

Student Families @ Cal: Information for undergraduate student parents making the transition to Berkeley

The Transfer, Re-entry, and Student Parent Center
Student Parent Programs & Services

<http://trsp.berkeley.edu>

Student Parent Programs & Services (SPPS)

SPPS is a campus support service that responds to the unique needs of students who are combining school and parenting. SPPS works to identify resources for families and to provide support services which enhance the campus experience and academic success of student parents who are new to Berkeley and Berkeley students who are new to parenting. SPPS staff and student parent interns advise and support parents in resolving any situation which impacts academic achievement – for example, obtaining housing, child care, financial aid and adjusting the academic course load for family responsibilities.

Contact: Alice Jordan, Coordinator at (510) 643-5729,

E-Mail ajordan@berkeley.edu

100 Cesar Chavez Student Center, drop-in hours 9-5 weekdays.

Student Parent Support Courses (Co-facilitated by Student Parents)

- ***Once Upon a University: An Orientation Course for Student Parents***
This course focuses on campus resources and opportunities of particular relevance to student parents making the first semester transition to Cal.
- ***It Takes a Village : Student Parents in Higher Education***
This course focuses on community building and the exchange of information and strategies to successfully combine school and parenting.

Student Parent Internships

Internships for academic credit are also available for student parents interested in developing community service projects and/or serving as peer advisors.

Student Parent Association for Recruitment & Retention (SPA-RR)

The Student Parent Association is a registered student group sponsored by SPPS and funded by the ASUC, Associated Students of the University of California. Its mission is to raise awareness, build community and provide advocacy regarding campus policies and programs that affect student parents. The SPA-RR members are dedicated to providing outreach services geared towards increasing the numbers of student parents from community colleges and high schools that apply to, and attend UC Berkeley. By providing a positive and supportive network for both prospective and current UC Berkeley students, SPA-RR hopes to aid in the academic achievement of student families.

<http://www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~spa/>

For more information contact:

SPA-RR President Ginelle Perez at ginelle_curincita@berkeley.edu or

SPA-RR Outreach Coordinator Rue Mapp at rulette@berkeley.edu

Financial Aid

<http://students.berkeley.edu/fao/>

Parent Grant

Student parents are usually eligible to receive a *Student Parent Grant* of up to \$6,000 per academic year, in addition to other need-based awards you may qualify for, based on income. This grant is included in a student's financial aid package, typically reducing the amount of federal loan that a student is offered in the initial financial aid award offer.

Budget Appeals

In addition to the *Parent Grant*, Berkeley also allows students with dependent children to file several types of *Budget Appeals*, so that a student's cost of attendance budget can be increased, typically allowing for maximum access to all available grants, loans and work study. This can allow you to add expenses incurred such as childcare, transportation, travel, medical expenses, the purchase of a personal computer (once every three years), as well as the cost of rent above the "average" amount allowable in the *standard* student budget. This helps to offset the high cost of family housing, although it usually requires additional loan indebtedness.

Emergency Loans

Emergency loans are available up to \$650. Funds are dispersed the same day the request is made.

Housing

UC Family Student Housing

<http://www.housing.berkeley.edu/housing/>

Berkeley offers two Family Student Housing sites named *University Village* and *Smyth-Fernwald*. The apartments range from one to three bedrooms, with one or two bathrooms. Applications can be downloaded at the above web site and you do not need to have been admitted to apply to be placed on the waiting list.

University Village (starting @ \$1360/month utilities included) 2007-08 projected

The majority of student families are housed in University Village. The Village, located in the City of Albany, is just 3 miles north of campus. There is access to public transportation from the Village to campus. Also, each apartment is assigned one free parking Space.

University Village has various resources available to its residents. There is a quiet and comfortable Study Center and a Computer Center. Residents can also utilize the Family Resource Center (FRC). It offers free, two-hour slots for children's activities while parents use the Academic Center, do laundry in the Village, or study in their apartments. Also, the Village Recreation program offers a wide variety of programs for adults and children. Examples include badminton, volleyball, baseball, and gymnastics. Moreover, there is a teen center that offers specific programs for youth. The University Village Youth Services operates Kids Corner, an after school program for children in 3rd through 5th grade, as well as activities for youth in 6th through 12th grade. Children who live in University Village reside within the Albany Unified School District, which operates both preschool and after school programs located in the Village. Student parents can apply to the school district before they move into the Village, and should do so as soon as a housing confirmation letter is received. Albany School District is located at 904 Talbot Avenue, Albany, CA 94706. Phone (510) 558-3750.

Smyth-Fernwald (starting at \$857/month) 2007-08 projected amounts

This is a smaller complex of apartment units on the southeastern edge of the Berkeley campus. It is within walking distance to the campus, with great Bay Area views. Moving into Smyth-Fernwald usually means a longer wait and many families start out in the Village and then move to Smyth-Fernwald as vacancies occur. Residents of Smyth-Fernwald pay a \$20/month parking fee for one space. Children who live at Smyth-Fernwald reside in the Berkeley Unified School District, which operates preschool and after school programs. Berkeley Unified School District is located at 2134 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704-1180. Also, UC

Berkeley Early Childhood Education Program operates three nearby programs - toddlers, preschool, and after school at the Clark Kerr Campus.

