



Monday, June 24, 2002

New postal rates effective June 30

Starting June 30, it will cost more to mail letters and catalogs. A new surcharge also could increase postage expenses for Oakland University departments.

The U.S. Postal Service is adding a 12-cent surcharge to any non-machinable mail. Non-machinable is a piece of mail that can't be processed through the automated machines and must be hand-posted.

"The 12-cent surcharge could really add up with a large non-machinable mailing, so we're contacting departments that do a lot of mailings," said Amy Masters, manager of mail services. "We want to make sure all pieces conform to the new standards."

Non-machinable criteria includes envelopes with clasps, strings or buttons, or envelopes containing items such as pens, pencils or coins that cause the thickness of the mail piece to be uneven. Complete details about non-machinable criteria and other specific information is available on the **Mail Services** Web site.

There's also a change in the cost of mailing a flat-rate "priority mail" envelope. Any amount of material that can be placed in the envelope is subject to the one-pound priority mail rate, regardless of the weight of the material.

A new on-line service is being introduced to help senders track certified and registered letters. To check the status of a certified or registered letter, go to the **U.S. Postal Services** Web site and enter the article number found on the receipt.

The current and new postage rates are:

	Current Rate	New Rate
1 oz. letter	.34	.37
each additional ounce	.23	.23
Postcard	.21	.23
Priority Mail 1 lb.	\$3.50	\$3.85
Priority Mail 2 lbs.	\$3.95	\$3.95 - \$5.75 depending on area in U.S.
Express Mail up to 8 oz.	\$12.45	\$13.65
Express Mail up to 2 lbs.	\$16.25	\$17.85
Catalog Rates	\$1.78	\$1.84
Certified Fee	\$2.10	\$2.30
Return Receipt Fee	\$1.50	\$1.75

Non-profit rates will increase by about 8.5 percent.

For more information about the new postage rates and requirements, call OU's Mail Services at 370-2281.

SUMMARY

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