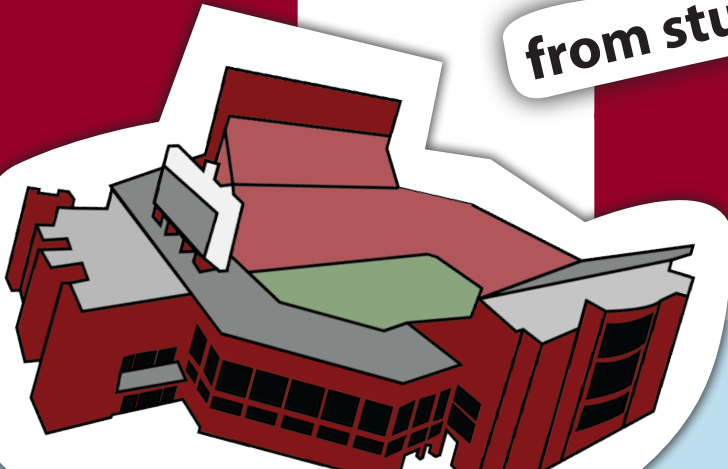


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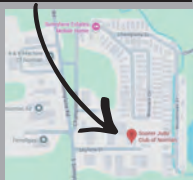
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FILE/OU DAILY
 Gaylord Family-Oklahoma Memorial Stadium.

‘Your starting map’

Dear readers,

Welcome to your first look at life at OU — the big moments, the small essentials and everything in between. There's something special about this stretch of the year. Campus hums with anticipation as students arrive for the very first time. These early days are full of discovery, and a little chaos, in the best way.

As someone who has wandered the South Oval both lost and confident, I know how quickly this campus starts to feel familiar. OU has a way of offering anchors just when you need them, whether through a friendly face in your dorm hall, a good study group or a staff member who points you to the right building.

At the OU Daily, our mission is to help you find those anchors. We are here to keep you informed about campus life — from the opening of new athletic facilities to details you need for move-in day, dining options, weather resources, transit routes and so much more. These aren't just systems; they're the rhythms that shape your everyday experience here.

Inside this New to OU guide, you will find information that makes the university feel a little smaller and a lot more manageable. Think of this publication in your hands as your starting map, one built by students who once asked the same questions you may be asking now.

College is a journey built on small steps that add up: learning bus routes, finding a study nook, trying a new dining hall option, showing up to a game and feeling the stadium shake beneath your feet as a football player scores a touchdown. These moments become memories faster than you expect.

We're excited to be part of your first chapter at OU. Here's to new experiences and new confidence as you settle into your place here.

Welcome,

Anusha Fathepure



Anusha Fathepure
 Editor-in-chief
anusha.fathepure@ou.edu

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FILE/OU DAILY
In the fall, movers will help students carry belongings to their rooms.

LIVING ON CAMPUS

Housing essentials from move-in to move-out

FROM STAFF REPORTS • DAILYNEWS@OU.EDU

Moving in can be stressful for incoming students. For many, it's their first time living alone. Here is a guide on navigating the move-in process, residence halls and what to do when the school year is finished.

OU campus housing: First-year students at OU are required to live on campus for two semesters. However, the university allows a few exceptions, such as students living within a certain distance from campus. OU has nine spaces designated for first-year students: Couch Center, Cross Village, David L. Boren and Headington halls, Dunham and Headington colleges, McCasland Hall, Traditions Square East and the South Hall — OU's newest housing option. University leadership is considering using Traditions West as first-year housing. All students will have the choice to rank their residence hall preferences.

Sooner Cards: Sooner Cards give access to various campus buildings, including

residence halls and Sarkeys Fitness Center, and can be used for points and swipes at campus restaurants and to gain access to athletic events. Students can obtain their Sooner Card online and add it to their phone's mobile wallet. For a physical copy, visit the Sooner Card offices inside the Oklahoma Memorial Union or Cross Village Building D to have one printed for a fee.

Move-in: Move-in dates can be found on the OU Housing and Food Services website. On move-in days, students will arrive near their assigned residence hall where movers will help carry belongings to the rooms. For students planning ahead, floor plans and room dimensions can be found on the housing website. Each residence hall allows a mini fridge and microwave. MicroFridges — a 3-in-1 refrigerator, freezer and microwave — can be rented through move-in partners on the OU website.

Laundry: Free laundry machines are

available in all residence halls except David L. Boren Hall. OU also offers a paid laundry service where students can fill the provided bag and drop it off at its designated location.

