Public Transit and Navigating the City

Public Transit is the primary method of transportation in New York City. As such, students living at all dormitories should be prepared to take the trains. RAs will teach students about the trains and how to navigate the city. After a few days, students are encouraged to travel with their friends if they feel comfortable. When taking the trains, students must always travel at least in pairs.

General Information and Tips for Success:

- Always travel with a friend or fellow student, particularly in the evening.
- Try to avoid subways at late hours, but if you must—try to get into the subway car with the conductor (the middle car), or where the motorman is (the first car).
- Do not carry too much cash. Only bring with you what you think you will spend.

Taxi

- Always use a yellow NYC cab or car service such as Uber, Lyft, Gett, Groundlink, etc.
- Never use a car service that randomly stops and asks if you’d like to be picked up.
- If the number on top is lit up, that means the cab is empty. If dimmed, the cab is occupied.
- To hail a cab, stand on the street corner and raise one of your hands.
- Minimum taxi fare is $2.50. Additional charges are $0.50 per 1/5 of a mile (at or above 6 mph) or for 2 minutes of time stopped/traveling below 6 mph.
- When telling the driver where you’re going, it’s easiest to give them the cross streets (for example, 101st and West End Avenue).
- Tipping cab drivers is customary. 10-15% is sufficient.

Uber/Lyft/Gett: Uber, Lyft, and Gett are car services that let you request a car from your smartphone. You create an account and enter your credit card information, which is stored securely within the app so you do not need to worry about payment. To call a car, simply launch the app, enter your destination and request a car. Within 2-7 minutes, your car will arrive. Uber Pool is usually the cheapest option for car service in the city, but keep in mind you’re carpooling. We recommend UberPool for those over 18 or if you’re traveling via car with one other person.
**Metrocards:** Metrocards may be purchased inside any subway station at a token booth or an automated Metrocard machine. There is a $1 fee to purchase a new Metrocard, which can be refilled. The 7-day unlimited card is $32 and the 30-day unlimited is $121. Please note that once you swipe your unlimited Metrocard, you cannot slide it again for 15 minutes (so you cannot swipe for yourself and a friend on the same unlimited card).

**Train Etiquette**
- After you swipe your Metrocard and pass through the turnstile, keep moving. There will be people behind you trying to catch their train. If you need to stop for a moment, take a few steps from the turnstiles and step out of the way so you’re not in the middle of the commotion.
- When the subway doors open, stand to the side to let people exit first—then get on quickly.
- When stepping on the train, make sure to keep walking as far into the train car as you can. If you stop in the doorway, people behind you will push their way past you.
- Don’t sing, shout, dance, or stretch on the train.
- When traveling with an RA, please don’t wear headphones or be too involved on your cell phone—it’s very important that you pay attention to the RA/Chaperone when they make announcements such as, “This is our stop!”
- When on the train, this is not the time to count all of the money in your wallet—be smart. Never put your bags or belongings on the floor of the subway station or train itself—they’re not clean areas.

**Train Terminology**

**Uptown v. Downtown**
Uptown trains are trains that are traveling roughly north. If you’re taking class at Pearl, you’ll take an Uptown Train to travel “up” to the 850 dormitory. Downtown trains are trains that run roughly south. If you’re at 850 West End, you’ll take a downtown train to travel to class at Pearl.

If a train is headed to another borough, it is described as borough-bound. In Manhattan, the Bronx is up, and Brooklyn is down; thus, Bronx bound trains are always heading uptown and Brooklyn bound trains are always heading downtown. See the diagram on the next page for a visual representation.

**Local v. Express Trains**
Express trains make limited stops to ensure a faster ride to your destination. However, due to their limited stops, they might not stop at the station you are hoping for. Local trains stop frequently to provide local service. They stop every few blocks, and thus take longer.

On the official New York City map, the express stops are indicated by a white circle or bar. All trains on that line stop at express stops. Local stops are indicated by a black circle or bar. If the stop you want has a black circle next to it, don’t get on an express train unless you hear an announcement that says the train is making "all local stops".
Navigating Manhattan

Manhattan is set up so that the streets run across town from east to west, and the avenues run north and south. The southernmost part of Manhattan, or Downtown, has named streets, but as you travel uptown and reach 14th street, navigation is simple from there.

When you’re walking and aren’t sure which way to walk down the street, open the Google Maps app and look at the grey arrows – they denote the flow of traffic. Ask yourself: Do I want to walk the same direction of the cars, or not?

Directions to the Studios: The Joffrey Studios

- Walk to 103rd St. Subway Station (at 103 and Broadway)
- Take the 1 Downtown
- Exit at Christopher St. Sheridan Square
• Head East on Christopher until you cross Avenue of the Americas (6th Ave), then walk North until you reach the Joffrey Studios - Joffrey will be located between 9th & 10th St.

**Directions to the Studios: Pearl Studios**
- Walk to the 96th St. Subway Station (at 96 and Broadway)
- Take the 2 3 Downtown
- Exit at 34th St.
- Head West on 34th St. until you reach 8th Ave.
- Walk North on 8th Ave until you reach Pearl Studios (between 35 and 36th St).

**Directions to the Studios: Stepping Out**
- Walk to the 96th St. Subway Station (at 96 and Broadway)
- Take the 2 3 Downtown
- Exit at 42nd St. Times Square
- Transfer to the 1 Downtown
- Exit at 28th St.
- Walk south to 26th St
- Turn East on 26th St (cross 6th Avenue, if you’ve hit Broadway, you’ve gone too far)

**Directions to the Studios: Joffrey Dance Center (47-10 Austell Place)**
- Walk to the 96th St Subway Station on Broadway
- Take the 2 3 Downtown
- At 42nd St (Times Square), transfer to the Queens-bound 7 (towards Flushing)
- Exit at Hunters Point Ave
- Walk East on 49th Ave, turn left on Skillman Ave.
- Turn right on Austell Place