SEC-043

Riding, Parking, and Storing Motorized Scooters and Electric Power-Assisted Bicycles at the University

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Status Final

Last Revised Monday, January 12, 2026

Policy Type University

Contact Office Parking and Transportation Services

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (Office of the)

Oversight Executive
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Applies To Academic Division and the Medical Center.

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Reason for Policy

The University is committed to the safety and well-being of bicyclists, pedestrians, people with disabilities, and other users of the public rights-of-way in and around University Grounds, including Medical Center property. Due to this commitment, the University has established requirements for the riding, parking, and storing of motorized scooters and electric power-assisted bicycles on University Grounds and on University property, including the Medical Center.

Definition of Terms

Electric Power-Assisted Bicycle

Description

A vehicle that travels on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground and is equipped with (i) pedals that allow propulsion by human power; (ii) a seat for the use of the rider; and (iii) an electric motor with an input of no more than 750 watts. (As defined in Virginia Code § 46.2-100.)

Motorized Scooter

Description

Every vehicle, regardless of the number of its wheels in contact with the ground, that (i) is designed to allow an operator to sit or stand, (ii) has no manufacturer-issued vehicle identification number, (iii) is powered in whole or in part by an electric motor, (iv) weighs less than 100 pounds, and (iv) has a speed of no more than 20 miles per hour on a paved level surface when powered solely by the electric motor. "Motorized scooter" includes vehicles with or without handlebars but does not include "electric personal assistive mobility devices" or "electric power-assisted bicycles." (As defined in Virginia Code § 46.2-100.)

University Facility

Description

Any defined space of the University, including but not limited to a room, lab, series of labs, building, or controlled outdoor area (which includes the Academical Village).

University Grounds

Description

The areas where administrative functions, teaching, and research facilities, as well as athletic and recreational facilities of the University, that are used by members of the University community are located.

University Housing

Description Residential living areas managed by the University's Housing & Residence Life.

University Property

Description

Land or buildings that the University owns or leases and that is under the control of the Board of Visitors. University property also includes premises the University uses for activities of its offices, departments, personnel, or students.

University Medical Center (Medical Center)

Description

The hospital and buildings that are University property in which health care, research, administrative support, and ancillary services are provided that are owned or leased by the University. (Also referred to as the Health System.)

Policy Statement

The University's Department of Parking and Transportation is responsible for administering the regulations governing motorized scooters and electric power-assisted bicycles including their use, parking, and storage. The University Police Division is responsible for enforcing moving violations and/or other life safety issues.

Vendors providing motorized scooters and electric power-assisted bicycles for rent must apply to operate on University Grounds or on University property, including the Medical Center. Only those vendors who have been successfully permitted through the City of Charlottesville will be considered. Approved vendors must adhere to additional requirements as set forth by the University. Approval to operate (i.e., deploy their motorized scooters, drop off, and pick up) on University Grounds does not change the cap on the number of vendor devices permitted by the City.

Faculty, staff, students, Medical Center employees, and other visitors to the University operating a personal or vendor-owned motorized scooter or electric power-assisted bicycle on University Grounds or on University property, including the Medical Center, must adhere to the following provisions.

1. **Riding Requirements:**
   The University requires the responsible operation of motorized scooters and electric power-assisted bicycles at all times in accordance with Virginia State laws while on University property. Requirements include:
   - Obeying all applicable traffic regulations.
   - Yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks.
   - Ride on streets as close as safely practicable to the right curb or edge of the roadway when traveling at less than the normal speed of traffic. Except:
     - When overtaking or passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction.
     - Preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway.
     - When reasonably necessary to avoid conditions including, but not limited to, fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards, or substandard width lanes that make it unsafe to continue along the right curb or edge (as defined in 46.2-905).
     - When avoiding riding in a lane that must turn or diverge to the right.
     - When riding upon a one-way road or highway.
   - Not riding:
     - While under the age of 14 without direct supervision of someone 18 years or older.
     - While wearing headphones or using a mobile device, including talking or texting, while riding.
     - In any unsafe or reckless manner, including in tandem with a passenger.
     - Between two vehicles traveling in the same direction (lane splitting).
     - Between sunset and sunrise without a front headlight and rear reflector as defined in 46.2-1015.

   The University prohibits (1) riding while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, (2) without a helmet, or (3) on any sidewalks, trails, or other uneven surfaces.