Move-out: Students are required to move out within 24 hours of their last spring final or by noon the Saturday after finals unless they request to extend their stay. The move-out process is more independent than move-in because OU does not provide moving assistance. To reduce stress, it is best to start moving out of the residence halls in advance rather than waiting until the last day of finals. Students with physical keys must drop them at the front desk before leaving campus.

Fees: Following move-out, OU may charge fees for furniture replacement, cleaning, key replacement, lock replacement and damages. To avoid extra costs, make sure to take care of the residence halls because the last thing a student wants is to pay more for housing, and others will have to use it eventually.

Welcome, Class of 2030!

Have questions for me?
I want to hear from you.
No lectures. No judgment.
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@Prof.Pill

Hey, Sooners.

Starting your journey at the University of Oklahoma is exciting. You are stepping into a new chapter filled with independence, new opportunities, and new responsibilities.

For many students, this is the first time managing things on your own. That includes your schedule, your space, and your health.



Meet Professor Pill: No Lectures. No Judgment. Just Real Answers.

Professor Pill is a campus-based prevention campaign designed to give you clear, honest information about prescription drug safety. Whether you have a prescription, live with roommates who do, or just want to stay informed, Professor Pill helps you understand how to make safe, smart decisions in a college environment.

Step Into Independence: Own Your Health

With independence comes responsibility. Medications that may have been managed at home are now your responsibility to handle safely and correctly. Keep in mind:

- Take medications exactly as prescribed
- Know what you are taking and why
- Ask questions if something does not make sense

Small decisions now can have a big impact later.

Make Smart Choices: Avoid Misuse

Medications are prescribed to you for a reason. That means:

- Never share prescriptions, even if it feels helpful
- What works for you may not be safe for someone else
- Mixing medications or substances can have serious effects

Sharing medications is unsafe and illegal. What helps you could harm someone else.

Stay Secure:

Safe Storage Matters

Living in dorms or shared spaces changes how you store your belongings. Keep your medications:

- In a secure and consistent place
- Out of plain sight and common areas
- Not in backpacks, cars, or easily accessible spaces

Unsecured medications can be lost, taken, or misused. DM me on Instagram if you need a medication lockbox to help keep your medications secure.

Dispose the Right Way

Do not hold on to medications you no longer need. Unused medications increase the risk of misuse. Use safe disposal options like designated drop boxes or disposal pouches.

On campus, you can safely dispose of medications at the OU Police Department and OU Goddard Health Center. DM me on Instagram for a disposal pouch to safely dispose of medications at home.

For Parents:

Support the Transition

This transition is new for you too. Having conversations about medication safety helps students feel prepared and confident as they take on more responsibility.

Final Thought

College is about more than independence. It is about making informed choices. Your health, your safety, and your future matter.

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FILE/OU DAILY
Then-junior running back Jovantae Barnes during the game against Maine in fall 2024.

EVERYTHING FOOTBALL

Check out 2026 opponents and policies

BY ANDREW PAREDES • ANDREW.J.PAREDES-1@OU.EDU

At many universities across the country, football brings thousands of fans to campus each fall, and OU is no exception.

As OU football enters its third year in the Southeastern Conference, here is what you need to know about student tickets, tailgating and all things game day.

Football schedule

This season, OU football will face new conference opponents — some for the first time in years, others for the first time ever. OU football will also face notable nonconference opponents, including 2024 national champion Michigan.

OU football will face off against:

Sept. 5: OU vs. UTEP
Sept. 12: OU at Michigan
Sept. 19: OU vs. New Mexico
Sept. 26: OU at Georgia
Oct. 3: Bye week
Oct. 10: OU vs. Texas at Cotton Bowl Stadium
Oct. 17: OU vs. Kentucky
Oct. 24: OU at Mississippi State
Oct. 31: OU vs. South Carolina
Nov. 7: OU at Florida
Nov. 14: OU vs. Mississippi
Nov. 21: OU vs. Texas A&M
Nov. 28: OU at Missouri

This year also marks the beginning of the SEC playing nine conference games as opposed to playing eight, notably eliminating a bye week and introducing permanent opponents for each university. OU's permanent opponents are Missouri, Texas and Mississippi.

OU football ended its 2025 season with a final record of 10-3, with losses to Texas in the Red River Rivalry, Mississippi and Alabama in the first round of the College Football Playoff. The season was also marked by two visits from ESPN's "College GameDay" and two visits from ESPN's "SEC Nation."

The Sooners return quarterback John Mateer, wide receiver Isaiah Sategna III and linebacker Kip Lewis, along with several notable starters and transfers for the 2026 season.

Student wristband policy

In 2025, OU athletics announced a new wristband policy for the student section of the Gaylord Family-Oklahoma Memorial Stadium.

