

Department of Public Safety at Bakersfield College

The Department of Public Safety provides a variety of services including a security escort service, personal safety tips, sexual assault prevention tips, survivor assistance, and campus-wide 24/7 officer patrols. The department also provides operational security and administrative support to approximately 32,000 students, staff, faculty, adjunct faculty, administrators, and guests at four separate locations across the communities of Bakersfield and Delano.

Current Practices

In addition to oversight of student parking, the current practices of Public Safety include:

- Allowing students additional time to purchase and display their permits by suspending parking enforcement for the first two weeks of classes
- Focusing communication efforts on an educational campaign in regards to best practices, safety, common parking conditions, and alternative transportation. Patrolling officers also inform students which parking lots have availabilities daily
- Emailing and promoting via social media supplemental communication to all students and staff encouraging them to come earlier to class and park in the appropriate parking lots while reminding them of appropriate safety precautions
- Patrolling the Panorama campus 24/7, 365 days of the year to ensure the campus is safe and maintained
- Providing students and staff with security escort services to their cars throughout the day and night
- Providing security operations at satellite campuses: Delano Campus, Weill Institute, and the BC Southwest campus.
- Providing special cart transportation for students with disabilities or who need additional assistance in mobility to navigate campus
- Partnering with the Bakersfield Student Government Association (BCSGA) on various announcements and programs to benefit the student and campus communities

Within the fiscal year of 2016, Public Safety interacted over 22,590 times with the campus community on various instances like providing DSPS cart services, front counter management, suspicious activities, crime/incident calls, medical aid, campus escorts, etc.

Costs of Parking Permits

Student parking permits are required each semester to park on campus facilities. Students can purchase parking permits on a semester basis, which is 16 weeks long. Mainly there are two levels of parking permit costs: 1) if a student qualifies for financial aid, their parking permit is \$30 (EDC § 76360(c)), and 2) if a student does not qualify for financial aid, the student pays \$40 for the semester permit. Two-thirds of students who purchase permits qualify for and obtain the \$30 discounted permit. Both financial aid and non-financial aid students can purchase a summer parking pass for \$30.

Funding Sources

Currently, California Education Code (§76360) governs parking fees. The funds are restricted and cannot be included in unrestricted BC or KCCD District reserves. The funds can only be used for the restricted purposes contained in Ed Code (§76360). In addition, according to the California Community Colleges Budget and Accounting Manual, "Revenue from parking fees authorized by Ed Code (§76360) to be expended only for parking services or for reducing the costs to students and employees of using public transportation to and from the college. The revenues generated are restricted to the purposes noted here and are to be accounted for in the Restricted General Fund." (p. 3-20).

With the continuous support of the Bakersfield community, Measure J passed November 2016 to help rejuvenate the campus facilities and upgrade the technologies within our classrooms. The Measure J funds may only be used for parking surfaces and cannot be used for any faculty and administrator salaries or other college operating expenses.

Suggested Tiered Parking for Student Parking Lots

All parking lots will remain at the \$40 parking permit fee, except for half of the Southwest Lot closest to Haley Street and University Avenue. BC proposes to reduce this lot to \$10 per semester for a permit or metered.

Northeast Student Lot P3 (688 stalls)	\$40 permit
Northwest P1 & P2	Faculty & Staff
Upper Southeast Lot P6(80 stalls)	\$40 permit
Lower Southeast Lot P7 (770 stalls)	\$40 permit
Southwest Lot Closer to the Stadium ½P8 (650 stalls)	\$40 permit
Southwest Lot by the baseball diamond ½P8 (650 stalls)	\$10 permit or free or metered

Suggested Strategies to Alleviate Parking Congestion

In collaboration with the Student Government Association, Bakersfield College been developing strategies to alleviate parking congestion and increase efficiency on campus while maintaining the safety of our students and community.

Pay for Space Metered Parking Main Driveway and Admin Lot

Bakersfield College is also looking to re-designate fifty-three (53) currently free 45-minute visitor parking spots to metered parking spots. Charging \$.50 cents per every 30 minutes with a 4-hour limit will enable students additional time to attend class at a cheaper rate and will reduce time for Public Safety Officers to enforce meters.

Shuttle Program

The Department of Public Safety is partnering with the Student Government Association to create a shuttle service that would circle the student parking lots to provide transportation from the student parking lots to the core of campus. It is proposed that three 15-passenger shuttles would be at each of the major student parking lots. Bakersfield College may purchase the shuttles by applying for a one-time grant or identifying categorical funding. Currently, the college is pursuing a grant to do this through the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

Redesign of Parking Lots

In response to requests from students, the Bakersfield College Department of Public Safety is considering the following elements in redesigning parking lots:

- Add more sidewalks
- Add trees to provide shade
- Add additional lighting for safety
- Reconfigure entrances to allow buses to enter parking lots
- Add signage to light poles with letters and numbers to assist students in remembering designated areas they parked and for quicker response from Public Safety Officers

Summary and Conclusion

The Department of Public Safety oversees and maintains the campus parking program. Currently, students are able to purchase a parking permit for either \$30 or \$40 depending on their financial aid status as regulated by California Education Code (§76360).

Bakersfield College requests the Board of Trustees consider this tiered parking fee plan as a pilot project starting in January 2018.