   If operating a vendor-owned device, riding only in designated operating areas and in accordance with slow and no-go zones as defined by the vendors' service maps.

2. **Parking Requirements:**
   A motorized scooter or electric power-assisted bicycle operator shall park a personally-owned device upright in an available bike rack space. An operator shall park a vendor-owned device in either a bike rack space or in an approved parking area designated for vendor devices only. If a specific location is full, the

operator shall proceed to a bike rack or approved parking area that has availability. Unauthorized vehicles, including but not limited to mopeds and motorcycles, are not permitted to park at a bike rack and are subject to citation, booting, and towing.

Parking (securing, leaving, abandoning) or storing a device in any University facility, in University housing, or in any Medical Center building is prohibited except in locations approved by Parking and Transportation..

Charging a device in any University or Medical Center outlet is prohibited except in locations approved by Parking and Transportation.

A motorized scooter and power-assisted bicycle must not be parked so as to impede or interfere with:

- Access to any building or pedestrian areas.
- Access to any sidewalk, crosswalk, stairs, fire hydrant, call box, emergency facility, bus bench, or utility pole or box.
- The reasonable use of any commercial window display.
- The reasonable use of any bicycle rack or news rack.
- The landscape/furniture zone adjacent to or within:
    - Transit zones, including bus stops, shelters, passenger waiting areas, and bus layover and staging zones.
    - Loading zones.
    - Accessible parking spaces or zones or any American with Disabilities Act (ADA) amenity.
    - Street furniture that requires pedestrian access (e.g., benches, bus shelters, transit information signs).
    - Curb ramps.
    - Entryways.
    - Driveways.

[Note: Parking in prohibited areas is subject to a civil penalty up to $50.00.]

The University reserves the right to designate additional areas where motorized scooter and electric power-assisted bike parking is prohibited.

3. **Bicycle and Scooter Registration:**
   The University Police Division offers online bicycle and scooter registration to students, faculty, and staff. Registration information may be used to assist in recovering a stolen or lost device (see Procedures below).

4. **Compliance with Policy:**
   Failure to comply with the requirements of this policy may result in any applicable moving violations as well as in disciplinary action up to and including termination or expulsion in accordance with relevant University policies.

   The University and the Medical Center reserve the right to impound personal and vendor-owned motorized scooters and electric power-assisted bikes for non-compliance with this policy. Impound fees will apply.

   Direct questions about this policy to Parking and Transportation Services.

Procedures

Bicycle and Scooter Registration
Vendors: Complete the Micromobility Request to Operate form and provide a copy of your approved Dockless Mobility Permit issued by the City of Charlottesville.

Related Information

SEC-036: Prohibition of Self-Balancing Electric Wheeled Boards (Hoverboards) at the University
Dockless Scooters and Bikes - City of Charlottesville
Micromobility (Bikes and Scooters) - Parking and Transportation
Share the Road VA - guide for device operators and drivers on proper road safety and responsibilities
Virginia Code §46.2-100 Definitions
Virginia Code § 46.2-800
Virginia Code § 46.2-849 [requires use of signaling]
Virginia Code § 46.2-903 [riding on sidewalks – allows for this unless otherwise prohibited by local ordinance]
Virginia Code § 46.2-904 [use on sidewalks and shared-use paths]
Virginia Code § 46.2-905 [prohibits lane splitting]
Virginia Code § 46.2-908.1 [establishes speed limit at 20 MPH]
Virginia Code § 46.2-1015 [headlights/taillights]
Virginia Code § 46.2-1315 [grants authority to localities to regulate]
Charlottesville City Ordinance: Sec. 15-246

Major Category Safety, Security and Environmental Quality

Next Scheduled Review Friday, January 12, 2029

Revision History

Updated definitions, reorganized, added new section on Registration 1/12/26; Revised 12/10/19.

Policy Summary

Motorized scooter and electric power-assisted bicycle operators are prohibited from:

- Operating (riding) on any sidewalk on University property, including the Medical Center.
- Parking (securing, leaving, abandoning) or storing a device in any University facility, in University housing, or in any Medical Center building except in locations approved by Parking and Transportation (see P&T Micromobility for locations).
- Charging a device in any University or Medical Center electrical outlet except in locations approved by Parking and Transportation (see P&T Micromobility for locations).

Approved By Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Approved Date Tuesday, February 19, 2019