

MICROMOBILITY DEVICES POLICY

1. PURPOSE:

This policy promotes safe, sustainable, and accessible transportation by regulating the use, storage, and charging of micromobility devices on the University of Miami campuses. It also ensures compliance with Florida State Fire Code regulations regarding lithium-ion battery risks.

2. SCOPE:

This policy applies to all faculty and staff members, students, and visitors on the University of Miami Coral Gables Campus.

3. DEFINITIONS:

Administrative Authorities - University officials or designated offices responsible for enforcing institutional policies and managing disciplinary actions. This may include, but is not limited to, academic deans, department heads, Human Resources, or other units designated by the University to oversee compliance and conduct.

Bicycle - A human-powered vehicle with two wheels, operable pedals, and no motor.

Bicycle Rack – Open-frame structure for securely parking bicycles or micromobility devices.

City-Owned Roads – Streets, avenues, and other roadways that are owned, maintained, and regulated by a municipal government. The city is responsible for their upkeep, repairs, signage, traffic control, and overall infrastructure management.

Electric Bicycle – (A subset of micromobility devices.) A bicycle or tricycle equipped with operable pedals, a seat/saddle, and an electric motor under 750 watts (per Florida Statute 316.003).

Micromobility Device – Vehicle or personal transport device. powered by a motor (electric or gas), designed to travel on no more than three wheels, with or without a seat/saddle. Includes e-scooters, e-bikes, e-skateboards, hoverboards, RipStiks, and Segways.

Electric Mobility Device (EMD) – A subset of micromobility devices powered solely by electricity. Any personal mobility device powered by a battery, including e-bikes, e-scooters, hoverboards, and electric skateboards.

Motorized Electric Scooter – A micromobility device with or without a seat/saddle, traveling on three wheels or fewer, and not exceeding 20 mph (per Florida Statute 316.003).

Park – To temporarily place a micromobility device in a designated area.

Privately Owned Scooter – Scooter belonging to a private individual rather than an organization, vendor, state department, academic institution, or public body.

Store – To place or keep a micromobility device in a particular location for an indefinite and/or long-term amount of time.

Internal Roads - Streets and pathways that are located within campus boundaries and serve faculty and staff members, students and visitors. They are owned, maintained, and regulated by the University of Miami.

Examples of Allowed and Not Allowed devices:

Device Type	Motorized	Allowed on Campus	Allowed on Pedestrian Paths	Indoor Storage	Charging Allowed
Bicycle	No	✓	✓	✗	✗
Electric Bicycle (E-Bike)	Yes	✗	✗	✗	✗
Electric Scooter	Yes	✗	✗	✗	✗
Hoverboard	Yes	✗	✗	✗	✗

4. POLICY:

The University encourages the use of sustainable transportation while prioritizing campus safety. As such:

- Electric or motorized micromobility devices may not be ridden on pedestrian pathways, stored, or charged on campus.
- Exceptions include motorized wheelchairs and mobility assistance devices approved through the Office of Disability Services and the Office of Workplace Equity and Inclusion.
- This policy does not restrict bicycle use on campus.

4.1 Parking and Storage:

- **Outdoor Parking:**
 - Allowed as per campus micromobility map and approved scooter locations.
 - Devices must be parked at designated scooter parking racks.
 - Parking next to campus structures (e.g., handrails, stairwells, trees, fences, benches, light poles, signage, etc.) is prohibited.
- **Indoor Parking and Charging:**
 - Strictly prohibited inside campus buildings and egress pathways.

4.2 Operation of Electric Mobility Devices:

- **Restricted Areas:**

- Micromobility devices are not permitted on common pedestrian pathways, including the Foote Green, lakeside walkways, and breezeways.
- **Charging Stations:**
 - The University does not provide charging stations for micromobility devices.

4.3 Violations and Enforcement:

The Office of Parking and Transportation shall serve as the primary authority responsible for enforcing this policy, coordinating with other departments as needed.

