Commuting 101
A BUCKEYE’S GUIDE TO COMMUTING TO CAMPUS

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE
OFF-CAMPUS AND COMMUTER STUDENT SERVICES
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 Off-Campus and Commuter Student Services is here to help support you and create the extraordinary student experience!

BUCKEYE TIP

Keep a look out throughout the guide to find more Buckeye traditions and tips!
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LIVE YOUR #LIFEinMOTION WITH REC SPORTS!

Take advantage of your Rec Sports membership and visit our facilities! All students taking 6 or more credit hours have a membership included in your student fees. Rec Sports facilities are easily accessible to computer users with nearby parking options on campus.

The Ohio State University
Office of Student Life
Recreational Sports
@OSUSor
@osuRecsports

STUDENT LEGAL

WE’VE GOT YOU
LEGAL ADVICE & REPRESENTATION

studentlegal.osu.edu
614-247-5853

Not sure if we can help? Call us!
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**

**Buckeye Tradition:**
Brutus Buckeye has been the face of The Ohio State University for over 50 years!

Find Brutus on campus and snap a pic with the spirited mascot to kick off your bucket list!

Go to go.osu.edu/BBL to check out The Ohio State Bucket List and enter to win prizes!
Off-Campus and Commuter Student Services (OCCSS) is here to support you! Stop by our office or keep up with us using the information below:

**Off-Campus and Commuter Student Services**
3106 Ohio Union
1739 N. High Street
Columbus, OH 43210

**Hours:** Monday–Friday | 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
**Phone:** 614-292-0100
**Email:** offcampus@osu.edu
**Website:** offcampus.osu.edu

Stay connected with OCCSS commuter news and events through social media!

- [Off-Campus and Commuter Student Services](https://www.facebook.com/offcampus.osu)
- [offcampus_osu](https://www.instagram.com/offcampus_osu)
- [offcampus_osu](https://twitter.com/offcampus_osu)

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**Our Vision**

Student Life’s Off-Campus and Commuter Student Services’ 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.
THE COMMUTER MENTORING PROGRAM

Through our office, you will be paired with a mentor to help you navigate campus life. This is an excellent way to connect with current students at The Ohio State University and get personalized help!

Mentors give one-on-one assistance and provide you with the following:

• Opportunities and resources on campus
• Fairs and events for commuter students
• Important news and announcements
• A sense of community
• Advocacy on your behalf

BUCKEYE TIP

Looking for a peaceful place to meet with your mentor? Check out Mirror Lake and the Mirror Lake Eatery on south campus!

DON’T KNOW IF THE MENTORING PROGRAM IS FOR YOU?

Commuter Mentors will...

- ADVOCATE for you on campus
- CONNECT you with other commuter and transfer students
- CONDUCT one-on-one time to answer questions and reflect
- HELP you find career opportunities
- ATTEND the first meeting of a student organization with you

Sign up for the mentoring program on our website at offcampus.osu.edu.
RESOURCES FOR COMMUTER STUDENTS IN THE OHIO UNION

- **Commuter walk-in hours** at our office (3106 Ohio Union)
- **Semester-long locker access** is available on a first come, first serve basis starting at 8 a.m. 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

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.

KEITH B. KEY CENTER FOR LEARNING
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)

SIGMA PHI EPSILON LOUNGE
Private location in the Ohio Union, great for studying

THOMPSON LIBRARY, 11th FLOOR
Quiet location with a great view overlooking the oval

OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE | OFF-CAMPUS AND COMMUTER STUDENT SERVICES

OFF-CAMPUS COMMMUTER GUIDE | OFFCAMPUS.OSU.EDU
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.
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 parking permits at: osu.campusparc.com

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!

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.

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
- Headphones
- BuckID
- Lip balm

- Deodorant
- Snacks
- Water
- Umbrella

BUCKEYE TIP

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

Looking to save money on gas?

Want company on your drive to campus or long distance drive?

Check out offcampus.osu.edu for more information.
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!

ADAPTIVE TRANSPORTATION
CABS Paratransit
• Door-to-door adapted 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 the department at 614-292-6202, or go to their website at: 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
The Department of Public Safety has many programs specifically designed to keep commuters safe. Their Safe Ride program provides you with safe transportation across campus through the TapRide App. Check out their website for more information: dps.osu.edu

Off-Campus & Commuter Student Services also has FREE safety devices available year round in our office for your home. Stop by to pick up yours today!
WHICH STUDENT ORGANIZATION IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

START

Are you competitive?

No

Would you use this as a resumé builder, or a time to relax?

Resumé builder

Time to relax

Yes

Do you have a lot of free time?

Yes

Wanting to get more involved in your major?

Yes

LeBron

No

Who is your idol?

Yes

Beyoncé

No

Looking to get more involved in your community?

Yes

SERVICE

SOCIAL

SPORTS

ACADEMIC
There are 1,300+ 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.

Student Organizations: activities.osu.edu/involvement/student_organizations

Campus Events: activities.osu.edu/programs/major_campus_events

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 in the Ohio Union! Visit: buckeyethon.osu.edu

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

Student Life’s Career Counseling and Support Services, located in the Younkin Success Center, offers career counseling, mock interviews, resume review and career talks, all available by appointment. Visit: ccss.osu.edu

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 Services is looking for dedicated students to build community for students who live off-campus and commute.

What you can expect:
- 10 hours a week
- Flexible schedules for breaks and finals
- Leadership and development opportunities

Apply for open positions on Handshake: handshake.osu.edu.
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. **LOOSE 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!
**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.

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**IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO KNOW**

- **Office of Student Life**
  614-292-9334
  studentlife.osu.edu

- **Campus Parc**
  614-688-0000
  osu.campusparc.com

- **Transportation and Traffic Management**
  614-292-RIDE
  ttm.osu.edu

- **Counseling and Consultation Services**
  614-292-5766
  ccs.osu.edu

- **Suicide Prevention Hotline**
  614-221-5445
  suicidepreventionservices.org

- **Student Wellness Center**
  614-292-4527
  swc.osu.edu

- **Ohio State Police**
  614-292-2121
  ps.ohio-state.edu/police/

- **Columbus Police**
  614-645-4545
  columbuspolice.gov

**NON-EMERGENCY #’S:**

- **Ohio State Police**
  614-292-2121
  ps.ohio-state.edu/police/

- **Student Legal Services**
  614-247-5853
  studentlegal.osu.edu

- **Collegiate Recovery Community**
  614-292-4527
  swc.osu.edu/services/collegiate-recovery-community
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