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Welcome to UC Davis and to the Graduate Group in Epidemiology (GGE)! Although academic life is not new to you, we would like to help you become familiar with the UC Davis environment.

Where is Davis?

Davis is a centrally located, small northern California city with a small-town feel. It has a population of 65,000, so you are likely to run into someone you know while buying fresh bread, fruits, and vegetables at the twice-weekly farmer’s market, riding your bicycle around town, or participating in one of the numerous intellectual and cultural activities offered by the city and the University. The climate in the central valley is fairly temperate—summers are hot, sunny, and dry; winters are generally mild and rainy, but can occasionally be chilly. Davis is 15 miles from Sacramento, the state capital, an hour and thirty minute drive from the excitement and culture of San Francisco, and two and a half hours from the snow and camping of beautiful Lake Tahoe.

Airport Information

Davis is twenty miles from the Sacramento International Airport and ninety miles from the San Francisco International Airport. It is easier to fly into Sacramento, since transportation into Davis is less expensive and more straightforward. A taxi ride from the Sacramento airport will cost about $35, or you can make arrangements with the less-expensive Davis Airporter Service to have them meet you and take you to the address in Davis that you request. The ride costs $23 (one-way) for one person and $33 for two people. Contact them at least a day in advance before your arrival at (530) 756-6715 or (800) 565-5153.

Even less expensive than the Davis Airporter is the Yolobus service. Yolobus line #42B runs leaves the Sacramento Airport every hour at twenty minutes after the hour between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 pm and arrives at the Memorial Union on campus about 45 minutes later. Students with a registration card ride free. Graduate students are supposed to pay for this service, but the drivers rarely check the registration cards closely.

Go to:  
www.davisairporter.com  
www.yolobus.com

In addition to Sacramento International Airport, there are two airports in the Bay Area. Oakland International Airport is located 77 miles from Davis and San Francisco International Airport is located 85 miles from Davis. Less expensive flights may be found flying in and out of these two airports.

Go to:  
www.flyoakland.com  
www.san-francisco-sfo.com
Housing

This can be one of the biggest headaches for a new graduate student who is unfamiliar with Davis or lives far away. The vacancy rate in Davis is extremely low, so competition for the best houses/apartments/duplexes/etc is stiff and housing prices are expensive. The UC Davis Student Housing Office (530) 752-2033 will provide you with on-campus living and married/family student housing information. The Associated Students of UC Davis (ASUCD) maintains a Community Housing Listing database of all off-campus housing for the Davis community. Call them at (530) 752-1990 or check out their website (see below). If you are an international student, be sure to organize housing as soon as possible.

Go to: www.chl.ucdavis.edu

In addition to campus resources, many property management companies in Davis rent out houses, duplexes, condos, and apartments. King Properties (530) 753-0121; Acadian Properties (530) 753-2303; and Tandem Properties (530) 756-5075 are three of the most popular and more can be found in the local phone book or on the web.

Go to: www.kingproperties.com
www.acadianmanagement.com
www.tandemproperties.com

The local newspaper, the Davis Enterprise, Craig’s List Sacramento, and daviswiki.com are additional housing resources.

Go to: http://www.davisenterprise.com/classifieds.php
http://sacramento.craigslist.org/
www.daviswiki.com

Most returning students begin looking in March or April for places to live in the fall. However, don’t worry if you don’t decide to come to UC Davis until later in the spring or even the summer. People are always looking for someone to fill a vacancy in a house or apartment or seeking someone with whom to share a house or apartment. Just check the resources above.
Initial Costs

Covering tuition, fees, and expenses is the responsibility of each student, but resources do exist to help you with some of these costs. If you have been offered a research (GSR) or teaching assistantship (TA), you will not get your first paycheck until about five weeks after you begin work (usually November 1; this is because you must work an entire monthly paycheck cycle before being paid, and pay checks are only issued once per month, so you need to budget wisely). If you have been awarded a fellowship which includes a monthly stipend, you will typically not get your first check until November 1 as well. *If you are not being offered any funding, you will need to cover your own living and tuition/fee expenses.*

Tuition and fees (including health insurance) for California residents is approximately $5,513.54 per quarter in 2014-2015 and for non-residents tuition and fees (including health insurance) is approximately $10,547.54 per quarter. These costs are always subject to change by California Legislature. It is recommended to have at least $900 to $1200 per month set aside for monthly living expenses. *Also, if you rent an apartment you will need to pay in advance, possibly for the first and last month’s rent, and a security deposit. This is customary in the United States. Most places for rent are not furnished so you will need additional funds to outfit an apartment with furnishings and kitchen necessities.* Remember that credit cards are not accepted by the University cashier’s office for payment of tuition and fees.

