

Quest Scholars Shopping Guide

[Table of Contents:](#)

[School Supplies](#)

[Bedding](#)

[Furniture](#)

[Appliances](#)

[Electronics](#)

[Bath and Laundry](#)

[Bath](#)

[Laundry](#)

[Kitchenware](#)

[Clothes and Footwear](#)

[Textbooks](#)

[Snacks](#)

[Medicine](#)

[Storage](#)

[Airlines Travel](#)

This is a guide to shopping for college. We know that you may not have someone else to ask about what you might need in college, so we've created this guide in hopes of helping you find budget conscious ways to have everything you need! **Ultimately, my best philosophy would be that you don't need nearly as much as you think you do. Take online shopping lists with a grain of salt.**

Helpful link for free PDFs :<http://gen.lib.rus.ec>

Link to Pomona students selling their books:

<https://aspc.pomona.edu/sagebooks/>

Facebook groups: “[5C for Sale/Free](#)” and “[Pomona Questbridge Friends](#)” and “[5C Book Exchange](#)”

School Supplies

Best way to buy: Comparison shopping with multiple retailers. Look at their weekly ads. They should have many pages devoted exclusively to school supplies, and you can get things at a hefty discount (10 cent prong folders, 50 cent loose-leaf paper, 99 cents for 12 mechanical pencils, 99 cents for Uniball pens, etc.). These school supply promotions stop after September, so try to have all the school supplies you’ll need by this time.

Best way to ship: Carry it in your luggage. (Make sure to check luggage weight restrictions)

What to buy: You don’t need everything you think you need. You definitely need paper (either loose leaf or notebook or legal pads), pens, pencils, and highlighters, but that’s really it for essentials. Binders, a 3-hole punch, and a stapler help for keeping your notes and printings in a secure place (but these are available at various spots on-campus). You will get little use from paper prong folders, glue, coloring pencils, markers,, tape, rulers, or post-it notes. Scissors are in general very helpful. You know whether mechanical or wood pencils work best for you, just assume you will need a lot. You’ll need at least one backpack.

Obviously you may need art supplies if that’s something you’re passionate about or interested in pursuing, but the above should be characteristic for most people.

Bedding

Best way to buy: Online retailers, retailers when you arrive on campus

Best way to ship: Ship directly to Pomona (Mail to Your Name, 170 E. 6th St. Box #, Claremont CA 91711), or buy once you arrive. These items are often too big to carry via luggage.

What to buy: A pillow, a pillowcase, twin XL sheets, a blanket (also called a comforter), a fitted cover, try to get to get a second pair of sheets just in case. Most of these things are often packaged in a “Bed-in-a-Bag”. You can find these for \$20-40 at Walmart.com and

Overstock.com, and they have reviews + free shipping available with a certain amount of purchase. Keep in mind though that full size pillows are seldom included with these and you may want to buy some.

The mattresses the college supplies are of two types- a very firm white mattress, and a soft blue mattress. The soft one is comfortable enough that you don't need a pad or topper, but you might want to buy one with the other. These can be from \$10-40 and make sleeping much more comfortable. [Recoop](#) also sells these but hygiene may not be ideal.

Having an extra set of sheets is helpful in case you're washing the other, but you don't really need it (since washing only takes an hour and a half).

Furniture

Best way to buy: Online retailers or Recoop.

Best way to ship: Ship directly to Pomona (Mail to Your Full Name, 170 E. 6th St. Box #, Claremont CA 91711).

What to buy: **You honestly don't NEED anything.** Maybe a rug if you don't like hard surfaces- which you can buy online or at Recoop for \$10. The college does a pretty good job. But the chairs they provide can be uncomfortable for sitting in for long periods, so you might want to get a new chair (keep in mind that most require assembly) or a seat pad. If you have a big room and you like having friends over, a sofa/futon or some extra chairs would be nice, but keep in mind that these can be more of an inconvenience **at the end of the year when you'll have to store them.** Additionally beanbag chairs are seldom worth the cost.. Recoop sells these for cheap, but they are sold extremely quickly, so you have to arrive when Recoop opens (8AM move-in day). Walmart.com and others also have pretty fairly priced futons and ottomans (which serve as a seat and as storage). You don't need curtains, but light blocking curtains can be helpful especially if your window faces the sun rise every morning. .

