



Free Transportation!

Looking to get around the Des Moines area without having to brush the snow off of your car or wait in traffic on I-235?

Drake University and the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART) have entered into an agreement where you - faculty, staff, and students may ride the bus for FREE upon showing your Drake id.

Routes are available online at <http://www.dmmta.com/arearoutemap.html> . On the reverse side of this includes some frequently asked questions that will help you to benefit from this new benefit.

First Administrator Announces New Toll-free Number

To improve customer service for those who have elected medical, dental, and vision coverage, FAI has dedicated a toll-free number to speak directly with a staff member who is knowledgeable about Drake's plan. This number is 888-242-0472.

Questions about your prescription drug benefit should be directed to NPS at 800-546-5677. Specific questions about your benefits should be directed to Marlene Heuertz, Assistant Director of Benefits at 271-1901.

Iowa Minimum Wage Increases

As a result of the minimum wage law that was passed last year, the second stage of the increase will take effect January 1, 2008. This increases the wage from \$6.20 to \$7.25.

To adjust DUSIS for this change, Human Resources will systematically increase the wages of students who do not earn this amount. Additionally, the remainder of the student wages will be adjusted.

Current Wage		New Wage
\$6.20	→	\$7.25
\$6.70	→	
\$7.40	→	\$8.25
\$8.00	→	
\$9.00		\$9.00

As a reminder, budgets will not be adjusted for this increase.

Newsletter Goes Electronic

Beginning with the January newsletter, the newsletter will be published online and made available at www.drake.edu/hr . An announcement in blueView will announce newsletter topics. Previous newsletters will remain on the Human Resources site.

A Message from Human Resources...

Have a safe, beautiful holiday season. Enjoy the time with family and friends and we'll see you in 2008!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT DART

Q: Where can I access the routes and schedules available?

A: You can access the routes online at www.dmmta.com or pick up a printed route map/schedule at all of the Pass outlets, including one here on campus in the D-Shoppe, or at the Des Moines metro's area Dahl's, Hy-Vee, and Younkers. Or, simply contact DART information at 515-283-8100.

Q: How do I select the route that I need to take?

A: Locate your starting point, and your arrival point. From this, follow the color of the route that will take you to your destination.

Q: Are there specific guidelines as a rider I should be aware of?

A: Some recommendations from the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART)

- ✓ Be at the bus stop five minutes early to make sure you don't miss the bus.
- ✓ Present your id as you enter the bus.
- ✓ Remain seated as the bus is in motion
- ✓ Take your newspapers, magazines, or other materials with you as you leave.
- ✓ During the winter months, scrape snow or slush off of your shoes before entering.

Q: What are the different services that this program covers?

A: **All of DART's:**

- ✓ Local Routes that serve all parts of Des Moines, 7 days a week
- ✓ Express or Express plus routes serving all major suburban communities in Polk county
- ✓ Shuttle Services (Urbandale On-call, West Des Moines On-Call, Regional On-Call, Downtown Shuttle)
- ✓ "Bus-Plus" service for qualifies individuals with disabilities that cannot ride the regular service

Q: What services are not covered under the program?

A: The only services not covered are:

- ✓ DART's Rideshare (Vanpool) services
- ✓ DART's Special Event Services to the State Fair, Arts Festival, Wrestling Tournament, etc.

Q: Who is eligible for this benefit?

A: All faculty, staff, students, and retirees!

Q: How do I use this benefit?

A: One can either attach the attached sticker on the front of your Drake id card or simply present your id card to the driver, and you can then enjoy the ride!

Q: Why would I want to do this?

A: Some reasons include:

- ✓ Good for the environment
- ✓ Cost savings for gas, tires, wear and tear on your car
- ✓ Won't have to race cars in parking lots for parking spaces
- ✓ Convenience of not having to scrape the snow and ice off of your car
- ✓ Enjoy some relaxing time on the commute as opposed to tense time on I-235