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TITLE: Parking Regulations and Fines  
NUMBER: 709  
AUTHORIZED BY PRESIDENT: 08/30/05, 09/03/2025

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**Purpose:** The purpose of WCC parking regulations is to promote the safety of both vehicles and pedestrians in parking areas while optimizing the use of available parking spaces. These regulations also help ensure that state resources are used appropriately by individuals engaged in authorized college-related activities. These regulations also aim to reduce vehicle collisions and damage, while enhancing the overall safety and flow of traffic.

All employees, students, guests and visitors are required to follow traffic and campus parking regulations as established by law or indicated by campus signage (Chapter 132U – 116 WAC). Special attention should be paid to posted speed limits, no-parking areas, and designated zones, including visitor, disabled parking, and Cedar Hall, fire lanes, and loading zones. In addition, Washington State and City of Bellingham parking codes may be enforced.

**Process:** Campus safety and security personnel are responsible for enforcing all parking regulations at Whatcom Community College (WCC). This enforcement includes issuing both parking warnings (which do not carry a fine) and parking citations (which include a fine).

All vehicles entering WCC campus must be fully operational and comply with state motor vehicle laws, including being properly registered and insured. Oversized vehicles are not permitted to occupy more than one parking space or block access to other vehicles or facilities. Designated parking for oversized vehicles is available in the Blue (B) and Green (G) lots on the north side of campus.

Vehicles are not permitted to remain on campus overnight without prior approval from campus safety and security or a valid parking permit for designated lots. Vehicles left on campus overnight without approval or a permit may be issued a citation and are subject to towing at vehicle owner's expense. Overnight hours are considered 10:00pm – 6:00am daily.

Parking warnings or parking citations may be issued for the following parking violations:

- Designated parking:
  - Delivery or Vendor parking
  - Electric Vehicle Charging Station
  - Loading and Unloading only (Yellow Curbs)
  - Motorcycle parking only
  - Timed parking
  - Visitor Parking (Campus or Cedar Hall)
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- WCC Vehicle parking only
- Disability parking (Failure to display placard or disability license plate)
- Emergency Service Lane or Restricted Parking Zones:
  - Fire Lane / In Roadway / Red Curbs
  - No parking zone posted (non-specific)
  - No standing or idling zone posted
  - Other
- Parking outside or on lines; occupying two parking spaces; obstructing other vehicles; detached trailer
- Permit parking only (failure to display permit)
- Oversized vehicle parking outside of designated area without approval
- Overnight parking without approval
- No RV/Camper or other recreational vehicles permitted without approval
- Temporary restricted parking zones
- Vehicle Maintenance Prohibited

**Penalties:** Parking warnings may be issued in lieu of citation for certain violations. These warnings are intended to educate vehicle operators about WCC’s parking rules and regulations and to inform them of the potential consequences of repeated violations. Parking warnings do not include a fine.

Parking citations are issued to vehicles that violate Whatcom Community College’s parking rules and regulations. These violations may result in fines, towing, and potential restrictions from future vehicle access to WCC parking lots. All parking citations include a fine.

**Parking Fines:**

First Offense

- Designated Parking \$30
- Safety and Emergency Parking \$30
- Disability Parking \$250
- Permit Parking Only \$30
- All Other Violations \$30

Second Offense

- Double fines for first offense

**Enforcement:** Failure to pay fines, or to make agreed-upon scheduled payments, will result in an additional financial penalty equal to 25% of the total amount owed. Unpaid balances may be sent to collection agency and could lead to disciplinary action for students or employees. Fines must be paid within 15 days from date of issue.

**Appeal:** Individuals who wish to contest a parking citation must submit a written appeal within five days of the citation being issued. The appeal should explain why the citation was incorrect or why the violation did not take place. Alternatively, instead of disputing the citation, a person may acknowledge its validity but request a waiver of the fine.

Parking citation appeal or fine waiver may be submitted electronically through email to [parking@whatcom.edu](mailto:parking@whatcom.edu) or by mail to Campus Safety and Security Department, 237 W Kellogg Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226.

Information that must be included:

- Date of Citation
- Citation Number
- Vehicle License Plate Number (include state)
- Complainant full name, email address and telephone information. Student ID if applicable.
- Statement of appeal or statement for fine waiver
  - Please include any materials or evidence to support your claim including photographs or witness statements.

**Impoundment:** WCC reserves the authority to remove any vehicle at the owner's expense for the following reasons:

- a. Non-compliance with WCC Parking Rules and Regulations
- b. Missing or invalid vehicle license plate or temporary registration, or concealed VIN
- c. Illegal parking in an emergency lane, obstructing traffic, or parking in an unsafe manner
- d. Inoperable Vehicle
- e. Parked on campus without proper authorization

## Parking Rules Defined

■ **Designated parking** is parking assigned for specific needs or users, such as:

- **Delivery or Vendor Parking:** Delivery-designated short-term parking is provided to support the needs of specific vendors and service providers by ensuring convenient access to assigned spaces on campus.
- **Electric Vehicle Charging Station:** WCC provides two electric vehicle (EV) charging stations on campus – one for public use and one reserved for Cedar Hall residents. These stations are intended solely for active charging and not for general parking. Vehicles must be plugged in while occupying a charging space. After charging is complete, a 45-minute grace period is allowed for drivers to move their EV.

