

# USC Transportation Carpool Program FAQs

The USC Transportation carpool program's goal is straightforward: *to reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicles that come to our campuses*. To do so, we incentivize carpoolers with lower parking rates and additional benefits like free parking passes. To further that goal, the rules of the program have been updated and clarified; below are the answers to anticipated FAQs.

**Q: Why are you changing the rules? It seems like you're trying to make it harder for people to qualify.**

A: That couldn't be further from the truth; we want as many carpools as possible! But in recent years, the program has drifted away from its original intent, which is *to reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicles that come to our campuses*. A parent dropping off their child to daycare on the way to work is not reducing the number of cars coming to campus. A roommate giving their carless friend a ride to campus every day is not reducing the number of vehicles coming to campus. We have updated and clarified the program rules to re-emphasize the primary goal of the program, and make sure we are rewarding participants who are truly helping us achieve that goal.

**Q: I've qualified for a carpool permit in the past, will I automatically qualify for a new one?**

A: The short answer is "not necessarily." Please review the requirements [posted online](#) and make sure you and your passengers all qualify before re-applying to the program. We sincerely hope you do continue to qualify!

**Q: Why are carpool permits free at HSC and only discounted at UPC?**

A: The Health Sciences Campus has fewer than half the number of spaces in their parking inventory as compared to UPC; as a result, the incentive to reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicles coming to campus is much greater, and the reward for doing so is also greater.

**Q: Every time I try to use one of the priority parking areas, they're already full, what good does that do me?**

A: Specifically, it doesn't do you any good in the moment; you'll have to find a normal, unreserved space in your assigned structure or area to park in. Holistically, it's great, because that means a lot of people are qualifying for/participating in the program, and thereby reducing the number of single-occupancy vehicles coming to campus.

**Q: Why doesn't the primary driver also get (3) free parking passes/month?**

A: The free passes are specifically for passengers who need to use their own vehicle on a given day in order not be tied to the schedule of their carpool partner. Examples include having to leave early due to a doctor's appointment, the need to attend an off-campus meeting or event, knowing you'll need to stay on campus later than your partner, etc. The primary driver is the person to whom the permit itself is issued – they always have the ability to come to campus and park, they just display the permit.

**Q: I still have questions, how can I get in touch with someone?**

A: Please email USC Transportation's Rideshare Coordinator at [tsubsidy@usc.edu](mailto:tsubsidy@usc.edu) if you have any questions about the carpool program.