

# BUYING A USED CAR

1. Determine your price range and then look for the “Car for Sale” ads on campus bulletin boards, in the local newspaper, or online websites.
2. Have a reputable mechanic (e.g., Walmart - NOT someone the car seller recommends) to examine the car in detail. Many local repair shops or service stations will inspect the vehicle for a fee. When calling, make sure that the shop will check all vital systems (brakes, belts, steering, oil, cooling system, exhaust, shocks, tires) and make sure that they will test drive the vehicle.
3. Obtain the VIN number from the owner and check the car history through [CARFAX](#). The report will tell you whether or not the car has been in an accident, how many owners owned the car before, how the car is maintained, etc.
4. Based on the mechanic’s assessment, check the price of the car on [Kelly’s Blue Book](#) and make your offer. The owner may or may not agree on a lower price. When you reach on an agreement, you pay the amount and obtain the “Title of Ownership” from the seller. This is also known as the “pink slip”.
5. Check the title of ownership carefully before you make the payment and also have the previous owner sign it over to you. **Make sure you have the title of ownership signed to you by the owner before you hand your money over.**
6. Get the car insured in your name and bring the insurance documents to the Georgia Department of Driver Services. Be careful when choosing your car insurance company. There are different rates and types of insurance you can have. The most important thing to remember is that you must have insurance if you own and drive a car in the United States.
7. You will also need to register the car in your name and new license plates will be issued. Put on the new license plates and your car is ready to roll.

**REMEMBER ALL OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND COSTS THAT YOU INCUR IF YOU PURCHASE A CAR:**

- Auto Insurance
- Fees for Tax, Title, and Tag (license plate)
- City parking fees and university parking fees
- General preventive maintenance expenses for your car
- Safety seats for children under the age of four
- Property Tax (you must pay every year)

