

A photograph of four diverse students walking along a paved path on a university campus. From left to right: a young man in a black t-shirt with 'SCARLET GRAY AND SOBER' and khaki pants holding a football; a young woman in a white t-shirt with 'THE 5K SCARLET SPRINT' and denim shorts holding a soccer ball; a young woman in a black t-shirt with 'UNDISPUTED CHAMP' and dark shorts holding books; and a young man in a gray t-shirt with 'COLUMBUS OHIO' and light shorts holding a skateboard. Red squiggly lines are drawn around each student. In the background, there are green trees and a statue on a pedestal.

Commuting 101



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE

Welcome to the Commuter Guide

So you're a commuter student, now what? This guide will show you the ins and outs of how to successfully navigate through college as a commuter student. Student Life's Willie J. Young, Sr. Off-Campus and Commuter Student Engagement is here to help support you so you can engage, learn and thrive!



KEEP A LOOK OUT
THROUGHOUT THE GUIDE
TO FIND MORE BUCKEYE
TRADITIONS AND TIPS!

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WHEN AN OHIO STATE **STUDENT** NEEDS CONFIDENTIAL,
JUDGMENT-FREE **LEGAL** ADVICE AND REPRESENTATION,
THEY HAVE **SERVICES** FROM EXPERIENCED ATTORNEYS.



STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

studentlegal.osu.edu (web)
614.247.5853 (call or text)
studentlegal@osu.edu (email)
20 e. 11th avenue
@ohiostatelawyers



we are the lawyers
for Ohio State students

off-campus housing
lease reviews
criminal misdemeanors
wills & healthcare
power of attorney
traffic citations
car accidents
immigration
employment
identity theft
consumer
contracts
credit / debt
insurance
car buying & selling
car repairs
dissolutions
victim assistance
notary & much more



A group of four students are sitting around a wooden picnic table outdoors. A young woman with curly hair is looking at a laptop. A young man in a red Ohio State shirt is laughing. Another young man is looking at the laptop. A fourth student is partially visible on the left. There are coffee cups and a backpack on the table. Red wavy lines are drawn around the students.

Resources For You

**WILLIE J. YOUNG, SR. OFF-CAMPUS AND COMMUTER STUDENT
ENGAGEMENT IS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU! STOP BY OUR OFFICE
OR KEEP UP WITH US USING THE INFORMATION BELOW:**

Willie J. Young, Sr. Off-Campus and Commuter Student Engagement
3106 Ohio Union, 1739 N. High Street, Columbus, OH 43210

Available Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. by phone and/or by appointment.

CONTACT

Phone: 614-292-0100 Email: offcampus@osu.edu Website: offcampus.osu.edu

 [@offcampus_osu](https://www.instagram.com/offcampus_osu)  [@OffCampus_OSU](https://twitter.com/OffCampus_OSU)

Our Vision

Student Life's Willie J. Young, Sr. Off-Campus and Commuter Student Engagement vision is to improve the quality of life for off-campus and commuter students through education and empowerment, and to continually build and strengthen university and community relationships.



“Being a community ambassador has helped me to build connections with other students and hear their stories in the community and get to ask important questions that help guide our knowledge of off campus living and what students need to ensure the most comfortable living experience as possible. I have gotten to know more about the community itself as well as learn the various aspects of the university district that previously, I had not been aware of. I feel that my ideas and thoughts are actively listened to and feel that I have great support with my supervisors in the office as they are always open in sharing and giving advice for me in the job and in life.” – Elyssa

“As a commuter student, you will want to get to know your Community Ambassador, a peer Ohio State student who lives in the Columbus community and serves as a campus mentor.” – Amber

“I enjoy working with a dedicated team at Off-Campus and Commuter Student Engagement and developing bonds with my coworkers and the off-campus community.” – Kari

Looking for a peaceful place to meet up with friends or your Community Ambassador? Check out Mirror Lake and the **Mirror Lake Eatery** on South Campus!



Free Resources for Commuter Students in the Ohio Union

- Walk-in hours at our office (3106 Ohio Union)
- Commuter Lockers, with semester long access, are available on a first come, first served basis on the first day of classes
- Commuter Kitchen with fridges and microwaves if you decide to pack a meal
- Commuter Lounge to take a peaceful break if you have a long day on campus or a great place to hang out with your friends

BUCKEYE TIP

5 Be sure to stop by the D-Tix counter to pick up discounted tickets for concerts and other exciting events happening in Columbus! Visit their Twitter page ([@DTixOSU](https://twitter.com/DTixOSU)) to keep an eye out for these opportunities.