The policy, first implemented for OU's game against Auburn on Sept. 20, required all students to enter through the south half of Gate 7. Once through the gate, students passed through a metal detector, scanned their ticket and received a wristband.

According to the policy, the wristband was required to be worn at all times once attached and be shown to stadium staff before entering the main bowl of the stadium. To learn more about any changes to policies for the 2026 season, visit the Sooner Sports website.

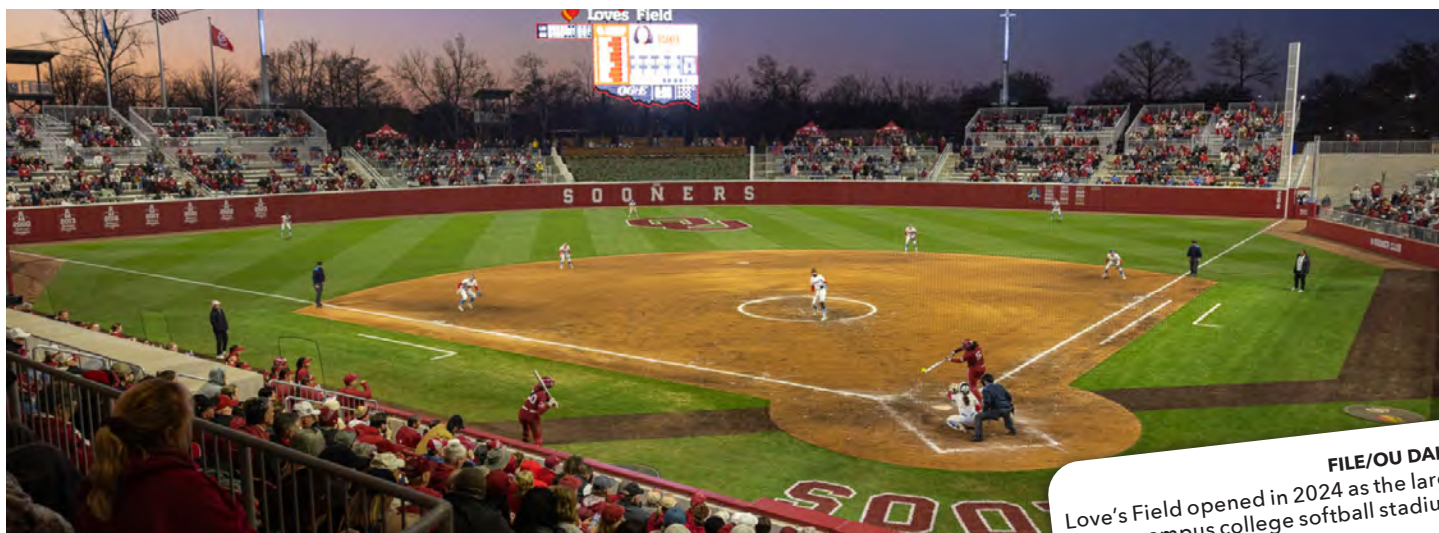
Tailgating

In recent years, OU has made new efforts to increase tailgating opportunities in and around campus.

In 2023, OU announced that tailgating on Lindsey Street between Asp and Jenkins avenues would be permitted. The announcement came one year ahead of OU's first year in the SEC.

In 2025, OU announced that tailgating on the North Oval would be permitted. The announcement came as OU entered its second year in the SEC in an effort to create tailgating environments similar to other universities in the conference, like "The Grove" in Oxford, Mississippi.

Other notable tailgating locations on campus include the areas near or around North Asp Avenue and Brooks Street, according to the university's tailgating website.



FILE/OU DAILY
Love's Field opened in 2024 as the largest on-campus college softball stadium in the nation.

GAME DAY VENUES

Where to find our favorite OU sports

FROM STAFF REPORTS • DAILYNEWS@OU.EDU

From softball to football, OU is known for its athletics. For incoming students, it's important to know where to watch the Sooners as they face opponents in their third season in the Southeastern Conference.

The student section, nicknamed "The Boom Squad," makes a big impact on the atmosphere of a game. Many universities urge their students to make home games as loud as possible. Students wanting to attend OU athletic events need to know where the student sections are and what items are allowed at sporting events.

Football is the only sport that charges students for admission. Men's and women's basketball, softball, men's and women's gymnastics, soccer, baseball, volleyball and wrestling offer free admission to a certain number of students on a first-come, first-served basis.

OU athletics has a clear bag policy for their events at all athletic venues. Attendees are limited to one bag: a 12-by-6-by-12-inch clear tote bag, a one-gallon clear storage bag, a clear fanny pack, a clear crossbody bag or a non-transparent 4.5-by-6.5-inch clutch wallet. Bags needed for medical equipment are allowed but must be checked at designated medical lanes.

