of the envelope.
- Finally you should write your address on the top left of the envelope.

For example UNT International Office address is:

**1155 Union Circle #311067
Denton, TX 76203-5017**

Also you can send a letter in the post office which is located in the Student Union on the 2nd floor.

Phone:

You have many options for communication by phone. Mobile phones (are called cell phones in the US), home phones (called landlines in the US) and phone cards.

Phone cards can be purchased from the internet or any grocery store around town. The internet phone cards are usually less expensive. Some popular websites for purchasing phone cards are:

<http://www.ppoutlet.com>

- We recommend these cards:
 1. HELLO SAUDI ARABIA
 2. ATLAS

<http://www.arabcallingcard.com>

<http://www.pingo.com>

Phone cards are by far the least expensive way to call back home since most other methods will charge you at least \$0.50 per minute.

Communication companies for home internet, telephone, and cable are:

- Verizon (most popular) 
www.verizon.com
- Charter 
www.charter.com

Note: watch for special offers.

Time

Daylight Savings Time (DST):

The US has a non-fixed time difference from GMT.

- You will need to advance your clock one hour at 2:00am on the Second Sunday in March (DST starts).
- You will need to move it back one hour at 2:00am on the First Sunday in November (DST ends).

Time differences:

The time difference between Denton and Saudi is 8 hours during DST and 9 hours otherwise.

Prayer Times:

Prayer times can be found on www.Islamicfinder.com or from the local Mosque.

Hospitals:

- Presbyterian Hospital of Denton

<http://www.dentonhospital.com>

- Denton Regional Hospital

<http://www.dentonregional.com>

Dentist in Denton:

- <http://www.patruhledds.reachlocal.net>
- <http://www.susanneholmgreendds.com>

OB-Gyn:

- Ob-Gyn Specialists
www.dentonobgynspecialists.com


- Denton OB-GYN
www.dentongyn.com

Also the main hospitals above have an Ob-Gyn specialists.

Pharmacies:

- Walgreens 
www.walgreens.com

- Wal-Mart: Pharmacy
www.walmart.com

- CVS Pharmacy  (it's covered by the Saudi Embassy insurance)
www.cvs.com

Activities:

- Cinemark 
http://www.cinemark.com/theater_showtimes.asp?theater_id=359
- Golden Triangle Mall
- UNT GYM