



Thursday, August 26, 2004

Plan ahead for convenient campus parking

The first few weeks of fall semester are typically the busiest time for motorists on Oakland University's campus. The university recommends that people plan ahead before visiting campus and allow for time to find a parking space so they make it to their class, job or appointments on time.

Unlike many other universities that have paid, restricted parking, OU provides more than 6,000 unrestricted parking spaces in lighted, convenient lots for students, faculty, staff and guests on a first-come, first-served basis. A limited number of restricted parking spaces to accommodate people with special needs also are available.

To minimize the amount of time it takes to find a parking space, Oakland University police officers will be on hand to direct traffic during the first few weeks of the semester.

The university also offers the following suggestions to help minimize the parking crunch:

- Consider leaving earlier for campus, at least during the first few weeks of the semester.
- Students living in the new apartments and the residence halls are encouraged to walk to class to ease parking congestion.
- Study the **campus map**, especially the areas with additional parking spaces, so you are familiar with several parking options.
- Remember there is a difference between "no parking spaces" and "no convenient parking spaces."

For most people, any parking space is at most a 15-minute walk to any building on the main campus, so spending time circling for that "perfect spot" often takes more time than parking in a lot further away.

Students also should be aware that illegal parking of any kind is not permitted for safety reasons, and the Oakland University Police Department will issue tickets. The minimum cost of an illegal parking ticket is \$20 for a regular space and \$50 for a handicapped space. To pay your ticket online, visit the **OU Police Department** Web site and click on the link to pay online. The five-step program guides users easily through the payment process and accepts all major credit cards.

For the most up-to-date information on campus parking, visit the **Parking** Web page.

SUMMARY

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