Getting Settled in Chico

Safety

In general, Chico is a safe city. However, as is the case with any city, crimes do occur. Below are some general safety tips to keep in mind:

- Be aware of what is going on around you.
- Police officers are here to help you. In the U.S., police officers are typically very trustworthy and respected.
- Use lighted walkways on campus at night—don’t take shortcuts.
- Walk with a friend, or call the Campus Escort Service (898-5555).
- Take precautions at night. Park your car or bike in a well-lit area.
- Always lock doors and windows and close window shades at night.
- If you come home and find a door or window open, don’t go in! Contact your apartment manager or call the police.
- When someone knocks on your door, look first, and then open it only if you know the person.
- Look inside your car before getting in.
- Have your key ready when approaching your car or home to minimize the delay in getting the door open and entering.
- Don’t waste time if you’re approached by someone suspicious. Get away fast.
- Keep emergency telephone numbers stored in your cell phone.
- Trust your instincts. When a voice inside you says you are in danger, listen to it!
- If you or someone you know is in danger, call 911!

Periodically, there are free self-defense courses taught on campus. For additional information about safety in Chico or on campus, you can speak with the University Police Department.

Alcohol Laws

You must be 21 years of age or older to legally consume alcohol in the U.S.

Alcohol, Drugs and Driving: It is illegal to drink and drive. Drunk driving is a leading cause of accidents and deaths in this country. Therefore, there are very strict laws which must be observed if one decides to operate motorized vehicles or bikes.
Open Container: You may not carry an open bottle/can/container with an alcoholic beverage in it on your person or in your car. Any container of alcohol carried in a vehicle must be full, sealed, and unopened. Otherwise, it must be put in the trunk or out of reach of passengers. For more information, please read the California Driver Handbook. The handbook can be found online at: www.dmv.ca.gov/top_nav/top_nav_pdf_link.htm.

Implied Consent Law: When you drive in California, you agree to submit to a test of your blood, breath, or urine if arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. If you refuse or fail to complete the test, you will lose your license, whether or not you were under the influence. If you are convicted you may be sentenced to 96 hours in jail in addition to a fine of up to $1000. You will lose your driving privileges for six months and the court may take away your vehicle for 30 days and you will pay for storage.