

PURCHASING A USED 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?
- 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 cars over \$8,000)

Absolute Automotive

1105 W Chapel Hill St, Durham
919.403.7575; www.absoluteautomotive.com

CarMax

8520 Glenwood Ave, Raleigh
919.783.9494; www.carmax.com

Hertz Auto Sales

7601 Glenwood Ave, Raleigh
919.784.9500; www.hertzcarsales.com

Atlantic Auto Exchange

2511 Guess Rd, Durham
919.416.9400; www.atlanticautoexchange.com

Franklin Auto

610 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill
919.933.9500 www.FranklinAutoLCC.com

Michael Jordan

3621 Chapel Hill Blvd, Durham
919.433.5003

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 (Intlhouse list serv) Register at <http://ihouse.studentaffairs.duke.edu/resources/lists/sign-up.html>
- *Duke Dialogue* Trading Post (<http://tradingpost.dukenews.duke.edu>)
- Websites, including www.craigslist.org www.cars.com and 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)
- Look at the *Consumer Reports* rating of the car (Bostock Library has *Consumer Reports* in the Reference area)
- 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.

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?

- Agree on purchase price and method of payment (usually cashiers check)
- Seller and buyer together sign the title in front of a Notary Public (this may be done at your bank)
- The Buyer gets the title. The Seller takes the money.
- Purchase an Auto Insurance Policy (refer to handout on *Automobile Insurance* for more information)
- Take the Car Title, mileage (from car's odometer), photo identification (passport or driver's license), proof of insurance (policy statement), and cash or check to pay fees and taxes to the Department of Motor Vehicles located in Northgate Mall, Durham and University Mall, Chapel Hill. Refer to the handout on *How to Register Your Car and Obtain Auto Tags* for more information.

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
- Do not drive more than a few miles on a spare tire
- Get a written estimate before doing any repairs at a mechanic shop and don't pay for any new charges

Triple-A 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

For more information go to: **American Automobile Association (AAA)** 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>