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Carpool Policy

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Carpool Definition:

Carpooling, also known as ridesharing, is the process of taking a trip by motor vehicle with more than one person in the vehicle. It applies to any street-legal motor vehicle in the context of this policy, including cars, trucks, vans or motorcycles. It does not apply to bicycles or scooters.

Carpool Platform:

The University does not have a private rideshare matching platform. Students, staff, faculty, affiliates and visitors may choose to use Go Maine if they would like to, which is a free service currently run by Maine DOT & Maine Turnpike Authority. All external rideshare matching services, such as Go Maine and others, are not overseen by the University, and the risk of participating in them falls upon the individual person choosing to participate.

Carpool-Only Spaces:

The University has carpool-only spaces across the Portland campus in convenient locations to incentivize more people to carpool. These spaces are designated by "Carpool Parking" signs.

In order to park in a carpool space without being issued a citation, the following rules must be followed:

- Only vehicles with two or more students, faculty, or staff may park in these spaces. Non-University affiliated people may carpool in the same vehicle, but do not count toward the two-person minimum.
- Two current valid Carpool Passes need to be displayed in a vehicle to avoid citation (one on the rearview mirror & one on the dash).
- The two Carpool Passes must belong to two different people.

Carpool Passes:

Carpool Passes are not considered full Vehicle Parking Permits. Rather, they are only used for the purpose of utilizing a carpool-only space after the driver has already acquired a Parking Permit allowing them to be in the parking lot or parking garage in the first place.

There are two types of Carpool Passes, both of which can be applied for through the Parking Office:

- **Driver Carpool Pass:** This is a hard plastic hang tag, similar to the old Parking Permits. It will be associated with your Parking Permit and can only be obtained by people who have current, valid University of Southern Maine Parking Permits.
- **Non-Driver Carpool Pass:** This is a paper pass for University students, staff or faculty who are not driving. To be eligible for a Non-Driver Carpool Pass, you must meet one of the following conditions:
 - you do not have a Parking Permit because you are a commuter from off campus who always gets a ride from others.
 - you are a residential student or staff living on the Gorham campus and want to leave your car in Gorham, so therefore don't want to remove your Parking Permit from your vehicle when taking a trip to the Portland campus.
 - you do not have a vehicle.

Buyout participants are not currently eligible to receive a Carpool Pass because there are currently no carpool-only spaces in Gorham that would benefit the Buyout participant, since they are Portland residential students, who would be driving from the Portland campus, not to the Portland campus.