Appliances

Best way to buy: Online retailers, retailers when you arrive on campus, or Recoop.

Best way to ship: Ship directly to Pomona (Mail to Your Name, 170 E. 6th St. Box #, Claremont CA 91711).

What to buy: Bring a fan or two, or three, if you live in Harwood, Lyon, or Wig. In-window a/c machines are not allowed unless you have a medical condition and a doctor's note. If you like security and privacy, a mini-fridge and microwave is quite useful, but keep in mind all the dorms have microwaves and full size fridges. Recoop runs out of mini-fridges very quickly so you may have to buy and ship online- Walmart.com has good prices on mini fridges. ALSO, juniors who go abroad in the Spring will sell these for pennies on the dollar. Check the [Quest Friends](#) group on Facebook for occasional sales! A mini vacuum (around \$20 at Walmart.com) is very helpful, but the RAs have vacuums you can borrow. You don't really need tools like irons and hammers; someone in your hall/one of your friends/an RA will have them to borrow.

Electronics

Best way to buy: Online, brick and mortar retailers

Best way to ship: Ship directly to Pomona (Mail to Your Full Name, 170 E. 6th St. Box #, Claremont CA 91711) or carry in your luggage.

What to buy: You might need a long Ethernet cord (so that you can connect to Pomona's high speed wired connection; but the WiFi will more than likely be sufficient; you can find these at Recoop for \$1), a camera (or a phone with one), and a phone. Texting is usually the preferred method of communication over calling. You don't strictly need a computer since we have many computer labs, but having one is very convenient, Mac's are overrated and you can build a computer much cheaper; alternatively Chromebooks are much more affordable and do the basic needs.. **Don't bring a printer** unless you intend to print a significant amount of things in color- you get a print quota every semester for 500 pages of BW printing. Bring a calculator (you don't need a super fancy one) if you intend on taking math and science classes at Pomona- that includes economic statistics and psychology statistics, pawn shops will have these if you look around. Your phone can also do this, but you won't be allowed to use it on tests and such.

In terms of service- Verizon works the best, and the rest work with limited strength. If you're living in a dorm basement, you'll find the signal to be very weak. However, Verizon is also the most expensive. T-Mobile has no-contract and cheaper plans (Metro PCS uses T-Mobile), and there are other services like Cricket and Republic Mobile that are even cheaper. Sprint and AT&T are serviceable and work well on campus. If you have a regional carrier, google their national maps to make sure you will have service in California. Service in Blaisdell especially is weaker for the cheaper services (T-Mobile and Metro PCS).

Tv's, speakers, and gaming systems are nice, but do take into account that you might not have a lot of free time/ might want to devote free time to on campus activities. Every south campus dorm has a digital TV in the common room.

Bath and Laundry

Best way to buy: Purchase when you arrive on campus

Best way to ship: Purchase from retailers here.

What to buy:

Bath

I would advise 2-3 sets of towels. You can get quality ones for a fair price at Target. I would also recommend bring some sort of holder for your toiletries, but not one that attaches to the shower itself. You can buy a caddy for \$10-15, and recoop sells them too. Caddies are ultimately up to you, but you may not want to leave your things in communal bathrooms because some people do steal. In terms of toiletries...use whatever you usually use. Personal hygiene items are up to you, depends on the person, go for big bottles and bundles, whatever is cheapest by quantity

For people with a uterus, all the restrooms (even those labeled as male) have silver boxes where you can throw away tampons and pads. To be more eco-friendly, I advise a Diva Cup (google it). Additionally, ASPC will be running a trial of giving out free tampons and pads, like they do for condoms. (Be prepared for your family to see those)

I would advise buying a pair of shower sandals. The restrooms can be wet and unhygienic. Flip flops are too slippery. Bath robes are up to you.

Laundry

DO NOT BRING QUARTER ROLLS!! All laundry is done through your ID card with [Claremont Cash](#), and you need to add value to your card either online (you are charged a dollar every time you add money online to your card) or at the Honnold Mudd library.

Just so you know, laundry uses Claremont Cash, which can also be used for other transactions on campus and off campus. Flex can only be used at eateries on campus. **DO NOT USE CLAREMONT CASH AT EATERIES IF YOU HAVE FLEX.**

I would advise either a hamper or a basket to carry your clothes. I like the sturdiness of a basket more, but it is heavier too. You can also use a big laundry bag, or a big trash/recycling bag from your hallway.