Go to: [http://budget.ucdavis.edu/studentfees/current/index.html](http://budget.ucdavis.edu/studentfees/current/index.html) for the most up-to-date information on tuition and fees and a detail of what the student fees cover including mandatory student health insurance.

Getting around town

*Bikes, bikes, and more bikes.* They’re everywhere! Davis is sometimes referred to as “The Bicycle Capital of the United States” because of the large numbers of people who use the bicycle as their main form of transportation. The city is ideal for bike riding with its flat terrain and its wide bike lanes which can be found all over town and on campus. Davis has many bicycle shops to buy new bicycles and used bicycles can be found in the local newspaper (the Davis Enterprise) and on bulletin boards on campus and throughout the town. Bicycles are known to be stolen fairly frequently if not locked, so be sure to invest in a good U-lock and try not to leave your bicycle overnight on campus. One more bike tip: buy fenders. They go over the wheels and prevent water on the ground from creating what is known affectionately as the “Freshmen Stripe” on your back. *Bicycling is the most efficient and least expensive way to get around campus. If you choose to drive a car to campus you should become familiar with the parking lot restrictions and costs for student parking permits and be prepared to walk from the lots to inner campus.*
The other major form of transportation is the bus. **Unitrans** is the student run bus line that runs throughout the city. Buses leave directly from the Memorial Union (MU) or Shields Library on campus and go to most parts of town. Bus schedules can be found at the MU. **Yolobus** serves Yolo County and links Davis to downtown Sacramento and to Woodland.

Go to:  
http://unitrans.ucdavis.edu/  
www.yolobus.com

**GGE AND ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

**Registration (SISWEB)**

It is best that you plan out your class schedule as soon as possible and be prepared to register for fall quarter by late August/early September. In addition to the classes offered by the Graduate Group, many elective classes are offered outside of the GGE as well. The best resource for the variety of classes offered at the University is the course catalog. You may purchase a hard copy from the UCD Bookstore or you may view it online (see links below).

You can register for your classes online using **SISWEB**. You may have used SISWEB to apply to the university and is the same system in which you can view your account and register for classes. Class registration numbers (CRN) can be found on the GGE website *(or on the registrar’s website through sisweb)*. For other elective classes offered outside of the GGE, you will need to contact the professor who is teaching the class for permission to add the course and the CRN number. To be registered as a full time student, you MUST sign-up for a minimum of 12 units per quarter.

Go to:  
http://sisweb.ucdavis.edu  
http://registrar.ucdavis.edu/UCDWebCatalog/programs.html  
http://bookstore.ucdavis.edu/generalcatalog_classschedule.cfm

**Graduate Adviser**

A Graduate Advisor will be assigned to you in the GGE, based on your area of interest; either in human medicine, veterinary medicine, or another area. Graduate Advisors are available to help you find elective courses and track your progress throughout the program. If you have any questions about the course work, electives, examination and thesis/dissertation research contact your Graduate Advisor. **Be sure to meet with your Graduate Adviser at least once a quarter for the first few quarters of your graduate program.**
Peer Adviser

The Epidemiology Graduate Group Students (EGGS) group implemented a peer advisor program a few years ago and it has proven to be quite successful. The purpose of the peer advisor program is to provide each new GGE graduate student another resource person to approach with questions. This was also the objective of this Handbook, but every question a new student has may not be addressed here. Once a prospective student has accepted admission to the GGE, he/she will be paired up with a current GGE graduate student. Your peer advisor, in addition to your Graduate Advisor and guidance committee, can help you select classes and refer you to appropriate faculty with similar research interests. Your peer advisor can also help you with questions regarding the campus, the city, and anything a person new to the area might need to know.

Major Professor

You should find a major professor as soon as possible. Think about the areas of interest you have and contact faculty in those areas before the fall quarter begins. Faculty members in the Graduate Group can be found through the GGE website. The website briefly outlines their activities on campus and their research interests. The role of the major professor is very important. They will guide you throughout the program and into your research project. They will also act as the chair of your guidance committee and are crucial in securing funding for your dissertation project. Remember, you are interviewing the professor; the professor is not interviewing you. Finding a major professor that fits your needs as soon as possible will ensure that you meet goals within the targeted timeline. Also, do not feel the need to apologize for making an appointment to meet with your major professor or any other professor at UCD. Professors are here to help graduate students with their studies and research.

