Parking 101

There really is a parking solution for everyone. Plan ahead and you'll always make it to class on time. Here are some tips. If your class begins before 9 a.m., no problem! You will find plenty of spaces in the Asp or Elm garages. If your class begins before 10 a.m., head to an outlying lot like the lot behind Boyd House, or the lot at Brooks and Jenkins. If your class begins at 11 a.m. or later, you'll find plenty of parking at the Duck Pond lot. And if your first class doesn't begin until afternoon, do not buy a parking permit. Park permit-free at the Lloyd Noble Center and ride CART.

There is no need to wait in a line at the parking office. Buy your parking permit online at OU.edu/parking. Choose to pick up the permit or have it mailed (best choice). Choose the permit best suiting your circumstances — Housing, Commuter, Priority Housing (sophomore or older), Commuter Law, Motorcycle, etc.

If you plan to ride a bike or walk to campus, you can purchase a one-day pass for just $4 (or 10 at a time for $40). That way you can drive to campus when it rains, snows, or you are running late.

Parking Services is self-funded, receiving no state money. So everything from maintenance to lighting to the building of a $28 million garage (Jenkins Avenue Parking Facility opens in January 2017) is funded through permit sales, special event parking and the payment of citations.

Parking Services endorses two alternative modes of transportation, GetAroundOK.com and Zipcar. GetAroundOK.com is a carpooling website that will pair you with others from your area for the commute to OU. Zipcar is a campus car-share provider with cars available 24 hours a day seven days a week. Four cars on campus can be rented by the hour or by the day. Sign up at zipcar.com/OU.

A couple of invaluable tips: a color-coded parking map can be found at OU.edu/parking. Map your parking plan before arriving on campus. Follow @OUParking for updates on space counts and some technology surprises as the year progresses.

CART 101

Search “CART Norman” on your Apple or Android phones for the transit app. It features everything on the website, and soon will include a trip planner.

You don't have to bring a car to campus. CART will take you most anywhere you need to go. Students, faculty and staff ride fare-free (except for a route to Oklahoma City shared with EMBARK transit). Most routes are from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Don't want to pay for a parking permit? Consider parking permit-free on the north side of the Lloyd Noble Center and taking the LNC Shuttle to main campus. Buses (sometimes five at a time) run every 10 minutes, and that's much less time than it may take you to find a parking spot.

Students are asked to get a current-semester sticker for the back of their OU ID cards. The stickers are available at: the One Card office in Oklahoma Memorial Union; at Parking Services in Stubbeman Place; at the CART office; at Traditions housing offices; and during special student-led Turn Up For Transit events on campus.

CART has two transfer stations — the Campus Depot on the west side of the stadium (mostly for campus routes) and the Brooks Street Transfer Station near the Duck Pond parking area (mostly for city routes). Familiarize yourself with the routes and stations at rideCART.com or with the app.

Because we know you'll be studying late at the library, CART offers a Late-Night Flex bus Mondays through Thursdays. The bus makes regular stops at Campus Depot, Brooks Street Transfer Station, Walker Tower and Lloyd Noble Center. You also may call (405) 325-2278 before 5 p.m. to request a ride.

Riding the bus is not scary. The bus drivers are some of the friendliest people you will meet on campus. And they will help get you where you need to go. If for some reason you miss your stop, the bus makes the same loop every half hour, so you'll be right back where you started in 30 minutes.