



Micromobility Devices: Electric Scooters and E-Bikes

Responsible Official:	Assistant/Associate Chancellor and Chief of Staff to the Chancellor (ACCOS)
Responsible Office:	Chancellor's Office
Issuance Date:	03/02/2026
Effective Date:	03/02/2026
Summary:	Describes the appropriate use, parking, storage, and charging of Micromobility Devices.
Scope:	University employees, students, non-affiliates, and visitors. Medically prescribed mobility devices for individuals with disabilities are not covered by this Policy.

Contact:	Cindi Zimmerman, Campus Risk Manager
Email:	Czimmerman3@ucmerced.edu
Phone:	209-386-3079

I. POLICY SUMMARY

The University of California, Merced (“UC Merced”) is committed to fostering a safe, accessible, and sustainable campus environment. Micromobility devices, including electric, motorized, and Non-Motorized Devices, provide important short-distance transportation options and contribute to the University’s sustainability goals. This Policy establishes clear expectations for the responsible use, parking, storage, and charging of Micromobility Devices in order to promote shared responsibility among riders and pedestrians and reduce the risk of injury, fire hazards, and accessibility barriers.

All electric devices used, stored, or charged on campus must comply with applicable fire safety standards, including certification under UL 2272 for E-Scooters and UL 2849 for E-Bikes,

consistent with UC safety guidance, California Vehicle Code 21110, and California Civil Code Section 1940.41. The use or storage of gasoline-powered or gasoline-assisted Micromobility Devices is prohibited at UC Merced, except where approved for research purposes by the Director of Environment, Health, & Safety.

Enforcement of storage and charging provisions will be implemented in coordination with infrastructure expansion, clear signage, and campus communication efforts. The University prioritizes education, awareness, and voluntary compliance, with progressive corrective action reserved for repeated violations or conduct that presents significant safety risks. Medically prescribed mobility devices for individuals with disabilities are not covered by this Policy.

II. DEFINITIONS

Micromobility: Transportation over short distances provided by lightweight, usually single-person vehicles, e.g., Electric Scooters, Electric Skateboards, Electric Bikes, and non-motorized scooters, skateboards, and bikes.

Micromobility Device: Devices or vehicles, including but not limited to bicycles, scooters, skateboards, and other wheeled devices intended or used for human transport, whether powered by the rider, by an electric motor, a gasoline motor, or by a combination thereof, which:

- Weigh less than 250 pounds
- Are not required or eligible to be registered as a motor device in the State of California
- Are not used primarily to assist the mobility of people with disabilities.

Category A – Motorized Micromobility

Certain provisions (licensing, UL certification, charging restrictions) apply only to motorized Micromobility Devices.

Electric Scooter (E-Scooter): Any two-wheeled device that is equipped with handlebars, a floorboard designed for standing upon when riding, and powered by a motor, electric or otherwise.

Electric Skateboard: A motorized board equipped with one or more electric motors powered by a rechargeable battery. It is designed to transport a single standing rider who controls speed and braking through a handheld or wireless remote or by shifting body weight.

Electric Bike (E-Bike): Any two-wheeled device that is equipped with handlebars, pedals, and a motor through a battery pack.

Category B – Non-Motorized

Non-Motorized Device: A wheeled device intended or used for human transportation that is powered solely by human effort, without the assistance of an electric, gasoline, or other motor. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Bicycles
- Skateboards
- Non-electric scooters
- Roller skates and in-line skates

III. POLICY TEXT

Academic and staff employees, students, and campus visitors may use Micromobility Devices on the UC Merced Campus subject to the following restrictions:

1. General Use:
 - a. Micromobility Types: Devices used for transportation over short distances using lightweight, single-person vehicles.
 - b. Riding Areas: Micromobility Devices are permitted on campus bike paths and roads but are prohibited from sidewalks and pedestrian-only areas.
 - c. Micromobility Devices are intended for single riders and are not passenger vehicles per California Vehicle Code (CVC) §21235.

- d. The use or storage of gasoline-powered or gasoline-assisted Micromobility Devices is prohibited at UC Merced. Exceptions for gasoline-powered Micromobility Devices used in research may be granted by the Director of Environmental, Health, and Safety.

2. Parking and Charging:

- a. Prohibited Areas and Locations: Devices may not be left unattended inside or outside campus buildings, on walkways, or in areas designated as dismount zones.
- b. Devices are not allowed:
 - i. In indoor public spaces (e.g., administrative buildings, classroom buildings, libraries, laboratories, dining halls, lecture halls, athletic or performing arts facilities, etc.).
 - ii. On ingress/egress routes (hallways, stairwells, walkways) or along handrails.
- c. Designated Parking: Micromobility Devices must be parked in designated scooter or bike racks. Parking in unauthorized areas, such as building entrances or ADA-accessible routes, is strictly prohibited. Devices may not park in any area that obstructs pedestrian paths of travel or the entry or exit of any campus building. Those devices left in unauthorized areas are subject to violations and/or removal, including impoundment.
- d. Charging Stations: Devices may only be charged at designated charging stations. Charging at non-designated indoor or outdoor outlets is not permitted.
 - i. If electric, the scooter/bike must be UL-rated. All Electric Scooters/Electric Bicycles must be UL-rated, with clear manufacturer labeling certifying compliance with UL 2849 (E-Bikes) or UL 2272 (E-Scooters).
 - ii. Any Device stored or charged on campus must have visible manufacturer labeling certifying UL compliance.

