Practical Matters
Text Books

- Most students said they go to the library that has a great scanning system and scan their text books to use for the semester and then, due to copyright laws, delete it at the end of the semester from their computer.
- Another person told me about http://www.texstbookrush.com and said it was a good website for finding cheap deals in textbooks that usually arrive within 14 days.
- [amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and [half.com](http://www.half.com) might cheaper (but still not a cheap) solution instead of buying them at the university.
- [http://www.abebooks.com/](http://www.abebooks.com/) for used books
- Readers Corner – 3201 Hillsborough Street - [https://www.facebook.com/pages/Readers-Corner/206318659400793](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Readers-Corner/206318659400793) (has a lot of just general fiction and nonfiction used books and some text books – just a fun place to explore)
COUPONS and Sales
The “American Way”
Grocery Shopping

• Get your “Customer Reward Card” and use it (MVP card at Food Lion, VIC at Harris Teeter)
• Shop Weekly Sales (Wednesday-Tuesday)
• Shop Ethnic Grocery Stores (especially for spices and items used in your everyday cooking)
• Shop Farmers Market (2.5 km on Centennial Blvd from Avent Ferry)
• Buy one get one free items ring up at ½ price so don’t have to buy two – can get just one
• Buy 4/$5 – Don’t have to buy 4 – can get one for $1.25
• Try “Store Brand” or “Value Brand” (i.e. “My Essentials” at Food Lion) instead of “Name Brand” (i.e. Nabisco) if you can’t tell much difference in flavor. The price may be much lower for some products.
Food Lion: Swipe your MVP Card when you first enter for coupons and again at the register to get the MVP price if on sale.
## A little planning saves $$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Store / Value Brand</th>
<th>Name Brand</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>MVP Cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chocolate Chip Cookies</td>
<td>$2.09</td>
<td>$1.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tortilla Chips</td>
<td>$1.99</td>
<td>$1.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crackers</td>
<td>$2.09</td>
<td>$2.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange Juice</td>
<td>$2.58</td>
<td>$2.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soda</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picante Sauce</td>
<td>1.79</td>
<td>1.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Cost</strong></td>
<td><strong>$11.38</strong></td>
<td><strong>$11.08</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You can get amazing deals on produce in the Wholesale Building on Saturday mornings between 7:30 am until about 12:00 pm. They sale several Asian fruits and vegetables.
Getting Around without a Car

- Zip Cars
- Uber.com (Uber is a venture-funded startup and transportation network company based in San Francisco, California, that makes mobile apps that connect passengers with drivers of vehicles for hire and ridesharing services)
- Lyft.com (Similar to Uber)
- RelayRides, a peer-peer alternative to car rentals, cheaper than enterprise/hertz.
- Taxis
Furniture and household items

- http://www.freecycle.org/ (You need to register and read their rules)
- http://raleigh.craigslist.org/ (Try to go with another person and not alone. Try to go in the daytime. For Sale: Furniture section and Free section)
- A “yard sale” or “garage sale” : a sale of used furniture, clothing, household items., held at the seller's home – YOU CAN BARGAIN for the price (can find where they are from Craigslist, Facebook, and from the News and Observer newspaper)

Avent Ferry United Methodist Church is having a yard sale this Saturday at 8:00. It is on the corner of Crest Road and Avent Ferry.

- Thrift Stores (but tend to be the most expensive for used furniture). If they sale mattresses, by law they must have had them sanitized before selling it. Habitat for Humanity ReStore is an example: 3 stores in the area: 2420 N. Raleigh Blvd, Raleigh; 181 High House Road, Cary; and 826 E. Williams Street, Apex. Check out the website: http://wakerestore.org/shop/

- New Items: Amazon, IKEA, Walmart (store and online), & Big Lots
- Local Listservs such as Chinese Student Scholar Friendship Association (CSSFA) at NC State
Furniture (Continued)

- Facebook: Wake County Area- Buy, Sell, Trade, Free: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/176954339134714/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/176954339134714/)
- [https://www.facebook.com/RaleighGarageSale](https://www.facebook.com/RaleighGarageSale)
- [https://www.facebook.com/groups/176954339134714/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/176954339134714/)
- [https://www.facebook.com/groups/197403893710757?ref=bookmark](https://www.facebook.com/groups/197403893710757?ref=bookmark)

