

U-Pass CT Program

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Issue

Describe the U-Pass CT program.

Summary

The U-Pass CT program, launched for the Fall 2017 semester, provides free public transportation to eligible public college students. Eligible students at participating UConn campuses and Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) schools can use their passes for unlimited rides on most public bus and rail systems within the state. The program is funded by a \$20 per-semester student fee. More information on the program can be found on [CT Rides](#) or on participating colleges' and universities' websites.

Eligibility and Terms

Student Eligibility

The U-Pass is available to (1) full- and part-time graduate and undergraduate students at participating UConn campuses and (2) full- and part-time undergraduate students at participating CSCU campuses who are taking at least one class per semester on campus.

Participating Schools. According to [CT Rides](#), the following colleges and universities were participating in the U-Pass program as of the Fall 2017 semester:

- Asnuntuck Community College, Enfield
- Capital Community College, Hartford
- Gateway Community College, New Haven
- Housatonic Community College, Bridgeport

- Manchester Community College, Manchester
- Middlesex Community College, Middletown
- Norwalk Community College, Norwalk
- Three Rivers Community College, Norwich
- Tunxis Community College, Farmington
- Central CT State University, New Britain
- Southern CT State University, New Haven
- University of Connecticut, Hartford
- University of Connecticut, Stamford
- University of Connecticut, Storrs
- University of Connecticut, Waterbury

Cost

Each participating college and university assesses a \$20 per semester student fee to fund the U-Pass program. The fee is considered an institutional charge and can be paid with financial aid. Students must pay the fee whether or not they obtain a U-Pass. Students obtain the passes directly from their college or university; those who attend multiple participating schools must pay the fee only once, but must provide proof of payment of the fee to the second school in order to get the charge waived.

According to the state Department of Transportation (DOT), the normal cost to the public for equivalent service is \$63 for a 31-day local bus pass, not including the cost of any express bus or rail services.

Validity

The Fall 2017 U-Pass is valid from August 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017, and the Spring 2018 pass is valid from January 1, 2018 to July 30, 2018.

Using the U-Pass

Students can use their U-Pass for unlimited rides on most public bus and rail systems within the state (see “*Participating Transit Providers*” below) on weekdays and weekends, including holidays. Holders must show their student ID when they use the pass.

OLR report [2017-R-0273](#) illustrates where public colleges and universities are located in relation to local bus systems, CTFastrak, and Metro North routes.

Participating Transit Providers

According to CT Rides, the following transit providers were participating in the U-Pass program as of the Fall 2017 semester:

- CTtransit statewide (including CTtransit Express and CTfastrak)
- Greater Bridgeport Transit
- Norwalk Transit
- Housatonic Area Regional Transit
- Milford Transit
- South East Area Transit
- Windham Region Transit District
- Magic Carpet (Enfield Transit)
- Northwestern CT Transit District
- 9 Town Transit
- Middletown Area Transit
- Shore Line East
- Metro North*

Although the pass cannot currently be used on Amtrak, DOT has stated in a [press release](#) that it is working with Amtrak to allow U-Pass on its trains in Connecticut.

*U-Pass is only valid for service up to the Connecticut state line, so pass holders traveling into New York have to pay the fare from the state line to their destination in New York.

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