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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 and Gorham campuses 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 (both should be displayed on the dash with the QR code close enough to the windshield to be scanned from the outside).
- The two Carpool Passes must belong to two different people.

## **Carpool Passes:**

Carpool Passes on their own 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 University's parking management system (the same system used to acquire normal parking permits):

- **Driver Carpool Pass:** This pass is for students, staff or faculty who want to carpool with their vehicle at least some of the time. It is available in the parking management system. It is associated with your Parking Permit and can only be obtained by people who have current, valid University of Southern Maine Parking Permits. It can either be acquired at the same time that a customer purchases their parking permit, or later, after the permit has already been purchased. After a parking permit and parking pass have been acquired, they will be essentially one-in-the-same, represented by the same permit # and same QR code.
- **Rider-Only Carpool Pass:** This pass is for students, staff or faculty who want to carpool, but don't have a vehicle. It is available in the parking management system, the same portal that people used to buy parking permits for their vehicles. This Pass alone will not allow someone to park on campus without avoiding citation. It must be placed on the vehicle dashboard of a vehicle that has a valid Parking Permit and Driver Carpool Pass. To be eligible for a Rider-Only Carpool Pass, you must meet one of the following conditions:
  - you do not have a Parking Permit because you did not buy a parking permit for your motor vehicle at the University of Southern Maine, nor do you plan to buy a parking permit for your vehicle anytime in the current academic year.
  - ☞ you do not own a motor vehicle.

After registering for a Driver Carpool Pass or Rider-Only Carpool Pass, a copy of the QR code representing it must be printed from the parking management system and displayed on the vehicle dash when parking in designed carpool spaces on campus. Failure to do so will be considered a parking violation, even if the individual(s) has a valid virtual pass.

## **Cost to Participate:**

There is no cost to acquire either of the pass types. However, a motor vehicle parking permit is required to park on campus regardless of carpool status, and that cost varies between students, staff and faculty, as well as what exact permits they purchase. See the Parking Services website for current rates.