Attendees may also bring empty, clear plastic bottles less than 17 ounces and fill them at water stations inside athletic venues.

Gaylord Family-Oklahoma Memorial Stadium: Nicknamed the Palace on the Prairie, the stadium hosted its first game in 1923 and has been home to OU football since. The stadium is on the east side of campus and seats over 80,000 fans. The stadium is the

largest in Oklahoma and one of the nation's largest college football stadiums. Students can enter the stadium at Gate 7 on the northeastern side. After scanning a ticket, students will receive a wristband that must be shown before going to their seats in the student section. OU's student section takes up rows 6-28 of section 20 and sections 22-28.

Lloyd Noble Center: Opened in 1975, the Lloyd Noble Center is south of campus and home to OU basketball and women's gymnastics. The student entrance and section is on the north side of the building. Discussions are ongoing regarding a new arena for the Sooners. The center can hold over 10,000 fans.

John Crain Field: OU soccer can be found at John Crain Field, west of the Lloyd Noble Center. John Crain Field opened in 2000, and new LED lighting was installed in 2024. The venue can seat up to 3,500.

Kimrey Family Stadium: Kimrey Family Stadium, renamed from L. Dale Mitchell Park, is home to OU baseball and is north of the Lloyd Noble Center. The ballpark opened in 1982 and has had several updates and additions over the years, such as adding a video board and scoreboard in 2009 and a warning track in 2012. The stadium has seating for over 3,000 attendees. In November, the OU Board of Regents decided to accept the recommendation to rename the baseball park in dedication to the large leadership gift from Brian and Kim Kimrey. For the 2026 season, the student section can be found on the left field berm of the ballpark.

Love's Field: Love's Field is the home of OU

softball. The stadium opened in spring 2024 and seats 4,200 people. It is the largest on-campus college softball stadium in the nation. The stadium is at the northwest corner of South Jenkins Avenue and Imhoff Road, north of the Lloyd Noble Center. OU softball previously played at Marita Hynes Field.

McCasland Field House: Several OU teams share McCasland Field House, including volleyball, wrestling and men's gymnastics. The Field House currently seats over 3,300 people. Previously home to OU men's basketball, McCasland Field House opened in 1928 and has since been updated with new sound and lighting systems and scoreboards. The field house is north of the Gaylord Family-Oklahoma Memorial Stadium.

Headington Family Tennis Center: Both men's and women's tennis teams play at the Headington Family Tennis Center. The center has 12 outdoor courts, electronic scoreboards, seating for fans and a sound system. The center also features the Gregg Wadley Indoor Tennis Pavilion, a facility that includes six courts. The center can be found west of Lloyd Noble Center and south of John Crain Field.

John Jacobs Track and Field Complex: Featuring seating for 2,000 people, the John Jacobs Track and Field Complex is home to OU track and field. Since its opening in the 1950s, it has been updated with a sound system and a permanent scoreboard. The complex is east of the Gaylord Family-Oklahoma Memorial Stadium.

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CAMPUS DINING

Make the most of your meal plan

FROM STAFF REPORTS •
DAILYNEWS@OU.EDU

OU has a wide variety of restaurants across campus where meal plans can be used by swiping your Sooner Card.

Meal plans: OU offers multiple meal plans to meet student needs. Each meal plan comes with a certain number of points per semester and meal swipes per week. Some dining locations allow students to exchange a meal swipe for a certain number of points. To learn more about rates and exchanges, or purchase a meal plan, visit the OU housing website. OU also offers meal plans for commuters.

Couch Restaurants: Next to Couch Center is Couch Restaurants, commonly referred to as “the Caf.” The restaurants serve as OU’s largest dining hall, with a wide variety of options ranging from vegan, vegetarian and halal, to barbecue, Mediterranean and more. Couch Restaurants is also home to the only all-you-care-to-eat Chick-fil-A in the country. Students can access the restaurants using a meal swipe or points.

Cross Village: Cross Village has a large selection of options for students, with seven restaurants and a marketplace. Credo Kitchen offers American food such as burgers, veggie burgers, corn dogs and chicken. Glow Kitchen has acai bowls, smoothies, sandwiches and wraps. Basic Knead offers pasta, pizza, calzones and wings. Sushi with Gusto serves sushi and made-to-order noodle and rice bowls. The Hive brews coffee, teas and more. Milkflower Gelateria aims to hit students’ sweet spot by serving clean-ingredient gelatos and desserts. Acre Provisions serves a variety of options, including bottled beverages, groceries, fresh produce, snacks, paper goods and more. Pitchfork Taqueria, inside Acre Provisions, serves delicious street tacos, burrito bowls, imported sodas and more. Meal exchanges, points, cash or credit can be used at all Cross Village locations.

