

# PURCHASING A PRE-OWNED CAR

## Questions to Ask Yourself Before Purchasing;

- Do I need a car?
- Where will I be driving the car? (In Durham, around NC, across the US)
- For what purpose will I drive the car? (Transport to work, to classes, traveling)
- Is it better to use public transport? ZIPCAR, Car Rentals, Buses, etc.
- Why is it a good idea to have a car?
- Why is it a bad idea?
- Where should I buy a car?
  - Dealership (more expensive, quicker process but with service agreements and payment options)
  - Private seller (less expensive, more time consuming, no services included)

## Some Local Dealerships (most reliable cars costs over \$8,000)

### CarMax

8520 Glenwood Ave, Raleigh  
919.783.9494; [www.carmax.com](http://www.carmax.com)

### Triangle Auto Brokers

3303 N Roxboro St , Durham  
919-220-9476

### Mark Jacobson Toyota

4516 Chapel Hill Blvd  
[www.toyotaofdurham.com](http://www.toyotaofdurham.com)

### Atlantic Auto Exchange

2511 Guess Rd, Durham  
919.416.9400; [www.atlantiautoexchange.com](http://www.atlantiautoexchange.com)

### Franklin Auto

610 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill  
919.933.9500 [www.franklinautollc.com](http://www.franklinautollc.com)

### A Lot of Cars (owned by former Duke grad)

3119 North Roxboro Street, Durham  
919.220.7155 [www.alotofcarsnc.com](http://www.alotofcarsnc.com)

## Chapel Hill Leasing (For Duke Scholars and Graduate Students only)

PO Box 4641, Chapel Hill  
919.265.5149

<http://www.chleasing.com/duke/index.html>

Specializes in leasing to internationals. Four or six month lease (or 1, 2, or 3 years). CHL also has 2007 & 2009 cars for sale. See website for more detailed information.

In Durham there are a lot of car dealers on **Durham-Chapel Hill Boulevard**, also known as “15-501 Business”. Many of the new car dealers are also selling used cars. No need for an appointment. Hours Open are usually 9am til 9pm Monday – Friday, 9am til 6pm on Saturdays and afternoons on Sundays.

## Recommend Places to Find Private Sellers;

- [intlhouse@duke.edu](mailto:intlhouse@duke.edu) (Intlhouse list serv) Register at <http://ihouse.studentaffairs.duke.edu/resources/lists/sign-up.html>
- *Duke Lists on the Duke Dialogue* <http://dukelist.duke.edu/>
- Websites, including [www.raleigh.craigslist.org](http://www.raleigh.craigslist.org), [www.cars.com](http://www.cars.com), and [www.autotrader.com](http://www.autotrader.com)
- Classified ads in local papers, including Durham *Herald-Sun* and Raleigh *News & Observer*

## Before purchasing from a private seller, remember to;

- Look up the KBB value of the car before going to see it ([www.kbb.com](http://www.kbb.com))
- Look at the *Consumer Reports* rating of the car (Bostock Library has *Consumer Reports* in the Reference area)
- Ask for the seller for the “Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)” and run a report on [www.carfax.com](http://www.carfax.com) (This may cost a small fee unless you know someone who already has a subscription)
- Take the car to a mechanic for an evaluation (the car owner may wish to come with you)
  - I-House has a list of *Auto Mechanics* and the prices they charge to evaluate a used car. See **Auto Mechanic** handout.

## What questions should I ask a seller?

- How long have you owned this car? Are you the original owner?
- How many miles have you put on the car? What is the total mileage?
- What repairs have you made? Have you been in any accidents? Could I see the maintenance records?
- Why are you selling this car?
- If a mechanic finds a problem with this car, will you repair it before I purchase it?

**WARNING: Do not buy a car that does not have a current inspection sticker, license tags, or title.**

### How much will buying a car cost all together?

- How much can I afford to spend? (i.e., have a firm maximum for the car price)
- NC Driving license \$20.00 for five years
- Insurance Varies (\$1,200 for six months for new drivers)
- Title \$40.00
- License tags & Registration 3% of vehicle purchase price + \$61 - \$87.50
- Inspection \$30-\$40
- Duke parking permit Varies

### What must I have to drive legally in North Carolina?

- Driving license (either from home country or from a US state. Must still be valid)
- Car Registration card (Keep in glove compartment of car)
- Title of Car (Keep in a safe place at home)
- License Plates (tags)
- Automobile Insurance (minimum requirements)
  - Collision \$500 deductible
  - Property Liability \$10,000
  - Uninsured Motorist \$25,000
  - Bodily Liability \$50,000

### What are the steps when purchasing a car from an individual?

1. Look at different cars. When you find one you feel good about, do a VIN check. Also look at KBB or Edmunds website with exact make and mileage of auto. If you still feel good about car, arrange for owner to meet you at the Mechanic of your choice for an evaluation. Ask the Mechanic for a written or typed evaluation. You may use this when negotiating a price for car.
2. If you still like car, negotiate a purchase price with owner. Decide on method of payment with owner (usually cashiers check from your bank).
3. Go with seller to a Notary Public (usually your bank or seller's bank) to BOTH sign title. You give seller the Cashiers Check. He/she gives you the car Title.
4. Purchase an Auto Insurance Policy (refer to handout on *Automobile Insurance* for more information)
5. Go to other DMV office to get NC State ID (refer to handout on *How to Register your Car and Obtain Auto Tags*)
6. Take the Car Title, Mileage (from car's odometer), Photo Identification (NC State ID or NC Driver's License), Proof of Insurance (policy statement), and Cash or Check to pay fees and taxes to the Department of Motor Vehicles. There is a DMV located in Northgate Mall, Durham and one in the University Mall, Chapel Hill. Refer to the handout on ***How to Register Your Car and Obtain Auto Tags.***

### What should I know about car maintenance?

- Learn the basic parts of your car (for example visit a mechanic, read the car manual, search websites)
- Have the oil and oil filter changed every 3,000 miles
- Monitor the condition of tires and brakes and have them adjusted/replaced when needed
- Get a written estimate before doing any repairs at a mechanic shop and don't pay for any new charges

**Triple-A (AAA)** is a popular motor club in the US that provides many services for members, including;

- Emergency roadside assistance for car wrecks, flat tires, and other problems
- Free maps
- Hotel and car rental discounts
- Traveler's checks without extra fees
- Trip planning advice

American Automobile Association (AAA ) [www.aaa.com](http://www.aaa.com) [3909 University Dr, Durham, 27707, Tel. 919.489.3306]

### Helpful Websites

<http://www.carbuyingtips.com/used.htm>; <http://www.samarins.com/buying/index.html>; <http://www.hsmv.state.fl.us/dmv/usedcar.html>