- **Parking Violations:**
 - Improperly parked devices may be impounded by University authorities.
 - Owners of improperly parked devices may be issued citations for the violation and/or the storage of the confiscated device.
- **Operating Violations:**
 - Any operator violating this policy may receive a citation under Florida Statute 316.2065 or other applicable statutes.
 - Students, faculty, and staff may be subject to disciplinary proceedings via Human Resources or the Student Conduct process.
 - Devices involved in incidents on campus that result in harm to individuals or property may be subject to confiscation.
 - Owners of such devices may be issued citations and fines in accordance with University policy.
 - Reckless operation of micromobility devices will be reported, as appropriate, to the appropriate administrative authorities.
- **Building Violations:**
 - Privately owned micromobility devices stored or charged inside campus buildings violate the state fire code and University policy.
 - Infractions will be referred to the appropriate administrative authorities.
- **Code Non-compliance List:**
 - Unauthorized parking, \$25
 - Unregistered device, \$25
 - Riding device on pedestrian pathway, \$50
 - Device inside building, \$25
 - Charging on an external building outlet, \$25
- **Additional Violation Fees:**
 - Impoundment fee, \$25
 - Device storage fee, \$5/day
- **Repeat Violations**
 - For repeat violations additional fees as determined by the Office of Parking and Transportation Services may be levied. Actions may be reported to the appropriate administrative authorities.

4.4 Privately-Owned Devices:

- **Registration:**

- Privately owned motorized electric scooters and bicycles shall be registered free of charge by contacting the University of Miami Police Department. Registration includes benefits such as a complimentary U-Lock and access to the Herbert Wellness Center restrooms. Registration is required to ensure proof of ownership in the event of theft, impoundment, or other similar incidents.
- **Parking Violations:**
 - Improperly parked devices are subject to fees and impoundment.
- **Operating Violations:**
 - Operations within University main roads and designated internal roads as outlined on the campus micromobility map.
 - Operators will observe restricted areas for riding and reduced speed limits.
 - The use of internal roads will be limited for devices. Access will be restricted to roads leading to designated device parking areas, where permitted.
 - Riding devices on University pedestrian pathways is prohibited.
 - Any operator violating this policy may receive a citation under Florida Statute 316.2065 or other applicable statutes.
 - The University reserves the right to confiscate or remove micromobility devices from inside the University buildings and egress pathways.
 - Students and faculty and staff members may be subject to disciplinary proceedings via Human Resources or the Student Conduct process.
- **Building Violations:**
 - Privately owned micromobility devices stored or charged inside campus buildings violate the state fire code and University policy.
 - Infractions will be referred to appropriate disciplinary authorities.

5. PROCEDURES:

Faculty and staff members and students are encouraged to politely inform those who may be unaware of the policy and remind individuals who are disregarding it. If this effort is unsuccessful, violations may be subject to appropriate disciplinary actions as outlined in University policy.

5.1 Campus Micromobility Device Rules:

1. Devices must not be located, parked, or stored within University buildings or egress pathways.
2. Devices may operate only throughout approved roads; *refer to campus micromobility map*.
3. Devices may not be operated on common pedestrian pathways, including Foote Green, lakeside walkways, or breezeways.
4. No campus charging stations are provided for micromobility devices.
5. Parking is restricted to designated areas on or near the campus outskirts.
6. Devices may be secured at designated racks.
7. Micromobility devices in violation of this policy are subject to impoundment.
8. Owners of micromobility devices found in violation of this policy may be subject to citations and impoundment-related fees

5.2 Safety Recommendations:

- Wear a helmet and appropriate safety gear.
- Use lights and reflectors in low-light conditions.
- Yield to pedestrians and/or vehicles at all times.
- Maintain a safe speed and avoid distractions.
- Inspect devices regularly for mechanical or battery issues.
- Avoid riding during inclement weather

5.3 Emergency and Incident Procedures

5.3.1 Fire or Battery Malfunction

- If a micromobility device emits smoke, sparks, or shows signs of overheating:
 - a. Do not touch or move the device.
 - b. Immediately evacuate the area and alert others nearby.
 - c. Call University Police (305-284-6666) or 911 in case of fire or imminent danger.

5.3.2 Accidents or Injuries

- If an accident involving a micromobility device results in injury or property damage:
 - a. Contact University Police to report the incident or 911.
 - b. Submit an incident report to Risk Management within 24 hours.
 - c. If the injured party is a student, notify the Dean of Students Office.

5.3.3 Device Confiscation and Investigation

- Devices involved in incidents may be impounded for inspection.
- Owners will be notified and may be required to provide proof of registration and ownership.
- Repeat or serious violations may result in disciplinary action, fines, or permanent revocation of device privileges.