



Zipcar

Zipcar is a car-sharing program, an alternative to car ownership that gives you wheels when you want them. Cars are self-service and on-demand (the keys are right inside the cars!).

Amherst College has partnered with Zipcar to offer its students, employees and alumni discounted yearly memberships!

Amherst College affiliates can join for only \$35. Gas, insurance, maintenance, and 180 miles/day are included in every reservation. As a Zipcar member, you'll have access to our vehicles 24/7.

How it Works

- **Join:** Apply online through the appropriate link in the **Joining** section – remember to use your Amherst College email address. It only takes a few minutes. Once you're approved, you'll receive your very own Zipcard in the mail within 3-7 business days.
- **Reserve:** Once you have received and activated your Zipcard, you can reserve a Zipcar at any Zipcar location for an hour or an entire day - you decide how long. Reservations can be made [online](#) or through your [mobile app](#).
- **Unlock:** Walk to the car, and then just hold your Zipcard to the card reader on the windshield. The doors will unlock, and it's all yours! Your Zipcard will only open the car you've reserved during the time you reserved it, which means no one else can open your Zipcar during that time.
- **Drive:** Drive away, and then return the Zipcar to the same reserved parking spot at the end of your reservation. It's that simple. And remember, gas, and insurance are included in the hourly rate. You just need to fill the tank using the Zipcar fuel card inside the car when it gets to ¼ full.

Find out more about [how Zipcar works](#) and six simple rules to follow.

Joining

Any 18+ students or 21+ faculty, staff, or community members can apply, so long as they are a licensed driver. This includes all international users, too. After the quick online application is completed, Zipcar runs a thorough driving record check.

Individual Membership (Personal Use)

Bills to your personal credit card

- [Apply as a student \(international students\)](#)
- [Apply as a faculty or staff member](#)

Already a Zipcar member? Contact Business@zipcar.com to transfer to a Amherst College membership.

Departmental Membership (Business Use)

Any Amherst College Department, Student Organization/Club or Athletic team may create a Zipcar account for business use. There is an annual fee per member of \$15 (typically \$70). Zipcars can save your department money relative to owning a fleet vehicle or renting a car. All eligible members of your department can use a Zipcar for business purposes

To set up a department account, visit [Zipcar's department account page](#), scroll to "**contact us**," and submit the form. Zipcar will contact you within three to five business days.

- Department members can use more than 9,000 Zipcars worldwide for business travel.
- Department memberships are for university business only.
- Hourly fees can be charged to an Amherst College Purchasing Card (PCard) if the department has one.
- A personal or department Zipcar account can be added to an existing account, with a drop-down option to charge the correct account for each trip.



- For more information about department memberships, please contact Zipcar's Client Services team at business@zipcar.com

Eligibility

To be eligible to become a Zipcar member, you must meet the following requirements:

Age 18 to 20

- Have a valid driver's license
- Have no incidents on your driving record

Age 21 and older

- Have a valid driver's license
- Have had no more than two incidents (moving violations or accidents) in the past three years and no more than one incident in the past 18 months
- Have had no major violations in the past three years
- Have had no alcohol- or drug-related violations in the past seven years

The Cars

All Zipcars are outfitted with our wireless technology, which allows members access into the vehicles. They also are branded, with a Zipcar co-pilot, and outfitted with toll passes and snow scrapers, where needed. Cars in our fleet are fuel-efficient, fun and easy to drive.

FAQs

Billing

As part of the application process, you will need to enter a credit card number. Your credit card will initially be charged your annual fee and applicable taxes. Once you become a member, your driving charges will be charged to your credit card when you have completed a reservation. If you have both a department and personal account, you can designate which to charge when reserving the Zipcar.

Insurance Coverage

Insurance coverage is included in the cost of your Zipcar reservation. For Zipcar members who are under 21 OR joined Zipcar on or after August 1, 2018, Zipcar provides coverage at state-mandated minimum levels. In California, the required levels are \$15,000 for bodily injury liability per person in an accident; \$30,000 for all bodily injuries in an accident; and \$5,000 for property damage in an accident.

If you are a Zipcar member who joined between March 1, 2015 through July 31, 2018 and are over 21, Zipcar provides liability coverage of \$100,000 for bodily injury per person, with a maximum of \$300,000 for bodily injury, and \$25,000 for property damage. If you are a Zipcar member who joined before March 1, 2015, Zipcar insurances coverage consists of a combined single limit of \$300,000 per accident.

[Visit Zipcar's website for more information on insurance coverage.](#)

Fees

You will be charged fees if you do not adhere to the basic membership guidelines. All fees are assessed by Zipcar. Fees result from actions including returning the car late, returning the car with less than ¼ tank of fuel, leaving the car excessively dirty, smoking in the car, and allowing pets outside of a pet carrier while in the car.

Please note that someone who is not a Zipcar member cannot drive the Zipcar that a member has reserved. Anyone behind the wheel must be a Zipcar member for liability and insurance reasons. Membership can be revoked for unauthorized use.



Zipcar charges late fees of \$50 per hour with a minimum charge of \$50 plus regular hourly charges. So, when you're making your reservation, book the car for an extra half-hour or hour if you have any doubt about being able to make it back on time. You can also extend your reservation by phone or online, provided the Zipcar hasn't already been reserved for that time. You can also extend your reservation with Zipcar's automated telephone system (866.4ZIPCAR), via SMS, or from the iPhone or Android app, but keep in mind that it's not always possible to extend your reservation once you have the car - another member may have already reserved it!

[Visit Zipcar's website for more fee information.](#)

Zipcar FAQs

Zipcar provides an [FAQ page](#). Please note that after selecting your Zipcar location, the FAQs that appear are on the general Zipcar site, so some of the fees and rates differ from those offered to Amherst College Zipcar members.