Oklahoma Memorial Union: The Union is home to a food court, multiple restaurants and a market. The Union food court hosts chain restaurants such as Chick-fil-A, Quiznos and Starbucks. Baja Fresh Express serves salads and Mexican foods such as burritos, tacos and nachos. The Crimson Panda offers Asian



dishes including appetizers such as egg rolls and pot stickers, and entrees such as chicken dishes, broccoli beef and pepper steak. The Union Market is similar to Acre Provisions, supplying fresh fruit, snacks, packaged sandwiches and sushi. The Union Market hosts The Range, which serves grilled sandwiches and loaded fries. At the Union, students can use meal exchanges during set hours along with meal points, cash or credit.

Jan Marie and Richard J. Crawford University Club: The Union’s second floor is home to the University Club, which offers daily dessert specials, a salad and pasta bar and freshly baked artisan pizzas. Students can use meal exchanges, points, credit or cash.

Residential colleges’ dining hall: The dining hall between Dunham and Headington colleges can be accessed from either college by using a meal swipe, points, Sooner Sense, credit or cash. Students can enjoy a rotating selection of buffet-style food as well as pizza, soup, a salad bar and made-to-order burger station.

South campus: Inside the National Weather Center is the Flying Cow Cafe, which offers a variety of options, from snacks to meals,

including burgers, omelets, sandwiches and fries. North of the weather center in the Tom Love Innovation Hub is Cafe 201, which serves coffee and Cow on the Fly products.

Headington Hall: Einstein Bros. Bagels is a bagel and coffee shop found on the corner of Lindsey Street and Jenkins Avenue in Headington Hall. Wagner Dining Hall is also inside the building. Students can use a meal swipe, points, cash or credit at either location.

Amicus Cafe: The OU College of Law is home to Amicus Cafe. Law students, professors and guests can appreciate the cafe’s convenient menu options, which include sandwiches, soups, flatbread pizzas and a daily special.

The Bookmark: Housed in Lower Level 1 of the Bizzell Memorial Library, The Bookmark serves a range of Starbucks-brand coffee, drinks and locally sourced pastries.

Brickwalk Bites: Throughout the semester, food trucks will be parked at Cross Village from 6 to 10 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. Students can use meal exchanges, points, credit or cash during business hours. Hours of operation may be impacted by weather conditions.

BREAKING GROUND

Check out new buildings, future renovations

BY SPENCER WINDHOLZ •
SPENCERWINDHOLZ@OU.EDU

As fall 2026 approaches, OU has been in the process of planning and adding new developments to campus including a laboratory, a first-year residence hall and renovations to the Gaylord Family-Oklahoma Memorial Stadium.

Life Sciences Laboratories Building

Construction for a new Life Sciences Laboratories Building on campus is underway and set to open in fall 2027, according to an OU press release.

The new lab is being built on the old site of Sutton Hall, which previously served as the School of Biological Sciences.

The 105,000-square-foot facility will feature 25 teaching labs and a 250-seat auditorium. Roughly 80,000 square feet will be dedicated toward undergraduate education, while about 20,000 square feet will be used for biomedical research labs for OU faculty, according to the release.

This project marks the first improvement to OU's teaching labs in more than 40 years. The project was guided by OU's "Lead On, University" strategic plan. The lab was funded by an \$80 million investment from the state Legislature and a \$20 million private gift.

"We are profoundly grateful for the state and private support that will make this state-of-the-art learning and research facility a reality," OU President Joseph Harroz Jr. said in the release.

Michael Markham, dean of the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences, spoke on the importance of the new laboratory.

"This building will be essential for meeting Oklahoma's health care workforce needs by expanding the pipeline of students with the foundational training in biology and chemistry that is necessary to enter OU's nursing, allied health, and medical training programs," Markham said in the press release.

Stadium renovation

Gaylord Family-Oklahoma Memorial Stadium will be receiving an estimated \$450



FILE/OU DAILY
OU's Life Sciences Laboratories Building is being constructed on the old site of Sutton Hall.

million renovation starting after the 2027 season, OU announced in a press release.

Improvements to the stadium include new gates on its west side that lead toward ground- and second-level concourses that expand to the north and south end zones. The upper deck and west side concourse will get improvements to restrooms and elevators along with new concession stands. Additionally all bench and chair seating will be replaced.