- NC State University Surplus. 2nd & 4th Friday of every month You’ll need to pay in cash (or they take some credit cards – check their website) and be able to take the items home by the end of the day. [http://www7.acs.ncsu.edu/materialsmgmt/MaterialsSupport/surplus/sale_guide.asp](http://www7.acs.ncsu.edu/materialsmgmt/MaterialsSupport/surplus/sale_guide.asp)

- State Government Surplus Sale. Monday-Friday from 9:00-4:30. You will need **cash**, and take items purchased with you when you buy them. They often have desks and chairs for $8 or less. [http://www.doa.nc.gov/ssp/](http://www.doa.nc.gov/ssp/)

- Mattress Firm gives students 10% off purchases. There is a store in Cameron Village. YOU can try and bargain at a mattress store! I usually ask what the best deal they can give me because I am shopping at other stores too and wanting the best price.
Clothes Shopping

- Shop at the end of the season for next year
- Walmart, Target, Kohls, JC Penney, and Online are usually less expensive than shopping malls unless you are shopping sales and end of season clearance and use STORE COUPONS
Ask if there is a “Student Discount”

• Take your student i.d. with you when going out.
• Many museums, entertainment places, and some restaurants give a discount to students so ask if where you are visiting has a student discount.
Telephone

• Best to ask current students here from your country or region what deals they have found.

• Long Distance Deals:
  FreePhone2Phone.com - Unlimited free international calls to landlines (ad-supported)
  Oovoo.com - Free video conferencing and messaging (ad-supported)
  Talkster.com - Free long distance (ad-supported)
  Skype.com - Free worldwide PC-to-PC calls using free Skype software

• Miscellaneous:
  MyLookout.com - Free anti-theft solutions for mobile devices (smartphone only)
  PreyProject.com - Free anti-theft solutions for mobile devices (Macs, PCs and smartphones)

• Republicwireless.com
Movies and Entertainment

• Campus Movies
• Blue Ridge Movie Theatre
• Computer:
  Hulu.com (free and pay options)
  Netflix.com (pay service)
  AmazonPrime.com (pay service)
  Joost.com
  Boxee.tv
  Clicker.com
  ABC.com
  NBC.com
  CBS.com
  FOX.com
  CWTV.com
  TVLand.com
  SurfTheChannel.com
  WorldTVPC.com
  SideReel.com
  ChannelChooser.com
  Inner-Live.com
  TVChannelsFree.com
  WatchTVSitcoms.com
  ESPN360.com (only available if your high-speed Internet provider participates)
Miscellaneous

• Haircuts: Mitchell’s Hair Styling Academy has $6/haircut. Appointment recommended. Mitchells.edu; You can usually find coupons for 1) Supercuts & 2) Great Clips.

• http://www.clarkhoward.com/

• http://us.megabus.com/Default.aspx

• http://www.gotriangle.org/ (It will help you find a bus route anywhere in the Raleigh, Durham or Chapel Hill area)

• **Warning**: You may want to create an email account to use when signing up for coupons, loyalty programs, store information so that your personal email box doesn’t get so crowded (example: **prcookcoupons@yahoo.com**).

• Buy a flashlight. Power may go out during thunderstorms, ice storms and hurricanes.
Credit Cards

• Be careful about giving your checking account information over the phone or your credit card number unless you initiate the call.

• Be wary of credit cards you apply for online.
Household Utilities

• Heat – I set my heat at about 65-68 degrees in the Winter
• Air conditioning – I set my air conditioning at about 78 to 80 degrees
• Water – Isn’t too expensive

If your air conditioner is set so low you need to wear pants and long sleeves inside to be comfortable, your electric bill will be high.
If it seems too good to be true it probably isn’t true and is a scam.

Think you have been scammed – contact Student Legal Services
Pam Cook
thecooksnc2003@yahoo.com

919-821-2835 (if you leave a message it does not give me your phone # so leave your number also) or 919-880-4992.

Don’t hesitate to call or email if you need help. I have a small truck and am happy to help, but I do have a full-time job so am not available in the mornings or early afternoons. I am usually available after 3:45 if I am not traveling for my job.