

Personal Electric Mobility Devices

POLICY: Use of Electric Scooters and Personal Electric Mobility Devices on the Auburn University Campus

I. Policy Statement

This policy establishes rules and procedures for the safe operation, storage, charging, and parking of electric scooters and other personal electric mobility devices (e.g., scooters, electric skateboards, electric bicycles, etc.), hereafter PEMDs, on the Auburn University campus. The purpose of this policy is to promote safety on the University campus while permitting the use of these devices by students, faculty, staff, and visitors. PEMD users assume all risks associated with their operation of these devices on the Auburn University Campus.

II. Effective Date

February 1, 2022

III. Applicability

This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, and visitors and to privately-owned PEMD's. This policy does not apply to personal electric mobility devices designed for and used to accommodate persons with mobility restrictions. This policy does not apply to shared use mobility devices. This policy may be updated at such time as shared use devices become available on campus.

This policy does not apply to personal conveyance devices with internal combustion engines (e.g., motorcycles, mopeds, some motorized scooters) or that have been determined to pose an unacceptable risk of fire (self-balancing scooters (hoverboards)).

IV. Policy Management

Responsible Executive: Executive Vice President

Responsible Offices: Campus Safety & Security
Risk Management & Safety
Parking Services

Responsible Officers: Executive Director, Campus Safety & Security
Executive Director, Risk Management & Safety
Director, Parking Services

V. Definitions

Auburn Campus includes any property owned, leased, or controlled by the University, including sidewalks, walkways, buildings, grounds, parking lots, structures, athletic and recreation facilities, and streets - as well as streets and roads adjacent to any property owned, leased, or controlled by the University.

Personal Electric Mobility Devices (PEMD) – Electric or motorized scooters [1], electric skateboards, and other electric mobility devices [2] used for personal transportation recognized under Alabama law. *This policy does not apply to personal electric devices designed for and used to accommodate persons with mobility restrictions.*

University Building includes all academic, administrative, residential and athletic facilities located on the Auburn campus.

VI. Policy Procedures

Use of PEMD's is permitted on the Auburn University Campus subject to Alabama law and the following:

A. Operation

1. PEMD's should be always operated in a safe and courteous manner. If a PEMD cannot be operated safely and courteously, operation shall be terminated. Operation may only resume when conditions permit safe and courteous operation.
2. PEMD operators shall be mindful of their safety, the safety of others, and shall be alert to pedestrians and other vehicles. PEMD operators shall exercise due care and reasonable caution to prevent collisions, injury to others, to self, or to property.
3. The maximum speed at which a PEMD may be operated shall not exceed that which is reasonable and prudent for the conditions at the time. A speed which creates a hazard to any person or property is not reasonable and prudent. In no case shall the operating speed exceed that which is posted for vehicular rights-of-way or seven miles per hour in pedestrian areas and sidewalks. [3]
4. Pedestrians always have the right of way. PEMD operators must yield to pedestrians in walkways and sidewalks and provide audible or hand signals when approaching or passing pedestrians. PEMD operators should avoid use in areas with heavy pedestrian traffic.
5. PEMD operators must obey traffic and bike rules on campus, including stopping at traffic lights and stop signs.
6. Operators must dismount PEMD's at crosswalks in order to be afforded pedestrian rights.

7. PEMD's should operate within bike lanes when available, on streets, and campus sidewalks or shared-use paths (except in heavily congested pedestrian areas). Operators must stay to the right on all roadways, crosswalks, pathways, and sidewalks. PEMD operators must ride with the flow of traffic. Do not travel the wrong way in a bike lane or on a street.
8. A front-facing white light and a rear-facing red light are required for operation in low-light conditions. These lights may be affixed to the PEMD or worn by the rider.
9. PEMD's are to be used for mobility purposes only. Racing, stunt, and trick riding are prohibited.
10. PEMD operators must be sixteen (16) years of age or older.
11. PEMD operators are encouraged to wear a helmet when riding.
12. The owner and/or operator of a PEMD is liable for any injuries or damages arising out of presence, operation, or use of the PEMD while on the Auburn campus.

B. Prohibitions

1. PEMD's may not be operated inside any University building.
2. PEMD's may be carried or walked inside a University building if bike rack storage is not available.
3. PEMD's that are temporarily carried indoors must not be left in locations that would impact building entrance or exit. This includes common areas, stairways, or hallways of any University building, as well as aisles or walking paths in classrooms and offices spaces.
4. PEMD operators shall not operate the device while under the influence of alcohol and/or controlled substances. Violators are subject to a DUI in accordance with state law.
5. Tandem riding is prohibited.
6. PEMD operators should not use cell phones, headphones, or earbuds when operating the device.

