Policy

Minnesota State University, Mankato supports the safe and responsible use of non-motorized vehicles on its campus as a convenient, efficient and environmentally-friendly transportation alternative when used safely and respectfully.

Definitions/Applications

- Non-motorized vehicles include bicycles, unicycles, skateboards, longboards, Razors and roller blades/skates and similar devices and can relieve parking and traffic congestion.

- Electric mobility devices include electric skateboards, electric-powered Razors, Segways, hoverboards or other motorized and/or battery powered devices. Although motorized, these are covered by this policy.

- Personal Assistive Mobility Devices used to assist disabled individuals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are exempt from this policy on campus and in parking lots.

- This policy applies to operation of covered vehicles while operating on campus.

- All vehicles operating on streets within and around campus must comply with state and municipal vehicular and traffic laws.

- Appropriate areas of use: Vehicles covered by this policy may be operated on paved sidewalks adjoining streets, walkways and plazas within and across campus.

- Inappropriate areas of use: No vehicles covered under this policy may be operated inside any campus building or structure.

Operation

- Operators of vehicles covered under this policy must be alert to their personal safety, the safety of pedestrians and other vehicles to avoid collisions, injuries and property damage to themselves and those with whom they share pathways, parking areas and sidewalks.

- The operation of vehicles covered under this policy inside of campus buildings is not allowed.

- Users of devices covered under this policy are permitted to operate them outdoors on campus. Users must make their own determinations and judgments that conditions are suitable for the use and activity.

- Tricks or stunts such as jumping off of walls, stairs and other potentially hazardous activities are not permitted on campus.
Storage

- Minnesota State University, Mankato will provide appropriate bicycle storage racks in convenient areas and areas of high use across campus. Use of bike racks diminishes accidents that could result from bicycles obstructing doorways, walkways, and driveways. Bicycles are to be parked/stored in bicycle storage racks only. For bike rack locations see:

  http://www.mnsu.edu/parking/bike_racks/bike_racks.html

- Smaller, portable non-motorized vehicles such as skate boards may be temporarily stored inside buildings if not in an unsafe, disruptive manner, and so long as the owner/user remains in the immediate vicinity. At no time shall motorized and/or battery powered vehicles covered under this policy be permitted to be stored indoors.

Safety and Security

- Individuals operating vehicles covered under this policy must do so in a manner that does not endanger people or damage University or personal property.

- The university encourages use of personal safety equipment such as helmets, knee and elbow pads while operating these vehicles.

- Theft of unsecured bicycles is not uncommon. Bicycle users are strongly encouraged to lock their bicycle with the appropriate security cable and padlock, as well as register their bicycle with the Mankato Department of Public Safety. Those interested are encouraged to use the website link to register:

  http://www.mnsu.edu/parking/bike_racks/

Abandoned property

- Bikes parked, left or abandoned in areas other than approved bike racks will be removed by University Security and impounded. Examples include secured to trees, light poles or sign posts, etc.

- Documentation of actions taken either by University Security or Facilities Services staff shall be in writing with an accompanying photograph.

- Owners of impounded bikes may recover their property by contacting Facilities Services in Wiecking Center. A processing fee may be assessed for cutting the bike lock and transporting the bike to the impound lot. A storage fee may also be assessed.

- At least once a year, Facilities Services staff will conduct a review of all bike racks and place an impound notice on those that appear abandoned. The notice will include a date, at least seven days in the future, when Facilities Services staff will return and impound the bike if it hasn't been moved.

- At least once a year, Facilities Services staff will dispose of impounded bikes which have been in its inventory for one month or longer.

The University attempts to ensure a safe environment and safe practices for all of the campus community. Appropriate sanctions may be applied in instances of policy violations.

Students living in Residence Halls may be covered by additional regulations. Refer to the Residence Life web site for additional information.
This policy is administered through Facilities Services' University Services area. Questions or requests for additional information may be directed to: Director of Facilities Services.

Rationale

The University attempts to advance the use of a wide range of transportation options among members of the campus community. Using a bicycle or other non-motorized transportation is environmentally friendly and reduces the level of harmful air-borne emissions.