

Golf Cart/Utility Vehicle FAQ's

1. Do I really need a golf cart?

The campus is planned so that students and faculty can walk to their next class within 10 minutes, and we should make every effort to support this essential function of the university. Like vehicles, golf carts can be an obstacle to pedestrians. In addition, there is limited space on campus for parking. If you can generally walk to your destination within 10 minutes and do not need to transport heavy materials, you do not need a golf cart. Purchasing a department bike (such as from the Bike Program) might also be a consideration for traveling to meetings that are further than a 10-minute walk.

2. What do I need to consider before I purchase a golf cart/utility vehicle for my department?

The Mobile Equipment shop assists with all vehicle purchases (including golf carts). They are able to assist you with choosing the right brand, specifications and special features you need to ensure your cart meets your department's needs and is capable of obtaining a license plate. Parking and Transportation can assist with storing and charging locations.

3. I want to rent a vehicle for a 1-day event on campus. What do I need to do to comply with the program?

Departments who operate golf carts and/or utility vehicles on campus are responsible for ensuring all authorized employees have a valid driver's license and are certified to drive through the University of Oregon Driver Certification Program. Additionally, departments must identify a departmental trainer who shall instruct drivers of their responsibilities while operating a golf cart/utility vehicle on campus. These requirements apply, even for a 1-day event. When organizing your event, be sure to give yourself enough time to comply with these requirements.

4. How long will it take to get a University of Oregon Driver Certification?

You must have a current, valid driver's license to apply for UO Driver Certification. If your license is from Oregon, plan on it taking about 2 weeks. You'll need to plan on extra time (1-2 weeks) if your driver's license is from out of state.

5. Can UO Driver Certification be obtained for volunteers?

Yes. Certification is good for 1 calendar year. Be sure to plan ahead so your volunteers have time to get their certification!

6. Can I drive anywhere in a golf cart or utility vehicle?

No. Driving of all golf cart and utility vehicles must follow the designated routes. Please refer to the Golf Cart/Utility Vehicle Map.

7. Do I have to use the seatbelt when I drive my golf cart?

Yes. If your vehicle is equipped with a safety device such as a seatbelt, you are required to use it every time you drive; regardless of the distance traveled.

8. I'm hiring a contractor who wants to bring a golf cart while they work on campus. What should I tell them?

Like any vehicle, operators must be authorized and trained on their safe use. If a golf cart or utility vehicle is necessary for the contractor to conduct their work on campus, the project manager in charge of the project will need to ensure that the contractor adheres to all aspects of this program.

9. I do not have a valid driver's license. Can I still drive a golf cart on campus?

No. The University of Oregon Travel, Parking and Vehicle Safety Policy require persons who operate state-owned or rental vehicles on state business possess a valid driver's license.

10. My golf cart/utility vehicle has a license plate. Can I drive it anywhere?

No. Golf carts are classified as Low Speed vehicles (LSV's) by the Department of Motor Vehicles. The maximum speed of a LSV is 25 mph. They are prohibited from driving on any roadway with a speed limit above 35 mph.

11. Can I drive on Franklin Boulevard?

Franklin Boulevard is a 35 mph roadway, however most cars are observed to driver 40 mph or faster. Given the very serious safety risk, it is advised that all LSV's refrain from driving on Franklin Boulevard. Please refer to the Golf Cart/Utility Vehicle Map.