Transportation and Parking Services FAQs

In response to the continuing demand for parking on campus, Transportation and Parking Services is launching new initiatives and making changes to current policies for the 2017/18 academic year. Below are frequently asked questions. To view all available parking, visit https://afd.calpoly.edu/parking/parkingoncampus/parkinglots/

Why are commuter permits now available after they sold out?

Over the first two weeks of fall quarter we have been monitoring and studying the commuter parking spaces and are prepared to open the sale of more parking permits.

How will commuter parking permits be allocated the week of September 25, 2017?

Two types of permits will be released beginning on Wednesday, September 27 at 3 p.m.
1. Fall quarter Orange permits
2. Annual commuter permits valid in Canyon Circle Structure (R4)

Fall quarter Orange permit release:
Fall quarter permits will be sold online only beginning at 3 p.m. Wednesday, September 27. Fall quarter Orange permit cost: $138. A select number of permits will be released on Wednesday and Thursday.

In consideration of students who live a distance from campus and cannot take advantage of other transportation services offered within San Luis Obispo, we will offer priority to students who come to our office to show proof of residence outside San Luis Obispo. Students can provide either a lease agreement or utility bill with their name and address along with a photo ID in person at University Police, Building 36, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 27 and 28. Email requests cannot be processed. Once these accommodations have been made, remaining Orange Lot permits will be sold based on academic progress.

Level IV and students that live outside SLO – Wednesday, 9/27, 3 p.m. (or until sold out)
Level III, Level IV and students that live outside SLO – Thursday, 9/28 at 3 p.m. (or until sold out)
Level II - Level IV – Friday 9/29 at 9 a.m. (or until sold out)
Level I - Level IV – Friday 9/29 at 1 p.m. (or until sold out)

Once these permits are sold out, a waitlist will open to all levels on a first-come-first-served basis for possible future permits as we see space available.

Annual Canyon Circle Structure (R4) permits

Canyon Circle Structure (R4) permits will be sold via a waitlist on a first-come-first-served basis. The waitlist will open at the same time as quarterly permit sales — 3 p.m.
Wednesday Sept. 27 — and awards to purchase will begin Thursday, September 28. Students will be given a limited time window to purchase once awarded.

Annual commuter permit cost: $415. Structure parking is mostly covered and will be sold on a one-to-one basis. Students will be guaranteed parking any time of day they come to campus. This is a unique privilege; no other commuter space on campus is sold on a one-to-one basis. No overnight parking is allowed by any commuter permit holder, even if their permit is valid in a residential lot.

Map of Canyon Circle Structure (R4) location

I live with my parents outside of San Luis Obispo, what proof can I show?

If students aren’t able to show a lease agreement or utility bill with their own name because you live with family, we can accept a valid Driver’s License with your current home address.

What happens if quarterly and annual permits sell out again?

Short term daily and weekly permits are available in lots K1, H1 and Grand Structure. Daily and weekly permits are only be honored in general parking spaces before 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

How can I get to Cal Poly without using my car?

Students, faculty and staff can take SLO Transit for free. They can take advantage of Cal Poly’s rideshare program, reserve a Zipcar or hop on a bike. These alternative options reduce the stress of finding parking and are better for the environment. To find out more about transportation options, visit https://afd.calpoly.edu/parking/commutingtocampus/.

Since freshmen can’t bring cars, why aren’t there 5,000 more parking spaces available?

Historically, very few freshmen residents brought cars to campus (less than 15 percent). In the 2016/17 academic year, approximately 500 freshmen students parked cars on campus as residents. This academic year, freshmen residents were limited from bringing vehicles (though an exception process was offered and many accommodations were made for ADA and other extenuating circumstances). The remaining spaces have been allocated for more general commuter parking.

What is an Orange permit?

The Orange permit is our new quarterly and annual commuter permit that allows students to park in any general space on campus.
What are Orange Lots?

Transportation and Parking Services developed Orange Lots (formerly the H-12, H-14 and H-16 parking lots) for those commuting to campus. These lots are designated for Orange Lot permit holders only; Monday - Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Poly Canyon Village Drive (R3) structure upper levels will be reserved parking areas for Orange Lot permit overflow and events.

What hours can I park with my permit (staff, orange, daily, or weekly)?

All campus designated campus lots and spaces are enforced from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. however, permits are valid in any general or staff space after 5 p.m. as well. No additional evening or weekend permit is needed when you have one of these permits.

Is my staff permit valid in the Orange Lots?

There are 52 designated staff spaces in the H16 (orange) lot. Staff permits are also valid in any general space on campus which include the Grand Avenue Structure, K1, and H1 lots. Orange permits are not valid in any staff spaces before 5 p.m. The goal of preserving the Orange Lots for commuters is to direct commuter traffic to a specific area for parking to reduce traffic congestion made by vehicles circling for spaces.

How were these new parking policies developed?

The new parking policies were developed over 12 months to respond to concerns voiced by students during the 2016/17 academic year. This process included research into current trends and the anticipated needs of the campus community, with the goal of leveraging more alternate sustainable transportation options. Transportation and Parking Services worked collaboratively across campus with university stakeholders and with other interdepartmental members and San Luis Obispo community members to develop these changes.

Why did Parking and Commuter Services change its name?

The department changed its name to Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS) to better reflect all of the services the department provides. The name change aligns with the department’s strategic goals to grow services into more sustainable transportation options than single occupancy vehicles and with the university’s larger sustainability initiative.