Renovations also include a new press box which consists of a camera deck, a level for press, game operations, broadcasting and coach booths and emergency management. The renovation will also add 47 suites, 64 lodge boxes and 4,000 club seats along with a new sports lighting system and an upgraded sound system.

Renovations to the stadium will reduce seating capacity by 7,000 but allow for "necessary and cutting-edge enhancements for today's modern era of college football," according to the press release.

OU President Joseph Harroz Jr. said in the press release what the renovation means to the university.

"The renovation of the west side of Gaylord Family - Oklahoma Memorial Stadium honors

the rich history of OU Football while addressing structural needs in a facility that has stood for more than a century," Harroz said. "By acting now, we are creating the greatest and most unique game-day experience in sports."

Construction is expected to begin following the 2027 season and completed before the 2029 season.

South Hall

Construction is finishing up on the new unnamed residence hall next to McCasland Hall as part of the OU First-Year Housing Master Plan.

The residence hall will hold approximately 580 beds for first-year students. Amenities at the halls include a coffee shop, convenience store, lounges, outdoor spaces and storm shelters.

Suites will be divided up by one bedroom and two bedroom suites with two students living in the one bedroom and four students living in a two bedroom suite.

Both McCasland Hall and South Hall were built on the previous site of Adams Center, a first-year residence hall in use for almost 60 years.

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FILE/OU DAILY
The OU Food Pantry is between Cate Centers Two and Four.

ACCESSIBLE ESSENTIALS

OU Food Pantry provides free groceries, household items

FROM STAFF REPORTS • DAILYNEWS@OU.EDU

The OU Food Pantry provides supplemental food and household items free to all OU students, faculty and staff.

For incoming first-year or transfer students, this community outreach resource can be a helping hand during a transitional period. The pantry often collaborates with other organizations on campus to expand its resources and services, providing boxed and canned goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, clothing, menstrual products and household items.

One of the pantry's goals is to offer well-rounded, nutrient-rich meals and ingredients. This includes a variety of accessible food groups, like kosher and halal food.

Matt Marks, OU Food Pantry assistant director, said he and his team have aimed to create not only a food pantry but a community-centered environment.

"We want the food pantry to be a home for everyone that walks through the door," Marks said. "We're not perfect. We know we can't meet every need, but we're going to try, and we're going to give you that great hospitality as best we can."

In 2022, the food pantry was moved from 1113 Elm Ave. to 331 Cate Center Drive,

allowing for more room as the organization continued to grow. Marks said the location is more central than the last, allowing students to notice it as they walk by on their way to class.

Marks said the difficulty of working multiple jobs to afford attending OU has driven many students to rely on the food pantry.

"We know we're not like a grocery store where we're going to have everything," Marks said. "There's going to be times where it's hit or miss, but we try to provide what we can, and (newcomers) will expect a friendly face when they walk in the door. We want it to be a very inclusive, safe environment for everyone walking in."

Over the years, Marks has had conversations with students about their financial situations and how much the food pantry means to them.

"Answering questions and just building relationships, that's one of the things I really love about what we're able to do," Marks said. "You get to be brought into the lives of our clients."

Danna Sanchez, an operations team member for the pantry in 2023-24, said the food pantry is for everyone in the OU community.

"I do see it as a safe place for a lot of people that go in because we do get a lot of those regulars in that are always there at the same time,

making the same thing," Sanchez said. "So that consistency within the community, that you know we're always going to be here whenever (you) need it."

Sanchez said her biggest goal at the pantry is to diversify the food that is available, such as expanding the variety of ethnic foods to make it as welcoming as possible.

"We all struggle through college. We've all been there, done that. And there's no reason that food insecurity should be one of your issues or one of the problems that you face when you're coming into university," Sanchez said. "You should be able to study and do whatever you need to do here without having to deal with that issue, and that's what we're here for."

To access the OU Food Pantry's services, patrons must fill out an order form, either in person or online, and present an OU ID at time of pick up. The OU Food Pantry is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday.

"We're all going to go through a time in our life where we're going to need a little help, and that's why we exist," Marks said. "It's a very easy process. We try to make it as simple as possible for people to utilize."



TRANSPORT, HEALTH, SAFETY

Manage your life on campus from parking to flu season

FROM STAFF REPORTS • DAILYNEWS@OU.EDU

OU is a vast campus with many roads and hundreds of buildings. The university has programs in place to ensure students can navigate campus and maintain health and safety.

Transportation

Parking passes: OU parking permits are now virtual, linking students' license plates to their permit. OU requires all students who plan to park on campus to purchase a permit online through the OU Parking and Transportation Services webpage. Students living on campus should purchase a housing parking permit, which allows students to park in housing-designated parking spots. Students living off campus, including at Traditions Square apartments, must purchase a commuter permit to park at commuter locations across campus. Prices can be found on OU parking's website.

