

Abilene Christian University

Policy on Electric Scooters and Other Micromobility Devices

1. Purpose and Scope

This policy is adopted to protect life safety, reduce fire risk, and support safe movement on campus while permitting reasonable use of electric scooters and other micromobility devices. It applies to all students, employees, contractors, and visitors on university property. Devices used as mobility aids for individuals with disabilities are exempt.

2. Definitions

Micromobility devices include electric scooters, electric bicycles, electric skateboards, hoverboards, and similar battery-powered or gas-powered personal transportation devices.

Approved Outdoor Riding Areas mean campus roadways and outdoor pathways designated by ACU for mixed pedestrian, bicycle, and micromobility use. Approved Outdoor Riding Areas do not include building interiors, residence halls, classrooms, offices, lobbies, corridors, stairwells, or high-traffic pedestrian zones where riding would create an unreasonable risk to pedestrians or building occupants.

3. Use on Campus

- A. Users must comply with Texas law and relevant city ordinances while operating on or near campus.
- B. Riding is permitted only on designated outdoor paths and campus roadways.
- C. Riding is prohibited inside all university buildings, including residence halls, the campus center, the library, classrooms, and administrative facilities.**
- D. Users must yield to pedestrians, travel at safe speeds, and avoid high-traffic pedestrian zones where use could create near misses or conflicts.

4. Storage and Charging

- A. Use, storage, or charging of micromobility devices inside any university building—including corridors, stairwells, residence rooms and apartments, or lobbies—is prohibited due to the significant fire risk posed by these devices.
- B. Devices must be parked only in designated outdoor bike racks and must not block doors, ramps, stairs, walkways, or emergency exits.
- C. Charging of micromobility devices is prohibited on university property. Because the university does not currently provide approved charging locations or charging stations, all charging must occur off campus using only the manufacturer's approved battery and charger. Unauthorized use of building outlets is prohibited.

- D. *Imminent hazard authority*: University personnel may immediately relocate, isolate, or remove any device reasonably believed to present a fire or life-safety hazard.

5. Registration and Identification

- A. Regular users must register their device with the Office of Student Life and display a visible university tag or decal when operating or parking on campus.
- B. Registration information may be used to contact owners regarding violations or emergencies involving the device.
- C. The Office of Student Life will manage registration in coordination with ACUPD. Registrations must be renewed annually or when device ownership changes.
- D. The university-issued registration permit or decal must be permanently affixed in a clearly visible location on the micromobility device, as specified by ACUPD or the Office of Student Life. The permit must remain visible and may not be altered, removed, transferred, or obscured. Devices without a properly displayed permit may be treated as unregistered and subject to enforcement under this policy.

6. Operating Expectations

- A. Only one rider per device at a time.
- B. Riders are strongly encouraged to wear a helmet and other protective equipment, and to use lights and reflectors at night.
- C. Homemade, modified, or kit-assembled devices and chargers are prohibited due to elevated fire and safety risk.

7. Enforcement and Sanctions

- A. Users operate and park their devices at their own risk and are responsible for any injury or property damage that results from use or storage.
- B. Violations may result in written warnings, citations, fines, administrative relocation of improperly parked devices, or loss of campus riding or parking privileges. ACUPD will not seize or take custody of devices solely for policy violations except as otherwise authorized by law. Devices not retrieved within a specified period may be considered abandoned property and disposed of in accordance with university procedures.
- C. Repeated or serious violations may lead to action under the Student Code of Conduct or relevant employee policies.
- D. Policy enforcement will be coordinated among ACUPD, Residence Life, and the Office of Student Life. Confiscated devices may be retained until the matter is resolved.

8. Administration and Review

The Office of Student Life will administer this policy, coordinate designated parking and charging locations, and review the policy periodically in light of emerging safety data and best practices.

FAQ: Electric Scooters and Micromobility Devices

Q1: Do I need to register my scooter with the university?

Yes. If you regularly bring a micromobility device onto campus, you must register it through the university and display the university-issued tag or decal. At the beginning of each academic year, the university will provide a registration period and communicate registration deadlines. After the grace period, unregistered devices may be subject to citations and other enforcement under this policy.

Q2: Where can I ride my scooter?

You may ride only in Approved Outdoor Riding Areas, including campus roadways and outdoor pathways designated by the university for mixed pedestrian, bicycle, and micromobility use. Riding is not permitted inside buildings, residence halls, classrooms, offices, lobbies, corridors, stairwells, or high-traffic pedestrian zones.

Q3: Can I park, store, or charge my scooter inside a university building, including residence halls?

No. For fire safety reasons, parking, storing, or charging a scooter inside any university building is prohibited. This includes residence halls, individual rooms, hallways, stairwells, lobbies, classrooms, offices, and other interior spaces. Scooters may only be parked in designated outdoor racks or parking areas, and charging is permitted only in approved outdoor charging locations or off campus.

Q4: What happens if I park my scooter inside a building or fail to register it?

Parking, storing, or charging a scooter inside a university building is a violation of this policy. University employees may relocate improperly parked scooters to a safe outdoor location, and violations may result in warnings, citations, fines, or loss of campus riding or parking privileges. After the registration grace period, unregistered scooters may also be subject to enforcement.

Q5: Am I required to wear a helmet?

While the policy strongly encourages the use of a helmet, lights, and reflectors while riding, these items are not required by the policy. Riders are responsible for operating the device safely and in accordance with the manufacturer's owner's manual.

Q6: Does the university assume liability if my scooter is stolen or damaged on campus?

No. You are responsible for your device. The university does not assume liability for theft, loss, or damage to your scooter.

Q7: What if I have a mobility-aid scooter for a disability?

Devices used as mobility aids for individuals with disabilities are exempt from this policy and should be coordinated through Disability Services or the equivalent office.

Q8: How will the policy be enforced?

ACU Police Department (ACUPD), Student Life, and Residence Life staff will enforce the policy. You may

receive a warning, fine, confiscation, or loss of parking/riding privileges. Repeated or serious violations may lead to formal disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct or equivalent employee policy.