- e. Locking: Devices should be securely locked when not in use to prevent theft. Micromobility Devices may not be left unattended and unsecured in non-designated parking areas on university property.
 - f. Device Registration: Owners are required to register their Micromobility Devices through the UC Merced Bike and Electronics Registration Program. The program is jointly supported by the UC Merced Police Department and Transportation & Parking Services and assists with theft recovery and owner identification. Registration details are available on the respective departmental websites.
3. Safety Requirements: Micromobility Devices may be ridden on campus streets, and users shall obey all traffic laws pertaining to use, including but not limited to the following:
- a. Traffic Laws: Riders must obey all traffic regulations, including stop signs, yield signs, and traffic lights. In the absence of additional conditions or regulations contained in this Policy, all provisions of the California Vehicle Code apply to the operation of Micromobility Devices on UC Merced property.
 - b. Helmet Use: Helmets are required where mandated by the California Vehicle Code and strongly encouraged for all riders.
 - c. Pedestrians: Riders must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians at all times.
 - d. Speed Limit: Riders must not exceed 15 miles per hour (mph). Speed must be reduced or stopped when approaching crosswalks, stop signs, dismount zones, or uncontrolled intersections.
 - e. Night Riding: Electric Scooters/Electric Bikes must be equipped with lights and reflectors if ridden after dark. (CVC §21223)
 - f. Operators of motorized scooters, as defined by CVC §407.5(a), must comply with CVC §21235, including possession of a valid driver's license or learner's permit.
 - g. No Passengers: Riders must not operate a motorized scooter with any passengers in addition to the operator. (CVC §21235e).

4. Accessibility Considerations:

- a. Clear Pathways: Devices used must not obstruct pathways or create barriers for individuals with disabilities.
- b. ADA Compliance: Devices should not be left in areas that would impede access to ADA-compliant routes.

IV. PROCEDURES

UC Merced is committed to fostering a safe and shared campus environment in which pedestrians and Micromobility users exercise mutual responsibility and care. Enforcement of this Policy prioritizes education, communication, and voluntary compliance, with escalated corrective action reserved for repeated violations or behaviors that pose significant safety risks.

A. REPORTING AND VIOLATIONS:

1. Reporting: Unsafe riding or policy concerns may be reported to Transportation & Parking Services or the UC Merced Police Department. Transportation & Parking will address routine safety concerns and education, while the Police Department will respond to incidents involving injury, significant safety risks, or repeated noncompliance.
2. Violations can be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, Human Resources, or Academic Personnel.
3. Operators of Devices are subject to the California Vehicle Code fines and punishments, infractions, and misdemeanors.
4. Violations of this Policy may result in impoundment of the Device or revocation of campus riding privileges.
5. Violations of this Policy by students will be handled in accordance with the [Code of Student Conduct](#), in consultation with the [Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)

B. ENFORCEMENT APPROACH:

UC Merced follows a tiered enforcement model to promote safe and responsible Micromobility Device use.

1. First-time or minor violations will typically result in a warning and educational outreach to encourage voluntary compliance.
2. Repeated or moderate violations may lead to formal citations, fines, Device impoundment, or required completion of a safety course.
3. Serious, repeated, or hazardous behavior, including violations that endanger others, obstruct accessibility, or breach fire safety regulations, will result in loss of riding privileges, disciplinary action through the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, Human Resources, or Academic Personnel, and potential legal consequences.
4. Violators of state and municipal laws and regulations are subject to criminal or civil penalties, including but not limited to citations, fines, arrest, and potential liability for damages.

All enforcement actions are documented and may escalate with continued noncompliance.

Impounded Micromobility Devices not claimed by the owner within (30) days will be considered abandoned and turned over to the campus lost and found program for disposition.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The UC Merced Police Department will investigate incidents where a Micromobility Device is involved, resulting in serious injury, serious offense, or death, as well as other related incidents under its legal purview.
2. Building Managers and Fire and Building Safety are responsible for ensuring compliance with this Policy within their respective areas and for ensuring that faculty, staff, students, and visitors are informed of the Policy, as it relates to building use and function.

3. Transportation and Parking representatives are responsible for operational safety components, including dismount zones, storage, and signage.
4. Employees are subject to applicable university conduct policies and collective bargaining agreements.
5. The Lost and Found Program is responsible for the disposition of devices not claimed within 30 days.

VI. REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

State Laws and Regulations

- [California Vehicle Code \(CVC\) §407.5\(a\)](#)
- [California Vehicle Code \(CVC\) §21235](#)
- [California Civil Code §1940.41](#)

UC Policies

- [PPSM-62: Corrective Action](#)
- [UC Merced Student Code of Conduct](#)

Guidelines/Resources

- [OSFM Information Bulletin 24-001](#)

VII. REVISION HISTORY

Date	Action/Summary of Changes
03/02/2026	Policy updated for clarity and issued in Final.
10/13/2025	Original Interim Policy issued.