Funding

Current graduate students have tapped into several main sources of funding. They include serving as a Teaching Assistant (TA) or Graduate Student Researcher (GSR), being awarded a fellowship, and writing your own grant(s). By far the most common route is the TA/GSR, especially in the first two years. Your major professor is the best resource to use to find a position as a GSR. If you work 25% time, your in-state tuition, fees, and student health insurance are covered by your employer/faculty member. The Office of Graduate Studies website is an excellent site to visit for more information. As these positions are competitive, be sure to apply by June for positions in the fall. In addition, the GGE awards block grants for first year students and the Office of Graduate Studies website contains a list of fellowships offered to new and continuing students every year. Criteria for fellowships vary for each specific fellowship. This is THE place to start looking for fellowships for which applications are due January 15th of each year.

Go to: http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu
Course Information

Prerequisite Course Work:

Entering students are expected to have the equivalent of the following UC Davis courses:
MAT16A and B: Short Calculus, 3 units each, or
MAT21A and B: Calculus, 4 units each

and either

STA102: Introduction to Probability Modeling and Statistical Inference, 4 units;
STA106: Applied Statistical Methods: Analysis of Variance/ANOVA, 4 units;
STA108: Applied Statistical Methods: Regression Analysis, 4 units

or

MPM402 and MPM403: Medical Statistics I and II, 4 units each

Course Requirements: Core, Elective and Seminar:

Core Courses:
EPI202: Quantitative Epidemiology I: Probability, 5 units
EPI203: Quantitative Epidemiology II: Statistical Inference, 4 units
EPI204: Quantitative Epidemiology III: Statistical Models, 4 units
EPI205: Principles of Epidemiology, 4 units
EPI206: Epidemiologic Study Design, 4 units
EPI207: Advanced Epidemiologic Methodology, 4 units
EPI208: Analysis and Interpretation of Epidemiologic Data, 3 units
PHR202: Sampling in Health-Related Research, 3 units or
STA144: Sampling Theory of Surveys, 4 units

Elective Courses:

Electives should be selected based on the student’s chosen Area of Emphasis (nine units) plus, for doctoral students and master’s students doing a thesis, three additional units from among graduate courses in epidemiology and statistics. Areas of Emphasis include infectious disease epidemiology; health services and health economics, epidemiologic methods and biostatistics, occupational and environmental epidemiology, nutritional epidemiology, wildlife epidemiology, zoonotic and vector borne diseases; reproductive, perinatal, developmental and pediatric epidemiology; social and behavioral epidemiology.

Seminars in Epidemiology:

A seminar is offered every other week each quarter (0.5 units per quarter). Students are required to enroll in the seminar until advancement to candidacy (usually three quarters for master’s students, six for doctoral students).
Examinations:

M.S. Comprehensive Examination (Plan II): The comprehensive examination is the last requirement for plan II and is taken when the student has been advanced to candidacy, usually during the fourth to sixth quarter of enrollment. It is both written and oral and designed to assess the student’s mastery and working knowledge of subjects presented in the required courses. Details are described in the Degree Requirements which are posted on the GGE website.

Ph.D. Pre-Qualifying Written Examination: The Pre-Qualifying Exam is design to assess the student’s mastery and working knowledge of subjects presented in the required courses as well as his/her ability to evaluate methods, analyze and logically interpret data. The examination consists of three sections: basic epidemiology, advanced epidemiology and statistics and usually takes in early to mid-September. For more details see the Degree Requirements.

Ph.D. Qualifying Oral Examination: Students must pass the Pre-Qualifying Written Examination before taking the Oral Qualifying Exam. Passing the Qualifying Oral Examination makes the student eligible for advancement to candidacy and is ordinarily taken by the ninth quarter of the student’s enrollment. The purpose of the examination is to assess whether the student is capable of critical and independent thinking related to epidemiology, statistics, his/her Area of Emphasis, and selected topic and to assess whether the student is qualified to proceed with his/her dissertation research. For details see the Degree Requirements.

Thesis/Dissertation Research:

M.S. Thesis (Plan I): The thesis must be an original contribution to knowledge and demonstrate creative and independent work. The topic must be approved by a student’s Guidance Committee, usually by the third quarter of the student’s enrollment. If course prerequisites are met, the thesis should ordinarily be completed by the fourth to sixth quarter. All aspects of the thesis must be defensible and demonstrate the student’s knowledge of relevant literature and research methods. For further detail, see the Degree Requirements.

