

Policy CO-CV-PR4

Skateboards, Bicycles, Roller-skates (In-line and Others), Hoverboards, and Scooters on Campus

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I. **Title**

Skateboards, Bicycles, Roller-skates (In-line and Others), Hoverboards, and Scooters on Campus

II. **Policy**

A. Purpose

1. The University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) supports the use of bicycles, skateboards, and other environmentally friendly personal transportation devices that enhance the University's goals for a more sustainable campus; however, due to the presence of pedestrian and automobile traffic, extra care must be taken and campus rules must be followed to ensure safety. This policy will assist the University to maintain a safe environment for faculty, staff, students, visitors, and others, and to properly maintain the condition of university property.
2. This policy is supplementary to the ordinances of the City of Arlington and the statutes of the State of Texas. Pursuant to the Texas Education Code and U.T. System *Regents' Rule* 80109, the University has the authority to establish and maintain traffic regulations for its property within these jurisdictions. The UTA Police Department is responsible for regulating moving vehicles, including, but not limited to, cars, trucks, bicycles, skateboards, roller skates, and other personal transportation devices. In addition to this policy, specific campus locations may have additional requirements regarding the presence of personal transportation devices in or around their premises.

3. This policy applies to all individuals including but not limited to students, faculty, staff, contractors, subcontractors, volunteers and members of the public in or on premises and facilities owned, leased, occupied or otherwise controlled by the University.

B. Bicycles

1. University rules for bicycles are based on the State of Texas Transportation Code. A person operating a bicycle has the rights and duties applicable to a driver operating a vehicle under these regulations.
2. Registration: to improve the ability to recover stolen bicycles, bicycles operated or parked in bicycle racks on the campus may be registered with the University Police Department.
3. Parking: bicycles must be parked at places clearly designated by the presence of bicycle racks. They may not be secured to trees or other plants, stairways, walkways, or signposts. Bicycles must not be left unattended on sidewalks, streets, driveways, loading zones, fire lanes, building porches or patios, pedestrian walkways, in automobile parking places, or lawn areas. Any bicycle parked at any location on campus shall be parked at the risk of the owner and should be locked when unattended. Bicycles attached illegally to structures other than designated bicycle racks may be removed and impounded. Damage done to locks or the bicycle during removal will be the responsibility of the owner.
4. Buildings: bicycles are not permitted in any building owned, operated, or controlled by the University.
5. Operation on Campus Streets
 - a. A person may not use a bicycle to carry more persons than the bicycle is designed or equipped to carry.
 - b. A person carrying an object while riding must keep one or both hands on the handlebars.
 - c. A rider may not "skitch" or attach himself or herself to a moving vehicle.
 - d. A person moving slower than other traffic shall ride as near as possible to the right curb or edge of the roadway unless:
 - i. the person is passing another vehicle moving in the same direction or preparing to turn left at an intersection;
 - ii. a condition on or of the roadway prevents the person from riding next to the right curb or edge of the roadway;
 - iii. the person is in an outside lane that is less than 14 feet in width and does not have a designated bicycle lane next to that lane; or

- iv. the lane is too narrow for a bicycle and a motor vehicle to travel side by side.
- e. Bicycle riders may ride two abreast in a single lane on a laned roadway. Persons riding two abreast may not impede the normal and reasonable flow of traffic and may not ride more than two abreast unless they are on a part of the roadway that is set aside for bicycles.

6. Safety

- a. Bicycles ridden on campus and adjacent streets must be equipped with a brake that can make a braked wheel skid on dry level clean pavement.
- b. Bicycles ridden at night must have a light on front that emits a white beam visible 500 feet ahead of the bicycle. The rear of the bicycle must have a red reflector visible when directly in front of a motor vehicle with lights on and from a distance of 50 to 300 feet to the back of the bicycle, or they must have a red light on the back of the bicycle that is visible from 500 feet to the back of the bicycle.
- c. Riders should wear a helmet approved for bicycle use: riders who wish to ride without helmets do so at their own risk.
- d. Headphones, ear buds, and other listening devices that may prevent the rider from hearing voices or traffic sounds may not be worn while riding.
- e. Competitive racing is not allowed on any campus street without the prior written authorization of the UTA Police Chief or designee.
- f. Riders should dismount in areas that may present heightened risk of personal injury, including but not limited to heavy pedestrian traffic, construction zones, steep grades, etc.

7. Abandonment

- a. Abandoned bicycles will be held for the owner, who will be required to show proper identification in order to retrieve the bicycle. Bicycles and other personal transportation devices will be held for 60 days and then discarded or transferred to salvage.
- b. The University reserves the right to sell, destroy, or otherwise dispose of any abandoned and impounded bicycles or other personal transportation devices not recovered by the owner within 60 days. The University and its officers, agents, and employees shall not be liable for loss or damage of any kind resulting from impounding, storage, or sale of any items.

