

Things Every New Commuter Should Know,

(In order to avoid parking tickets, looking like a silly freshman, and social awkwardness)

In no particular order

- Buy an umbrella.
- This may seem obvious, but keep your parking pass up when you park in the lot. Check to make sure that it's up when you're leaving or you will get a ticket.
- Tell your professors that you're a commuter. Write it on the note card that they have you fill out at the beginning of the year. Talk to them in their office hours and remind them.
- Again, talk to the professors during their office hours, even if it's just to introduce yourself. Maybe talk about what you like about the class. Become friends with the professor. They'll remember you as that "nice young student" and when the grades come in, that's a better position than being "that lazy kid who always skips class" (Don't skip class, either!)
- Take the initiative to get to know the students in your class. Eat lunch with them, hang out in their residence halls, etc.
- Go to Up the Orgs! They have them at the beginning of each semester. Up the Orgs is when the student organizations on campus can showcase what their group is all about.
- Take every available opportunity to get free food or free stuff, in general.
- If you live with your parents, be nice to them. Relationships with parents will probably change as you go into college and it's important for them to be able to trust you.
- Get to the commuter lot early in the morning, if possible, to secure a good space. Otherwise, you'll be walking A LOT.
- Buy some good walking shoes. You will be walking much more than you ever thought possible.
- Eat. You'll be walking a lot, so don't get too skinny. Campus food is sometimes pretty expensive, so look at other food options. There's Subway, KFC, Arby's, Penn Station, ect. Share a big sub with a friend for \$5.
- Since you have a car, play that up. You could be the cool person who has a car when some people on campus don't. Offer to take people out somewhere, but don't let them take advantage of that.
- Get a job on campus. You can only have one job, though, and can only work 20 hours per week as a full-time student. You're already on campus, so it's pretty convenient. Visit jobs.udayton.edu
- Look at the parking regulations on parking.udayton.edu and know what you're expected to do or you will pay a HUGE FINE if you break the rules.
- If you leave your pass somewhere or forget to put it up or it falls down, you get 2 chances to be excused from paying that ticket. Use them! Don't let them make you pay just because you didn't know you get 2 free chances.
- You can't just park anywhere during school breaks. For example, let's say that it's the first Monday of Winter Break. You have a job in the Anderson Center and decide to park in B lot, since it's a "holiday". Wrong. You can't park there unless it's a weekend or an "official UD

sanctioned holiday”. Look them up on the parking services website to find out when that is. Call up parking services and they might give you a pass to let you park in that lot or some other nearby lot that no one’s using during Winter Break.

- Familiarize yourself with all the parking lots on campus. Find out where you can be and when. Don’t park in a “forbidden” lot unless you’re actually allowed to park there. If you park in the wrong place even for 5 minutes, you will probably get a ticket.
- If you park in a 5, 15, or 30 minute zone, put your emergency flashers on (just like the sign says) or you will get a HUGE fine.
- Get a locker in the commuter lounge, if you want. It may or may not be convenient for you to drop by KU often, depending on what you put in the locker.
- You paid a huge University Fee that covers your RecPlex membership and visits to the Health Center/Counseling Center (Gosiger Hall). Use those resources! If you want to talk to somebody about the anxiety of being a new student or anything at all, go talk to a counselor. You can work out or go swimming anytime at the RecPlex. It’s FREE, so why not use it?
- If you’re Undecided, you can take a free personality assessment or aptitude test on campus. Ask your ASI teacher how to do that. (The Counseling Center can direct you to some on-line assessment tools to assist you when matching a potential career to your personality)
- Try shopping for books online .
- If you have an idea for a club that hasn’t been created, you can create your own! I did!
- The Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) is another place to check out events that are happening on campus. OMA is located in Gosiger Hall. Stop in to chat, look for programs you might be interested in, or to see what you can do to become more involved on campus.
- Also, check out the Center for Social Concern projects and trips. They have trips planned all the time to go to exciting places, even all around the world!
- I’ll be letting you know about cool things happening on campus, so if you didn’t sign up on our mailing list at Up the Orgs, then send an email to commutersoncampus@gmail.com . We also have a Facebook group—just search for Commuters on Campus

This list was written by Kristen Hammaker. I don’t claim to know everything about being a commuter, but these are things that I wish I’d known before. If you have questions about it, email me at hammakn@notes.udayton.edu

Parking Services: 229-2128

Mom’s Limo: 229-2124

UD IT (technology support) : 229-3888, they also have a walk-in help desk in Miriam Hall 53 (These numbers may be subject to change, but probably not. If so, just look them up on the UD website—www.udayton.edu)