Ph.D. Dissertation: The dissertation must be an original contribution to knowledge in epidemiology and demonstrate creative and independent work that is publishable in a peer-reviewed journal. All aspects of the dissertation must be defensible including hypotheses, data quality, methods, results and interpretation. The format of the dissertation typically will include an introduction, critical review of the literature, at least three chapters, each representing a publishable paper in a journal-ready format and a summary. The dissertation involves a required Exit Seminar and an optional Defense Seminar.
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Please refer to the Graduate Studies website for all questions related to international student status, passport, visas, etc. Also, the GGE has historically enrolled a plethora of international students from a diverse number of countries.

Go to:  http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/prospective/internat.htm

In addition, the office of Services for International Students & Scholars assists international students in their pre-arrival preparation and provides immigration advice, financial information, general advising and counseling, and a variety of cross-cultural activities.

Go to:  http://siss.ucdavis.edu/

ADDITIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT RESOURCES AT UC DAVIS

Office of Graduate Studies:

The Office of Graduate Studies, commonly referred to as simply “Grad Studies,” is located at 250 Mrak Hall. Since you’ve already been accepted to UC Davis, you’ve no doubt already visited its website. Grad Studies has a wealth of information on its website. If you have a question about anything and can’t find someone to ask, check out the website. It contains information on fees, funding, living in Davis, deadlines, degree requirements, forms, teaching assistant (TA)/Graduate Student Researcher (GSR) positions, residency status, etc.

The GGE contact in the Office of Graduate Studies is: Laura Young, leyoung@ucdavis.edu.

or,

Go to:  http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu

Campus Libraries:

The main library on campus is the Shields University Library and you should take time to become familiar with it because it provides great services and resources. The library provides tours of its facilities throughout the year and also provides regularly scheduled tours during the first two weeks of fall quarter. The Shields Library is home to one of the many computer labs on campus and also houses I.T. Express, the place where you go to set up your UC Davis e-mail account and set your login ID and password. I.T. Express also sells software for installing the UC Davis e-mail program on your home computer for a small fee. As epidemiology students, you will mostly likely utilize the Carlson Health Science Library as well. It is located on the medical and veterinary school campus.

Go to:  www.lib.ucdavis.edu
       http://itexpress.ucdavis.edu
       www.lib.ucdavis.edu/healthsci/
For international students a solid foundation in reading, speaking and writing English is strongly advised, since this is required for coursework as well as for the completion of theses and dissertations. This campus offers a number of resources to assist foreign students in perfecting their English speaking and writing skills. If you need additional help in English, be sure to discuss this with your Graduate Advisor so that you can include an appropriate English course in your schedule.

Graduate Student Association (GSA)

The UC Davis Graduate Student Association (GSA) is a student-driven representative organization, linking students of the diverse graduate programs. Funded by graduate student fees, GSA provides services to graduate students and protects and promotes their interests at all levels of University administration. Regularly enrolled graduate students, professional students in the Graduate School of Management, and professional students in the teaching credential program are automatically GSA members. The GSA offers coffee and donuts every Friday from 9 am to noon, holds social events throughout the school year, and offers travel awards to graduate students. The GSA office/lounge is located at 253 South Silo.

Go to:  
http://gsa.ucdavis.edu

Association of Graduate Student Employees

Go to:  
http://www.uaw2865.org/

Cowell Student Health Center

The Cowell Student Health Center offers primary health care for students, including general and specialty clinics. Services and facilities include X-ray, laboratory, pharmacy, physical therapy, and a women’s clinic. General information: (530) 752-2300; advice nurse: 752-9649; appointments: 752-2349.

For students with families (spouses and children), restrictions exist for family members to be included in the graduate student’s health care policy. These restrictions differ for domestic and international students. If you require health care for your family, be sure to get information from Cowell Health Center directly regarding this issue.

Go to:  
http://healthcenter.ucdavis.edu
**CAPS**: Professionals are available to help manage psychological problems, depression, stress management, etc. through Cowell Health Center. Some of these costs are covered under your graduate health insurance with the university. If you are having any such concerns you can call the counseling department of the Cowell Health Center at 530/752-0871 or contact them through email address listed on the website below:

   *Go to:* [http://caps.ucdavis.edu/](http://caps.ucdavis.edu/)

**Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS)**

Are you going to bring a car to UC Davis and are you going to drive it to campus? Then, you have to buy a parking permit and TAPS is the place to do this. A parking permit costs ~ $418 for the entire year (prices are based on the starting date of the permit, so they may vary). The prices could increase at any time. The other main function of TAPS is to issue bicycle licenses. The permits are $8 for a two-year period ($4 to renew), your bike will be registered and, if stolen, you’ll have a much better chance of retrieving it.