C. Skateboards, Roller-skates (in-line and others), Hoverboards, and Scooters

1. Skateboards, skates, hoverboards, and scooters shall be allowed to operate on UTA property in areas where a bicycle is permitted. Operators must yield to pedestrians at all times and shall comply with all stop signs, yield signs, and other official traffic control devices, including posted speed limits when traveling on campus. Skateboard, skates, hoverboard, and scooter users must exercise caution to prevent injury to oneself and others.
2. Streets not owned by the University are subject to City of Arlington ordinance, which prohibits the use of roller skates, a skateboard or skate scooter, whether manually or self-propelled, in a street in the City of Arlington.
3. Campus streets where skateboards, skates, hoverboards, and scooters are allowed to be operated are:
 - a. 400 – 900 blocks of Spaniolo Street
 - b. 400 – 900 blocks of South Oak Street
 - c. 400 – 900 blocks of South West Street
 - d. 400 block of South College Street
 - e. 400 – 800 blocks of West Nedderman Drive
 - f. 200 – 500 blocks of West First Street
 - g. 200 – 300 blocks of West Third Street
 - h. 200 – 300 blocks of West Fourth Street
 - i. 400 – 700 blocks of South Nedderman Drive
 - j. 700 – 1100 blocks of Greek Row Drive
4. Skateboards, skates, hoverboards, and scooters shall be used as a form of transportation only. The use of skateboards, skates or scooters is prohibited within any building owned, leased, or maintained by UTA or on any surface features including:
 - a. Garages,
 - b. Staircases and steps,
 - c. Handrails,
 - d. Landscape planters,
 - e. Ramps, or
 - f. Any other architectural improvement.

5. It is prohibited for any skateboard, skates, hoverboard, or scooter user to engage in trick-riding on campus. Trick-riding is defined as any type of movement where the wheels of the skateboard, skates, hoverboard or scooter are deliberately removed from contact with the surface in a repetitive procedure. No personally owned ramps, boxes, or other devices may be brought onto university property.
6. Operators of skateboards, skates, hoverboards, and scooters should wear applicable protective gear such as helmets, elbow, wrist and kneepads, etc. Operators of personal transportation devices are responsible for inspecting and maintaining their devices and for avoiding areas that may be beyond their personal skill level.
7. Section II.B.7 of this policy regarding bicycle abandonment is applicable also to skateboards, skates, hoverboards, scooters, and other personal transportation devices.
8. Operators of hoverboards are strongly encouraged to choose models that are tested and certified by an accredited third party testing laboratory against a recognized performance standard that has specifically evaluated the fire safety of the device. Operators of hoverboards are also encouraged to review information provided by the National Fire Protection Agency and to be aware of evolving safety standards.
9. Rollerblades, skateboards, and scooters may not be ridden in or on residence hall property. Given media reports related to hoverboards bursting into flames, the charging, storage or possession of hoverboards within university-owned housing facilities is prohibited. In this instance, the term "hoverboards" includes any kind of self-balancing scooter which is powered by a lithium-ion battery. Bicycles are not allowed in residence halls, rooms, or suites and must be parked and secured in bicycle racks.

D. Violations of Policy

1. UTA students violating this policy may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.
2. Employees violating this policy may be referred for appropriate disciplinary action.
3. Non-UTA students violating this policy may be escorted off-campus and directed not to return unless they are fully prepared to comply with all UTA policies. Repeated violations by non-students will result in a criminal trespass warning or other action as deemed appropriate.

III. **Definitions**

Hoverboard: self-balancing battery-powered boards.

In-line Skate: roller skates with 2 to 5 wheels in a single line.

Roller Skates: a pair of boots or a pair of metal frames attached to shoes with four wheels each.

Scooter: a narrow board mounted on wheels with a handle for steering.

Skateboard: one board with two wheels fixed to the bottom of either end.

IV. **Relevant Federal and State Statutes and Related Information**

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Hoverboard Safety:

<http://www.nfpa.org/press-room/news-releases/2015/nfpa-issues-fire-safety-warnings-on-hover-boards>.

Warning Statement from U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

<http://www.cpsc.gov/en/About-CPSC/Chairman/Kaye-Biography/Chairman-Kayes-Statements/Statements/Statement-from-the-US-CPSC-Chairman-Elliot-F-Kaye-on-the-safety-of-hoverboards/>

Texas Transportation Code Title 7, Subtitle C, Chapter 551

<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/docs/TN/htm/TN.551.htm>

Texas Education Code Sections 51.201 et seq., 54.005 and 65.01 Title3

<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/ED/htm/ED.51.htm#51.203>

Texas Code of Criminal Procedure , Chapter 2, Article 2.12

<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/CR/htm/CR.2.htm>

City of Arlington Skateboarding Ordinance

<http://www.arlington-tx.gov/cityattorney/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2014/05/STREChapter.pdf>.

V. **Relevant UT System and UT Arlington Policies, Procedures, and Forms**

U.T. System *Regents' Rules and Regulations*, Rule 80109 Parking and Traffic

Regulations <https://www.utsystem.edu/board-of-regents/rules/80109-parking-and-traffic-regulations>

U.T. System Policy UTS160 Jurisdiction of Commissioned Peace Officers

<https://www.utsystem.edu/board-of-regents/policy-library/policies/uts160-jurisdiction-commissioned-peace-officers>

UTA Residence Hall Handbook <http://www.uta.edu/housing/living/residence-halls/Residence%20Hall%20Handbook%201516.pdf>

UTA Libraries Visitor Conduct Policy <http://library.uta.edu/policies/visitor-conduct-policy>

Environmental Health and Safety: Safety Manual <https://www.uta.edu/campus-ops/ehs/campus-safety/docs/14vehicl.pdf>

VI. **Who Should Know**

All individuals including but not limited to students, faculty, staff, contractors, subcontractors, volunteers and members of the public.

VII. **UT Arlington Officer(s) Responsible for Policy**

Vice President for Administration and Campus Operations

VIII. **Dates Approved or Amended**

June 28, 2017

IX. **Contact Information**

All questions concerning this policy should be directed to Parking and Transportation Services, UTA Police Department. 817-272-3907