Pods vs detergent/fabric softener/dryer sheets are up to you, you will almost certainly find people on both sides. Make sure you don't buy dishwasher detergent by accident. There are also dryer balls which replace the need for using sheets. **Bleach is also up to you, depending on your whites and how many of them you have.** I have very few white/light clothes so I just toss them in together, but if you have several, you may need to separate them and use bleach. A stain remover is useful ; There are also liquid versions.

You may have to shop at Target since it's the closest retailer. It's pretty expensive for laundry stuff, but thankfully they have a lot of promotions like \$5 gift cards with the purchase of two laundry items. You could also split the cost with a friend and buy in bulk. **Make sure to download the Cartwheel app and take advantage of the coupons they offer - I find that I usually save about 5-10% on my total purchase each time.**

Be sure to clean the lint filter before drying your clothes, and use a lint roller if your clothes accumulate lint. If your clothes get mildew (you'll tell by smell), leave them out in the sun; it should kill them. Do not leave your wet clothes in the washer overnight!

Also there are many youtube tutorials for those of you who don't know how to do laundry.

Kitchenware

Best way to buy: Online retailers, purchase when you arrive on campus

Best way to ship: Ship directly to Pomona (Mail to Your Name, 170 E. 6th St. Box # , Claremont CA 91711).

What to buy: You will only need to cook if you stay on campus during certain holidays. . However, if you do like to cook or bake things, you could buy these items. I would advise at least buying a set of forks, spoons, and knives and a few plates, bowls, and cups just in case you order take out or need to go on a camping trip (You will need at least 1 bowl, 1 cup and utensil for OA). Alternatively, you can re appropriate some stuff from dining halls, but you have to smuggle them out - but return when possible!! If you like baking a lot, a baking pan is really helpful. If you like cooking and need pots and utensils, I would advise buying a cooking set.

If you like making smoothies or juices, a juice blender can be really cool. A coffee maker for those last night studies may also be something you might want to invest in, if that's your thing. People have also suggested a kettle and a slow cooker as being very handy.

The dining halls do not let you use outside containers if you are taking food out of the dining halls, but they provide boxes for outside foods.

Of course you'll be drinking water frequently. You can buy a Brita, but every south campus dorm now has a filtered water fountain.

Clothes and Footwear

Best way to buy: Buy in stores with fitting rooms. Online if you're sure about your sizes.

Best way to ship: Ship directly to Pomona (Mail to Your Full Name, 170 E. 6th St. Box #, Claremont CA 91711) or carry them in your luggage.

What to buy: Whatever you like to wear. I would advise bringing comfortable clothes that fit a temperature range of 50-100 degrees. Flip flops are popular so I advise bringing a pair or more. Definitely don't only bring shorts and t-shirts. Bring a hoodie or a jacket as there are many nights in which it gets chilly, and have long pants too. An umbrella could be useful too. You don't need a really thick one unless you're planning to trek to the mountains- just something that will keep you toasty at temperatures of around 35-50. Swimming trunks are good if you want to go swimming. Try not to bring too much clothes with you, your suitcase might need to carry other essentials, and you can always get more clothes here.

For formal wear, bring at least a nice dress shirt and dress pants for interviews and formal events. Suits and blazers are really really expensive but worth the investment, so I recommend buying one pair. I find that Macy's and JC Penny's has a good variety and prices on formal wear. Thrift stores and discount clothing stores like TJ Maxx and Ross's also work. **IF YOU NEED FORMALWEAR AND IT IS TOO EXPENSIVE FOR YOU, DO NOT BE AFRAID OF ASKING THE DEAN OF STUDENTS FOR A GRANT TO HELP OFFSET THE COST.** They were willing to give me \$75 to buy formalwear.

You don't need to worry too much about the brand name with which you buy your stuff; the atmosphere is very casual. Just as long as it makes you happy. College is nothing like high school... **DO NOT WORRY ABOUT BRANDS.**

For footwear, besides flip flops, sneakers/running shoes are a must. You don't really need rain boots because it seldom rains, but flip flops are too slippery to go out with in the rain. A nice pair of dress shoes is also worth it, and you can get cheap ones from Payless Shoes or a thrift store for \$25-40. If you like to hike and want to traverse the outdoors, a durable pair of hiking boots is much better than a pair of sneakers, but you do need to break into them (most good boots are waterproof).