   *Go to:* [www.taps.ucdavis.edu](http://www.taps.ucdavis.edu)

**LOCAL POINTS OF INTEREST**

**Recreation:**

Davis has too many recreation choices to list. Be sure to check out the UC Davis website for information on the Memorial Union Games Area, the Craft Center, Experimental College, Outdoor Adventures and the brand new Activities and Recreation Center on campus. This facility contains state of the art exercise equipment, weight lifting equipment, racquetball, squash, exercises classes, pool, etc. Also check out the City of Davis website and the Davis Community Network website for information on the Farmer’s Market, local pools and parks, the indoor sports arena, Putah Creek, and much more. You should also consult campus recreation services.

   *Go to:* [http://campusrecreation.ucdavis.edu](http://campusrecreation.ucdavis.edu)  
 [www.rechall.ucdavis.edu](http://www.rechall.ucdavis.edu)  
 [www.city.davis.ca.us](http://www.city.davis.ca.us)

Davis is located within driving distance of Tahoe National Forest and Yosemite National Park where you can enjoy swimming, skiing, mountain biking, horseback riding, fishing, hiking, camping, etc. You can enjoy the beautiful beaches of the Bay Area at Stinson Beach (85 miles) and Santa Cruz (140 miles).

 [http://www.nps.gov/yose/](http://www.nps.gov/yose/)  
The Post Office:

The Davis main post office is located at 2020 5th Street (at the corner of Pole Line Road) and is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. The Post Office offers a variety of services, including post box rentals, insurance, parcel post, postal money orders, and registered and certified mail. For more information, call them at 753-3496. In addition to the main post office, Davis has a few minimum service branches that provide basic services, such as selling stamps and mailing packages and letters within the United States. One of these is located in the UC Davis Memorial Union on campus and another is located on Third Street between C and D Streets.

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV):

This is the place to go for driver’s licenses (required for driving in California), ID card processing, driving tests, and anything else related to your vehicle. The DMV is located at 505 Pole Line Road (corner of 5th and Pole Line Road), and is closed on Mondays and Sundays. It is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday – Saturday. For general information, call (800) 777-0133.

SHOPPING

Davis Shopping:

Davis has many businesses to fulfill all your shopping needs including Border’s Books, Cost Plus, World Market, and ACE Hardware. For a full list of the businesses in Davis, visit the Davis Chamber of Commerce website, directory of businesses. The Student Book Store located in the Memorial Union on campus is also a good source for office, computer, and art supplies.

Go to: http://www.davischamber.com/directory/index.asp

Davis Farmer’s Market:

Featured in national magazines and frequently voted "best thing to do in Davis," the Davis Farmers Market is open year round – rain or shine. You'll find a wide range of fruits and vegetables, including certified organic produce, as well as fresh baked goods, flowers and plants. Everything sold in the market is either grown by or made by the seller.

Go to: http://www.davisfarmersmarket.org/

Woodland County Fair Mall:

The only regional mall in Yolo County features a number of shops and restaurants and department stores, including Target, a large store with a variety of household supplies at reasonable prices. The mall is located at the corner of East Gibson Road and East Street in Woodland. Access is simplest by automobile, but Yolobus also stops here. It is open Mon-Fri:
10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., and Sunday: 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.  Phone: (530) 661-0777.  This mall is approximately 10 minutes from Davis.

Arden Fair Mall-Sacramento

The Arden Fair Mall is another of Sacramento’s larger malls. It is approximately a 25 minute drive from Davis.

Go to: www.ardenfair.com

Old Sacramento

This area, authentically restored to its Gold Rush-era style, houses more than 130 specialty and tourist shops and restaurants and features three museums. Many festivals and special events are held here annually.

Go to: www.oldsacramento.com

There you have it! This should get you started on how to navigate the program, the campus, and the town. Again, all information about the GGE, UC Davis and Davis could not be listed in this document, so feel free to contact your peer advisor, which will be assigned to you this summer. Also, feel free to contact the EGGS President, Mary Beth Danforth at medanforth@ucdavis.edu.