Study Spots

☼ KEITH B. KEY CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Cozy area with access to the resource room

CONNECTING GROUNDS ↩

Your go-to coffee shop and convenience store on North Campus

ORTON HALL

Geological museum that is home to a life-size dinosaur skeleton replica

KNOWLTON HALL, GARDEN ROOFTOP ☼

Private outdoor area in the architectural school with a view of North Campus

SIGMA PHI EPSILON LOUNGE (COMMUTER LOUNGE)

Peaceful location in the Ohio Union, great for studying

➔ THOMPSON LIBRARY, 11TH FLOOR

Quiet location with a great view overlooking The Oval

BUCKEYE TIP

☼ Ohio Staters, Inc. proudly offers tours of Orton Hall, including the bell tower. Guests have the opportunity to learn more about the historical building, go up into the bell tower and even play the chimes.



Buckeye Traditions

The Ohio State University is full of rich traditions and bucket list items to complete before graduation. From singing Carmen Ohio and watching the band perform Script Ohio to rubbing the Thompson statue head in the library and spending time with friends on the Oval, there are plenty of traditions to fulfill!

BUCKEYE TIP

Ohio State makes custom apps with your experience in mind. From your first days on campus to your lifelong Buckeye connection, these apps put Ohio State in your pocket. Easily access tools to get around, get business done and get connected to communities across campus and beyond.



Getting Around Campus



Getting Around Campus

BICYCLE OR CAR

- Prevent theft and be sure to Bug Your Bike. Info at: columbus.gov/bugyourbike
- Perform regular maintenance on your bike to keep it working properly
- Bring a bike lock to keep your bike secure
- Perform regular maintenance on your car to keep it running properly
- Purchase your on-campus parking permit at osu.campusparc.com

OFF-PEAK PARKING HOURS

To promote safety, some on-campus parking restrictions are reduced after 4 p.m. on weekdays, all day on weekends and on holidays to encourage customers to use the nearby parking lots. Check osu.campusparc.com for more info on these specific times.

BUCKEYE TIP

As you commute to campus during ~~M~~ichigan Week, keep a look out for the M's crossed out on every building and sign on campus!



Checklist for What to Keep in Your Car

These items should be kept in your trunk or not visible so cars are not broken into.

- UMBRELLA
- SNACKS
- TOILETRIES
- EXTRA CLOTHES
- PHONE CHARGER
- JUMPER CABLES
- SNOW SCRAPER
- BLANKET
- MOTOR OIL
- WINDSHIELD FLUID
- EMERGENCY KIT
- NONPERISHABLE SNACKS

Backpack Checklist

- COMPUTER/TABLET
- PENCIL BAG WITH PENS/PENCILS
- NOTEBOOKS AND PLANNER
- PHONE CHARGER AND LAPTOP CHARGER
- HEADPHONES
- BUCKID
- LIP BALM
- DEODORANT
- SNACKS
- WATER
- UMBRELLA
- HAND SANITIZER
- PERSONAL ← SAFETY ALARM

Transportation and Safety Resources

CABS PARATRANSIT

- Door-to-door adaptive transportation whether you're on or off campus
- All faculty, staff and students with an injury or medical condition restricting mobility are eligible for adapted transportation services. If you are in need of this resource, contact 614-292-6202 or visit ttm.osu.edu/paratransit

COTA PROJECT MAINSTREAM

- Adaptive transportation through the city of Columbus and COTA
- COTA Mainstream is a shared-ride public transportation service providing origin-to-destination transportation for people whose functional limitations prevent them from riding COTA's fixed-route buses for some or all of their trips. For more information, visit cota.com/services/cota-mainstream

ADA ACCESSIBLE PARKING

For additional resources on parking permits and where to park, visit go.osu.edu/ADA.

SAFETY RESOURCES

The Department of Public Safety has many programs specifically designed to keep commuters safe. Utilize the [Lyft Ride Smart program](#) for discounted rides inside the university-designated service area. Check out dps.osu.edu for more information.

Off-Campus and Commuter Student Engagement also offers free personal and home [safety devices](#) year round. Stop by 3106 Ohio Union to pick up your's today!



BUCKEYE TIP

- 5 Be sure to avoid leaving valuables in your car by bringing them with you throughout the day.

CABS

- FREE Transit through CABS provides you with safe, reliable and clean transportation around campus.
- Download the Ohio State University App to track the buses in real time!

COTA

- Explore the greater Columbus area using your BuckID! Fees to ride the COTA are automatically included in tuition.
- Download the Transit App to track the COTA bus routes!






Getting Involved



Getting Involved

There are **1,400+ organizations** to pick from when deciding what you want to get involved in! Whether a club is focused on academics, volunteering or sports, any way you decide to get involved guarantees a more complete Ohio State experience.