- **Loading and Unloading only:** Loading zones are identified with a yellow curb or crosshatch and the word “Loading Zone” painted on the curb or pavement. Parking is permitted for ten (10) minutes to facilitate the immediate loading or unloading of material or persons. If it is necessary for the vehicle to remain longer than ten (10) minutes, the vehicle should be moved to a standard parking space.
- **Motorcycle parking:** Motorcycles require less space than standard vehicles. Designated motorcycle parking areas are designed to offer safe and efficient accommodations for motorcyclist, while preserving standard parking spaces for regular-sized vehicles. These areas are typically located closer to buildings and can accommodate multiple motorcycles.
- **Timed Parking:** Timed parking refers to a designated areas where vehicles are only allowed to park for a limited duration. The specific time limits and applicable hours are clearly indicated on parking signs within the designated area.
- **Visitor Parking:** A “visitor” is defined as a guest on campus not otherwise affiliated with the College, including prospective student or prospective employee. All visitors must check-in and register their vehicles to be authorized to park on campus. Vehicle registration instructions are posted at each visitor parking area. Students, faculty and staff are not allowed to park in visitor parking. The only exception is for individuals with a legally issued disability placard or license plate, which permits parking in visitor spaces when designated disability parking is unavailable.
- **WCC Vehicle Parking:** Some areas are specifically designated for WCC vehicles only. Only vehicles owned by WCC are permitted to use these spaces unless prior approval has been granted.

■ **Disability parking** (also known as accessible parking) refers to designated parking spaces reserved for individuals with disabilities that impact mobility. These spaces are designed to provide easier and safer access to buildings and facilities. Authorization to park in disability parking space requires a valid, legally issued disability placard or license plate.

■ **Emergency Service Lane and Restricted Parking Zones:** An emergency service lane is a designated area within a parking lot that provides firefighters, emergency personnel, and vehicles with rapid access to a building or structure during a crisis, such as a fire, medical emergency, or criminal incident. These areas must remain clear at all times - parking, standing or idling is strictly prohibited. Restricted parking zones are designated areas where parking is limited or regulated to enhance safety and address specific concerns.

■ **Parking outside or on lines;** occupying two or more parking spaces; obstructing other vehicles; detached trailer; oversized commercial vehicle: Parking outside the lines, occupying multiple spaces, blocking other vehicles, leaving a detached trailer, or parking an oversized commercial vehicle are all violations commonly referred to as “double parking.” This occurs when a vehicle is parked in a manner that takes up more than one space or extends into an adjacent spot. While it may not be illegal to park on or slightly over a line, it does violate WCC parking standards when it prevents other vehicles from safely parking within marked spaces. Such violations can also increase the risk of vehicle damage and lead to conflicts between drivers.

■ **Parking Permit:** WCC requires parking permits in certain areas to help regulate and manage parking where demand is high, such as near student residence halls. The permit system is designed to reduce misuse of campus parking and ensure that individuals attending classes, accessing college resources, living in residence halls, or participating in events can find parking with minimal difficulty.

■ **Oversized Vehicle parking.** Oversized vehicles are defined as those that may obstruct traffic flow or exceed the dimensions of standard campus parking spaces. This includes large SUVs or pickup trucks that interfere with vehicle movement, box trucks, semi-tractor trailers, buses, recreational vehicles, attached trailers, tent trailers, and any other vehicle that causes concern due to excessive height or length. Temporary parking exemptions for such vehicles may be granted through Campus Safety & Security. Short-term oversized parking is available in the north campus parking lot in rows 9 and 10.

■ **Overnight Parking.** As a general rule, overnight parking on the WCC campus is prohibited without a valid parking permit or prior authorization. Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis by Campus Safety and Security. Overnight hours are considered 10:00pm – 6:00am daily.

■ **No RV/Camper Parking.** Recreational vehicles are only permitted to park on campus when attending classes, using campus resources and services, or taking part in an approved event. Oversized recreational vehicles – such as motorhomes, converted buses, trucks with campers, trucks with attached camping trailers – are not allowed in general parking areas. **RVs and campers are prohibited on campus when not connected to official college activities.**

■ **Temporary Restricted Zones.** The college reserves the right to temporarily close campus parking areas to accommodate maintenance work, special events, reserved parking, or emergency response needs.

■ **Vehicle Maintenance.** All vehicles operated on campus must be in a safe mechanical condition including, but not limited to, properly functioning mufflers, fuel tanks, and safety equipment. No one shall initiate routine maintenance or major repairs of a vehicle on campus. College owned vehicle maintenance is excluded. All vehicles parked on campus must be properly secured. This includes ensuring that windows are rolled up, doors are locked, and no valuables left in plain sight. Exceptions may apply to vehicles that are not designed to fully secure the interior, such as convertibles.