

Autotrader Reveals Top Cars for Recent College Graduates

ATLANTA, May 3, 2017 /[PRNewswire](#)/ -- Graduating from college is a major life achievement, and one of the first things many graduates do after landing a new job is search for a means of transportation. Autotrader knows the car-shopping process can be intimidating, so the experts have put together their top vehicle recommendations and shopping tips for college grads preparing for their future purchase.

"College students have a lot of decisions to make after graduating, but car shopping doesn't have to be as complicated as it seems," said Brian Moody, executive editor at Autotrader. "There are more choices than ever, so to help narrow the pool, we hand-picked all the vehicles that tailor to both the lifestyle and budget of the average recent grad."

Autotrader editors selected nine great new and certified pre-owned (CPO) vehicles based on affordability, practicality, fuel economy and style – all with an affordable price tag of \$25,000 or less.

The nine models that recent college grads should have on their shopping lists are:

[2017 Chevrolet Cruz](#)
[2017 Ford Focus ST](#)
[2017 Honda HR-V](#)
[2017 Jeep Renegade](#)
[2017 Subaru Impreza](#)

[2017 Toyota Prius](#)
[2015-16 CPO Acura TLX](#)
[2016 CPO Hyundai Tucson](#)
[2014-16 CPO MINI Cooper](#)

*Models are unranked, listed in alphabetical order

To make sure the car buying experience is as satisfying and hassle-free as possible, Autotrader experts also offer a few pieces of advice:

1. **Consider new and used vehicles:** New cars are almost guaranteed to have the latest technological upgrades, as well as extensive warranties and incentives that you generally can't get on the pre-owned market. However, used cars typically cost less and therefore depreciate less over time.
2. **Know your options when it comes to leasing and buying a vehicle.** When you graduate from college, it's hard to say where you're going to be a few years down the road. But if you can count on staying put for at least two years, leasing could be a convenient option. The car is typically new or nearly-new, and if anything goes wrong unexpectedly, the dealership covers the cost.
3. **Figure out what you can afford.** Once you've decided on a few cars worth considering, it's time to find out what will work within your budget. If you're interested in financing or leasing your next car, determine your maximum monthly payment before you get your heart set on anything.

Students are encouraged to visit [Autotrader.com/CollegeCars](#) to find helpful resources like lists of the coolest affordable cars on the market and expert consumer advice to help young buyers negotiate the best deal.

For more information about these top selections visit [Great Cars for Recent](#)

[College Grads.](#)

About Autotrader

Autotrader is the most visited third-party car shopping site, with the most engaged audience of in-market shoppers. As the foremost authority on automotive consumer insights and expert in online and mobile marketing, Autotrader makes the car shopping experience easy and fun for today's empowered consumer looking to find or sell the perfect new, used or certified pre-owned car. Using technology, shopper insights and local market guidance, Autotrader's comprehensive marketing solutions guide dealers to personalized digital marketing strategies that grow brand, drive traffic and connect the online and in-store shopping experience.

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