CAL Rentals - Family Housing in the Community

<http://calrentals.housing.berkeley.edu>

Cal Rentals provides housing advising and referrals to non-University housing (shared housing, apartments and houses, and room/work exchanges). Housing lists are updated daily and are available to students by email, online, or custom printout. If students need to come to campus during the summer to look for housing, Cal Rentals can refer you to guest residence for visitors or other short-term rental options while you search for permanent housing.

Physical Relocation

Moving a family may be a big hurdle to overcome when student parents are deciding on which university to attend. This may be because of a variety of reasons, including the financial costs associated with relocating, the temporary loss of accessible support networks, the loss of employment due to moving, and the overall social adjustment of all of the family members involved. To assist with individualized needs and concerns, student parent interns are available to assist with information, individual problem-solving and advocacy through Student Parent Programs & Services.

Berkeley's financial aid office also assists newly entering students with relocation expenses through the Budget Appeal process (see description in financial aid section) so save any receipts!!

Health Care

University Health Services (UHS)

www.uhs.berkeley.edu/students/insurance/families.html

University Health Services (UHS), located in the Tang Center, provides medical, health promotion, and counseling services to all Berkeley students, and their spouses or domestic partners. Most student health services are at no or low-cost; spouses and domestic partners must pay additional fees. All Berkeley students are required to have health insurance coverage (called SHIP). Students are charged a health insurance fee as part of their registration fees. To waive out of SHIP, students must be covered by another health insurance plan and submit a waiver form to the Student Health Insurance Office. **UHS does not administer dependent health care plans.** However, the office offers insurance information to student families, including a Health Insurance for Dependents of Students brochure that outlines the various private health plans and costs. This brochure can be accessed by visiting the UHS office or website, or at the Student Parent Center.

No-Cost & Low-Cost Family Health Care

In the past, Berkeley offered a dependent health care plan to students with children, as well as student health care coverage. However, this is longer in place. UC Berkeley currently offers health care for enrolled students only, leaving student parents to find alternative means of obtaining medical coverage for children and spouses/partners. Some of the options that student parents utilize are Medi-Cal (state provided welfare insurance), Healthy Families (state subsidized insurance), or private insurance through work benefits or by personal purchase.

Medi-Cal

http://www.co.alameda.ca.us/assistance/services/medi_cal.shtm

Medi-Cal will cover most of your family's health care cost, including preventive care, prenatal care, pediatric care, dental care, glasses, prescriptions, immunizations, and emergency services. Student families may be eligible for Medi-Cal benefits even if they are not receiving any other form of social service assistance. Student parents can apply for all members of their family, for dependent(s) only, or for a specific need (e.g., pregnancy). To be eligible, a household must meet the income and property limit rules. These limits continue to change; you can get updated information at the Student Parent Center or by visiting or by contacting the Medi-Cal office in the county in which you reside.

Healthy Families

<http://www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov>

Healthy Families is a state-funded program for children; health coverage for parents is not available. This program is a low cost insurance that provides health, dental and vision coverage to children who do not qualify for no-cost Medi-Cal. Also, enrollees have the option to choose from various health plans (e.g., Kaiser Permanente, Health Net, Blue Cross, and Alameda Alliance for Health). Family size, family income, and the health plan that enrollees choose determine the monthly premium. The monthly premium ranges from \$4 to \$9 per month and up to a maximum of \$27 for all children in a family enrolled in the Health Families program. Applications can be downloaded at the website listed above.

<h2>Social Services/CalWorks/TANF</h2>

http://www.alamedasocialservices.org/public/services/financial_assistance/calWORKs/

In addition to being eligible for federal financial aid, many students with dependent children are also eligible for social services/TANF benefits. These benefits primarily consist of food stamps, Medi-Cal, and cash aid. Students participating in a CalWorks training/education program may also be eligible to receive assistance with transportation expenses, the purchasing of textbooks, and child care and after school care costs.

Student Parent interns at Student Parent Programs & Services can in navigation of local social service agencies and provide information and advocacy about eligibility for benefits.

Child Care

[Http://www.housing.berkeley.edu/child/families/](http://www.housing.berkeley.edu/child/families/)

Berkeley has a comprehensive Early Childhood Education Program, which serves infants, toddlers, pre-schoolers and after-school children, at eight sites on or near the campus. Fees are determined according to a sliding scale set by the Department of Education and students can apply at any time but the deadline for applications for Fall semester subsidized spaces is usually June 1st. Despite the size of the program, which serves 209 families, the need for childcare exceeds the supply and in particular parents of infants and toddlers may find themselves with very limited childcare options.

Many additional subsidized and unsubsidized programs can be found in the Berkeley area and you can contact the local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, Bananas for referral information at <http://www.bananasinc.org/>

Additional information for student parents seeking to transfer to Cal can be found at <http://trsp.berkeley.edu/prospective.htm> including a link to download the Berkeley Student Parent Handbook, Once Upon A University as well as the TRSP Transfer Student Handbook.