 **Major events** to help you get acclimated:

- Welcome Week
- Involvement Fairs in August and January (A great place to learn about what Ohio State offers)
- University-wide and degree specific career fairs
- Commuter Meet-Up prior to Student Involvement Fair

BUCKEYE TIP

 BuckeyeThon is the largest student-run philanthropic event in Ohio, raising funds and awareness for the Hematology/Oncology/Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at Nationwide Children's Hospital. BuckeyeThon engages thousands of students annually, fostering a spirit of philanthropy to make a difference For The Kids. The annual Dance Marathon celebrates the year's fundraising while students dance the night away!
Visit buckeyethon.osu.edu. 

ON-CAMPUS JOBS – WHY DO IT?


- Make money
- Flexible, convenient student positions
- Meet new friends

Shorten your commute by having your school and job in one place!

Student Life's Buckeye Careers, located in the Younkin Success Center, offers career counseling, mock interviews, resume review and career talks, all available by appointment. Visit:

 careers.osu.edu

BUCKEYE TIP

 Update your professional wardrobe for free by checking out the Career Closet! Visit go.osu.edu/CareerCloset to learn more about where and when the closet is available.

Join Our Team!

Off-Campus and Commuter Student Engagement is looking for dedicated students looking to develop their professional skills while building community amongst peers.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT:

- Flexible schedules for breaks and finals
- Leadership and development opportunities
- Dynamic work schedule
- Ongoing professional development opportunities
- Build strong peer-to-peer relationships
- Creative efforts to engage students

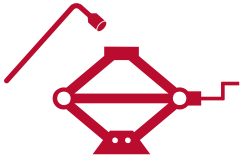
Visit go.osu.edu/occsehireing for more information





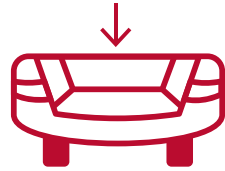
Car Maintenance

How to Change a Car Tire



TOOLS NEEDED

- Car Jack
- Tire Iron



1. LOCATION

Find a safe place to pull over. Tools and spare tires are most often kept in the trunk under the carpet.



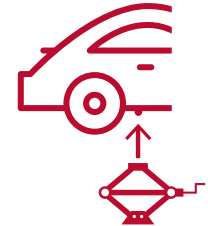
2. JACK POINTS

The four jacking points are located two to each side, outlined above.



3. LOOSEN BOLTS

Loosen by turning the iron counter clockwise, but do not fully remove.



4. RAISE CAR

Align the car jack under the car and twist to raise the car by turning clockwise.



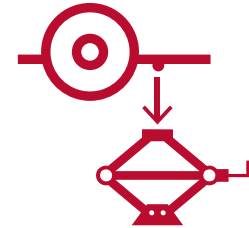
5. REMOVE TIRE

Once the car tire is lifted, continue to unbolt the nuts and pull the tire off of its frame.



6. REPLACE TIRE

Put replacement tire on the car and secure with bolts to hold the tire in its place.



7. LOWER CAR

Lower the car jack slowly until the tire is safely back on the ground.



8. TIGHTEN

Tighten each of the bolts by turning the tire iron clockwise. You're done!

Car Maintenance Checklist

REPLACE THE AIR FILTER

By replacing clogged air filters on older vehicles with carbureted engines, you can improve fuel economy and acceleration.

GET AN OIL CHANGE

This is one of the simplest services you can perform to improve your vehicle's fuel economy.

CHECK THE LIGHTS

Regularly check to make sure no headlights, turn signals or brake lights are out of order, and repair immediately if they are.

WASH YOUR VEHICLE

Keeps the paint and wax on the car.

CHECK YOUR TIRES

Regularly check tire pressure to stay safe and prevent a flat tire.




Important Numbers to Know

Office of Student Life
614-292-9334

studentlife.osu.edu 

CampusParc
614-688-0000

osu.campusparc.com

Off-Campus and Commuter
Student Engagement
614-292-0100 

offcampus@osu.edu

Transportation and
Traffic Management
614-292-RIDE

ttm.osu.edu 

Counseling and
Consultation Service
614-292-5766

ccs.osu.edu 

Suicide Prevention Hotline
614-221-5445

suicidepreventionservices.org

Student Wellness Center
614-292-4527

swc.osu.edu 

EMERGENCY #'S:

Police, Fire, Medical emergencies
9-1-1

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline
9-8-8

NON-EMERGENCY #'S:

Ohio State Police
614-292-2121

dps.osu.edu/police

Columbus Police
614-645-4545

columbuspolice.org 

Columbus Division of Fire
614-221-3132


columbus.gov/fire 

Student Advocacy Center
614-292-1111

advocacy.osu.edu 

Student Legal Services
614-247-5853

studentlegal.osu.edu 

Collegiate Recovery Community
614-292-4527 

swc.osu.edu/services/collegiate-recovery-community

**THIS GUIDE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE OFFICE OF
STUDENT LIFE WILLIE J. YOUNG, SR. OFF-CAMPUS AND
COMMUTER STUDENT ENGAGEMENT**

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