Bicycles: Though some incoming first-year students may have a vehicle, those with bicycles must follow the registration process like they would for a car. OU requires students to register bicycles with OU Parking and Transportation Services at no cost. Visit OU parking services' webpage for more information on registration.

Veo: OU and Veo partnered in 2020 to provide students with a low-cost transportation option for shorter distances. Students can download the Veo app on their phone, create

an account with their OU email and hop on an electric scooter or bike to ride to class or Campus Corner.

CART: Since 1980, OU has offered Campus Area Rapid Transit, or CART. Buses run four routes in and around campus, with some buses running as early as 7 a.m. and as late as 9:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. Buses are free for students. More details about CART and its routes are available through the CART GPS app and its website.

SafeRide: OU has partnered with Norman On-Demand, a public ride-share service, to expand the university's SafeRide program. SafeRide is free for students, operating from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. Thursday through Saturday evenings. Visit the Norman On-Demand website for more information, and download the app to start booking rides.

Health

OU Health Services at Goddard Health Center provides on-campus primary care to students, faculty and staff. Goddard has a full-service pharmacy and offers sexual and reproductive health services and immunizations.

Through the University Counseling Center, Goddard also offers individual counseling and crisis and psychiatric services.

Goddard's webpage allows patients to

schedule appointments online and fill out mandatory health history and patient forms before an appointment. Goddard is west of the Bizzell Memorial Library at 620 Elm Ave.

Safety

RAVE: RAVE is an emergency communication system that alerts OU community members of safety threats, campus closures and severe weather. To sign up for RAVE alerts, students can visit ecs.ou.edu.

Blue emergency phones: Installed in the 1980s around campus, the blue emergency phones allow students to call emergency services without a mobile phone. Easily identifiable by the blue beacon on top of the telephone and intercom stations, students can get in contact with OU Police Department by pressing a red button after lifting the headset. Emergency phones should be used in case of a fire or when in need of police or an ambulance.

Police departments: OUPD maintains the blue emergency phones and patrols campus daily. OUPD provides public safety, law enforcement, security and emergency preparedness services to students, staff and faculty. OUPD has a headquarters near campus at 2775 Monitor Ave.

The Norman Police Department services the city, including campus. NPD has a headquarters north of campus at 201 W. Gray St.



MATTHEW MOORE/OU DAILY
Keep an eye out for OU alerts in the winter because classes may be canceled for snow or ice.

STAY WEATHER AWARE

Resources and safety tips for living in tornado alley

FROM STAFF REPORTS • DAILYNEWS@OU.EDU

Oklahoma — and OU's campus — falls in the path of tornado alley, a region of North America where tornadoes are most frequent. Tornadoes occur most often from April to early June but can happen any time of the year. Tornadoes can also happen at any time of day, but are most likely to happen around 4 to 9 p.m. Although tornadoes are common, they still require immediate action. Luckily, OU has multiple safety measures.

Watch vs. warning: A tornado watch means that the weather conditions could lead to tornado formation. A watch can extend over multiple hours. A tornado warning means a tornado is coming, and immediate action is required. An OU RAVE alert will be sent out to all students, faculty and staff if there is a severe weather threat on or near Norman's campus.

Safety measures: Remember to charge your phone and ensure it can be used without Wi-Fi in case of power outages. Verify that you have registered your emergency contact information with OU RAVE. To verify, go to one.ou.edu, navigate to your account settings and add your mobile phone number if it is not already there. If you live off campus, have an emergency plan and a designated shelter area.

Taking action during class: If a tornado warning is issued during business hours on campus, everyone should immediately take shelter. Do not leave the building you are in. Each building on campus has a designated refuge area. Some areas include the Bizzell Memorial Library — where both Lower Levels 1 and 2 have designated shelter areas — and the basements of Dale, Gould, Richards and George Lynn Cross halls. Refuge areas near the North Oval include the Physical Sciences Center and the Fine Arts Center. To see all severe weather refuge areas around campus, go to ou.edu/campusafety, click on the campus weather header bar and scroll to "Severe Weather Refuge For Students/Staff/Faculty During Class/Business Hours."

Refuge areas can also be found at Couch and Walker centers, Kraettli Apartments and Traditions Square East and West.

Taking action after hours: All on-campus residence halls have a sheltering option. Beyond the tornado shelters on campus, options include the appropriate stairwells at David L. Boren and Headington halls and the basements of Headington and Dunham colleges. Many areas can be accessed by scanning

a student ID.

