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!
# Table of Contents

## 4 Resources For You

- 5 Off-Campus and Commuter Student Engagement (OCCSE)
- 8 OCCSE Resources
- 9 Study Spots
- 10 Buckeye Traditions

## 11 Getting Around Campus

- 12 Getting Around
- 13 Checklists
- 16 Adaptive Transportation

## 17 Getting Involved

- 18 Getting Involved
- 19 Join Our Team

## 20 Car Maintenance

- 21 Changing a Tire
- 22 Car Maintenance Checklist
- 23 Important Numbers to Know
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  @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.
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. Your Community Ambassadors build community among off-campus and commuter students, while delivering important safety and commuting information. They will take their time to get to know you, learn about what you would like to see in your community and what you would like to get out of your experiencing commuting.

“As a Community Ambassador, I am able to connect with off campus students every week and support them in our neighborhood, making sure they feel at home in our Buckeye community.” – 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

BUCKEYE TIP

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!
Resources for Commuter Students in the Ohio Union

- Walk-in hours at our office (3106 Ohio Union)
- Semester long locker access is 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

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) 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 onto campus during Michigan 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

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

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!
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 go.osu.edu/COTAMainstream

**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!
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

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

Visit go.osu.edu/occsehiring for more information
Car Maintenance
How to Change a Car Tire

TOOLS NEEDED
- Car Jack
- Tire Iron

1. LOCATION
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

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

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

**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
ps.ohio-state.edu/police

Columbus Police
614-645-4545
columbuspolice.org

Columbus Division of Fire
614-221-3132
columbus.gov/fire

Columbus Police
614-221-3132
columbus.gov/fire
THE LAWYERS FOR STUDENTS

call or text 614.247.5853

off-campus housing • lease reviews
wills & power of attorney • name change
criminal misdemeanors • traffic citations
Immigration • employment • identity theft
consumer • contracts • document review
credit/debt • insurance • dissolutions
victim assistance • notary & much more

STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

studentlegal.osu.edu