Textbooks

Best way to buy: Online

Best way to ship: Ship directly to Pomona (Mail to Your Name, 170 E. 6th St. Box # , Claremont CA 91711).

What to buy: To know what textbooks you need, go to My Pomona, go to course registration, find the course, and then click "Textbook Information". A link will pop-up with the required and recommended course readings. Some professors do not update these, so you can also wait for the first class day for a syllabus. Avoid purchasing from Huntley because you are almost certainly going to find a cheaper option elsewhere. If it's a textbook that asks for the latest edition, contact the professor and ask if you can use an earlier edition.

To buy textbooks, use Half.com and Amazon MarketPlace. Our Quest Textbook library may also have it for you to check out, or you can make a post on the Quest Friends group. You may be able to find it online (search on google pdf: book name edition author or torrent book name edition author). If it's a new textbook in which case you'll have limited low cost options, rent it if that's possible. If it's required reading for a class, see if Honnold Mudd (our library) has it available for check out.

If you find textbooks to be too expensive, don't be afraid to ask Dean of Students or the Academic Centers if they have some sort of funding. I know someone who got a \$200 gift card to the bookstore that way.

Snacks

Best way to buy: Trader Joe's, Target, or Walmart. Costco if it's a snack item that won't go bad too quickly.

Best way to ship: Buy once you arrive here

What to buy: If you get hungry, buy whatever snacks you want. The above stores have a good variety for a good price. You can check-out a Costco card from ASPC if you want to buy things in bulk and save money in the process - buy with friends!!.

Medicine

Best way to buy: Target, CVS, or Walmart, Hendrick's (it's in the Village)

Best way to ship: Buy once you arrive here

What to buy: I advise buying cold and flu relief. We have a period in which the whole school gets sick from these, and medicine really helps. Alternatively, you could ask on our group if someone has these and be given some medicine, but it is better having your own.

Besides that, you don't need much besides any medication you're already taking. Maybe a small first aid kit for small injuries and such. Not like a \$15 dollar one but maybe a \$1 or \$2 one (99 cents only store sells these).

Vitamins are up to you.

Storage

Best way to buy: Online or once you arrive here

Best way to ship: Buy once you arrive here or store stuff in your suitcase.

What to buy: As recommended above, a backpack is very convenient. A duffle bag is easy to store away and can hold clothing and such. If you are going to have a lot of items and shoes, you can buy extra storage boxes or stow them in your suitcase and then put them under your bed, which can be lifted up. Laptop bags/pouches are options, but many backpacks have laptop pouches. . Bring a carry-on bag in case you need to fly somewhere for a few days such that the cost of paying for luggage isn't very warranted. Try to fit all of your stuff in two suitcases, a carry-on bag, and a backpack. Paying extra for luggage can become extremely expensive after your second large bag, in which case I would recommend just shipping it. If you need luggage, most retailers have multiple sets at a fair price.

Airlines Travel

GET A REWARDS/POINTS account, you will fly a lot.

If you are from a small city, you may not have options in airlines.

Random tip: use incognito when looking up flights to avoid a track and increased prices

If you are Match, Pomona no longer covers first year travel.

Book flights at least a month in advance, it will save you a lot of money. Southwest lets you have 2 check-in bags and 2 personal bags. Spirit is the cheapest, but they charge you for everything. Otherwise, most of the other airlines charge for checked bags.

Try to look at the total cost of transportation; i.e. plane cost and cost from airport to campus. LAX is very far from Pomona and transport can get expensive. You can take a bus from the airport to Union Station, and then take the San Bernardino line from Union to Claremont Station, which is a five minute walk from campus. This route takes a few hours, and you will be carrying your luggage all the way by yourself, and people may harass you. A Lyft to campus is expensive. Pool services do make it cheaper.

Ontario airport is a 15 minute drive from campus. [Lyft and Uber are now available at Ontario. To get from Ontario to Pomona it'll cost about \\$25 to \\$30.](#) Additionally, a Supershuttle is affordable, there is a discount code through Pomona: FPCS2.

There is also an online service for ridesharing from the campuses: 5crideshare.com But it is not the most reliable, but do use it; you might get luck

However for at least the Fall semester of 2017, Questies travelling alone can sign up for a rideshare program FOR FREE: tiny.cc/airportrides
Deadline to sign up is August 11th.