Every sorority and fraternity house at OU has a shelter option. If you are not living on campus, prepare to seek shelter at home. The best places to take shelter are a basement or an interior, windowless room. Make sure to have a plan before severe weather occurs.

Winter weather: Although tornadoes are a common occurrence, Oklahoma's winter weather can be icy, dry and unpredictable. Strong winds and freezing temperatures can cause wind chills to dip into extreme temperatures. A dangerous wind chill is -19 degrees Fahrenheit or colder. Skin exposure to this for more than 30 minutes can lead to frostbite. If the wind chill is over -30 degrees Fahrenheit, it can lead to frostbite in only 10 minutes. Before heading outdoors, check the weather and limit outdoor exposure.

Class cancellation: Classes may be canceled due to weather-related circumstances, the most common of which are snow and ice. OU's emergency response team monitors the weather. If the university has an unscheduled closure, you will receive an alert through OU RAVE on your cellphone or through email.

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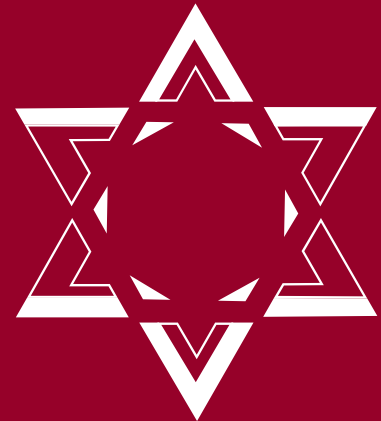
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Looking for a pick-me-up or new place to study? Check out OU Daily's picks for the best coffee shops and study spots in Norman. Distances are calculated using Google Maps starting at Copeland Hall on the South Oval.

ON-CAMPUS COFFEE SHOPS

- **The Bookmark | 5-minute walk:** Found on Lower Level 1 in the Bizzell Memorial Library, The Bookmark serves Starbucks beverages at 401 W. Brooks St.
- **Haystack Coffee | 8-minute walk:** Haystack Coffee offers a variety of drink options between the South Greek houses and residence halls at 1203 Elm Ave.
- **Einstein Bros. Bagels | 9-minute walk:** Einstein Bros. Bagels, known for its bagels and cream cheeses, is on the first floor of Headington Hall at 100 E. Lindsey St.
- **The Hive | 12-minute walk:** The Hive serves Starbucks coffee and other beverages in Cross Village at 1695 Asp Ave.

OFF-CAMPUS COFFEE SHOPS

- **Beanstalk Coffee and Sno | 13-minute walk:** In addition to three locations, Beanstalk offers a selection of coffee, snow cones and treats at 582 Buchanan Ave.
- **Second Wind Coffeehouse | 14-minute walk:** Second Wind Coffeehouse is a nonprofit cafe that accepts donations rather than set prices at 564 Buchanan Ave.
- **Rooted Cafe | 6-minute drive:** Coffee, seasonal beverages and energy drinks are some of the options Rooted Cafe, formerly The Daily Grindz, offers at 1915 Classen Blvd.
- **Yellow Dog Coffee Co. | 7-minute drive:** Yellow Dog Coffee Co. serves locally roasted and ethically sourced coffee, teas and pastries at 222 S. Porter Ave.
- **Gray Owl Coffee | 8-minute drive:** Gray Owl Coffee is a gathering place that often hosts pop-up shops, block parties, book swaps and more at 223 E. Gray St.

STUDY SPOTS

- **Beaird Lounge:** Beaird Lounge, on the second floor of the Oklahoma Memorial Union, is a multi-purpose area where many students study.
- **Conoco Student Leadership Center:** Conoco Student Leadership Center can be found on the west side of the Union and has two floors of open study space.
- **Great Reading Room:** In the Bizzell Memorial Library, the Great Reading Room is one of the quietest places on campus.
- **Collaborative Learning Center:** On the Bizzell Memorial Library's Lower Level 1, this space is designed for students to talk and collaborate with friends.
- **Bizzell Memorial Library and Evans Hall courtyard:** The courtyard is a secluded area nestled between the library and Evans Hall where students can study in the fresh air.
- **Gaylord Hall rooftop terrace:** The terrace on Gaylord Hall's third floor allows students to get a change of scenery.
- **Fine Arts Library:** In the Catlett Music Center, the Fine Arts Library has an inviting atmosphere with many windows and background music.
- **Price Hall:** Home to the Michael F. Price College of Business, Price Hall has multiple study rooms and computer labs.
- **The Collab Lab:** On the second floor of Collings Hall, the Collab Lab is another optimal spot for group studying with collaborative pods.

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