C. Fire Safety Requirements

1. PEMD's may not be stored or parked in any manner that blocks access to entrances or exits to buildings including common areas, stairways, or hallways of any University

building or residence hall, as well as aisles or walking paths in classrooms and offices spaces.

2. To minimize the risk of personal injury and property damage, PEMD's shall not be used, possessed, charged, and/or stored anywhere on the Auburn University campus unless they bear the seal of an independent testing laboratory accredited by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Example below:



D. Parking Requirements

1. PEMD's shall not be parked in the following areas on the Auburn University Campus:
 - inside any University academic or administrative building or athletics facility unless temporarily carried indoors because outside bike rack storage is not available,
 - in any manner that blocks access to entrances or exits to buildings including common areas, stairways, or hallways of any University building or residence hall, as well as aisles or walking paths in classrooms and offices spaces,
 - on a sidewalk,
 - on turf or flowerbeds or tied to trees,
 - on a street or in a bike lane,
 - at the top or bottom of any stairs or steps,
 - in any manner that would impede any ADA access including
 - in any manner that interferes with or impedes the normal movement of individuals with disabilities, pedestrians, or bicyclists upon ramps, stairways, or curb cuts,
 - adjacent to or affixed to structures, architectural elements, or artwork including, but not limited to handrails, fences, benches, light poles, sign poles, sculptures, etc.
 - in a manner that causes damage to University property or facilities.
2. PEMD's should be parked upright or folded on hard outdoor surfaces and, when possible, attached to bike racks.

E. Electric Charging Restrictions

1. The charging of PEMD's on campus is allowed in residential rooms within University residence halls. PEMD's being charged should not be left unattended.

2. The charging of PEMD's in any University academic or administrative building or athletics facility is discouraged due to fire safety concerns. At no time should PEMD's be charged in classrooms, hallways or common areas.
3. The use of extension cords for charging PEMD's is prohibited.

F. Additional Restrictions

The University reserves the right to further limit or prohibit the use of PEMD's in order to preserve the safety of the University community.

VII. Policy Enforcement and Sanctions

PEMD operation is subject to all state and local traffic regulations. Most regulations pertaining to bicycles also apply to operation of PEMD's.

1. **Students** found to be in violation of this policy may be subject to (i) discipline in accordance with the *Code of Student Conduct*; (ii) penalties imposed by Parking Services pursuant to its policies; and/or (iii) civil or criminal penalties.
2. **Employees** found to be in violation of this policy may be subject to (i) discipline in accordance with Human Resources and other applicable policies; (ii) penalties imposed by Parking Services pursuant to its policies; and/or (iii) civil or criminal penalties.
3. **Campus visitors** found to be in violation of this policy may be subject to (i) discipline in accordance with applicable University policies; (ii) penalties imposed by Parking Services pursuant to its policies; and/or (iii) civil or criminal penalties.
4. **Impoundment** may occur for any unattended PEMD that presents a safety hazard or impedes pedestrian traffic will be impounded immediately without notice. Auburn University is not responsible for damage to a PEMD that occurs during impoundment and has no responsibility or liability to replace or make compensation for such devices. Impounded PEMD's must be collected by the owner within 90 days. After 90 days, they will be disposed of by the University. Fees may be required to retrieve an impounded PEMD.
5. **Registration** with the Parking Services Office is required for all electric scooters and personal electric mobility devices operated on Auburn University campus. Registration is free of charge and can be completed online or by visiting the Parking Services Office. Registration is valid from the first official day of Fall Semester to the day before the first official day of Fall Semester of the next year and must be renewed each year the electric scooter or PEMD is operated on the Auburn University campus.

VIII. Interpretation

Questions related to the daily operational interpretation and application of this policy should be directed to: Campus Safety & Security 334-844-8888.

[1] Under Alabama Ala. Code § 32-1-1.1 a “scooter: is defined as “a device weighing less than 100 pounds that satisfies all of the following: a. Has handlebars and an electric motor. b. Is solely powered by the electric motor or human power. c. Has a maximum speed of no more than 20 m.p.h. on a paved level surface when powered solely by the electric motor. This term does not include an e-bike, EPAMD, Segway, motorcycle, or moped.”

[2] Under Alabama Code § 32-1-1.1 an electric personal assistive mobility devices is defined as “a self-balancing, two non-tandem wheeled device designed to transport only one person with an electric propulsion system with an average power of 750 watts.”

[3] Under Alabama Code § 32-1-1.1 “a person operating an electric personal assistive mobility device shall obey all speed limits and shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and human powered devices at all times.”