



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN
MISSISSIPPI

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Transit
Services

Personal Electric Mobility Devices (PEMDs)

Policy Statement

This policy establishes rules and standards for the safe operation, use, storage, charging, and parking of electric scooters, and other personal electric mobility devices (See Definition Section), hereafter PEMDs, on The University of Southern Mississippi campus.

Reason for Policy/Purpose

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. In furtherance, the purpose of the policy is to establish the expectations of the Mississippi State Fire Marshal's Office regarding the possession, storage, charging, and use of lithium-ion-metal battery-powered micromobility devices on state-owned public university campuses. *PEMD users assume all risks associated with the operation of these devices on the University campus.*

Who Needs to Know This Policy

This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, visitors, and to privately owned PEMDs. This policy does not apply to PEMDs designed for and used to accommodate persons with mobility restrictions. For instance, self-propelled wheelchairs or an electric mobility device, specifically designed for and used by an individual with a mobility-related disability, are exempt.

Definitions

The University of Southern Mississippi	includes any property owned, leased, or controlled by the University, including sidewalks, walkways, buildings, grounds, parking lots, structures, research sites, vessels, athletic and recreation facilities,
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	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, electric skateboards, electric hoverboards, electric longboard, electric bicycles (e-bikes), one-wheeled devices, electric unicycles, self-balancing personal transportation devices and other electric mobility devices used for personal transportation. PEMDs do not include powered mobility devices used by individuals with disabilities, such as electric wheelchairs or mobility scooters.
University Building	Includes all academic, administrative, dining, maintenance, chapel, residential, and athletic facilities located on The University of Southern Mississippi campuses.

Policy/Procedures

Use of PEMDs is permitted on the University campus subject to Mississippi law, University Parking and Traffic Regulations, and the following:

A. Operation

Regulations have been established to provide for the orderly movement and parking of vehicles and PEMDs on The University of Southern Mississippi. In using these items on campus, the rights and safety of others must be considered at all times. Operators are subject to citations if operating in a manner determined to be reckless.

- PEMDs shall follow state and local regulations governing movement and operation.
- The University assumes no responsibility for the care and protection of any PEMD, attached accessories, or contents at any time the PEMD is operated or parked on University property.
- PEMDs are subject to the same rules and regulations as motor vehicle operators and should ride on the right-hand side of the street, obey all traffic signals and signs, and give proper hand or mechanical turn or stop signals. PEMDs should not travel opposite the flow of traffic.
- PEMDs are not permitted on sidewalks or walkways.
- PEMDs should be operated at a low speed in the presence of pedestrians. Pedestrians always have the right of way.
- PEMD operators must dismount and walk or carry their vehicle when crossing a street using a pedestrian crosswalk.
- Operating a vehicle, including PEMDs, during hours of darkness without proper headlights, taillights, or reflectors is forbidden.
- All operators and passengers of PEMDs are required to wear helmets while the vehicle is in operation. Failure to wear a helmet may be a factor, though not the sole factor, considered by the University in determining whether a PEMD is being operated in a reckless manner.
- All operators of any type of motor vehicles, including PEMDs, shall yield right-of-way to

emergency vehicles and pedestrians.

- The owner and/or operator of a PEMD is liable for any injuries or damages arising out of the presence, operation, or use of the PEMD while on the campuses of The University of Southern Mississippi.

- **Parking**

- PEMDs shall not be operated, secured, chained, or parked:
 - inside buildings,
 - near doorways,
 - entrances to buildings,
 - on sidewalks,
 - handicap ramps,
 - handrails,
 - light poles,
 - fence/sign posts,
 - stairwells,
 - shrubs, trees, lawns,
 - in pedestrian paths,
 - in any location impeding pedestrian and/or vehicular movement,
 - in such a way as to create a hazard,
 - or any location not deemed as PEMD parking.
- PEMDs should be parked upright or folded on hard outdoor surfaces, and when possible, attached to bike racks. Parking PEMDs in spaces designated for automobiles, including marked vehicle parking spaces and any other areas reserved for motor vehicle parking, is prohibited.

- **Charging**

- PEMDs may be charged only at University-approved designated exterior charging stations. Charging at any other location on campus prohibited.
- The storage or charging of PEMDs inside any University building or facility is prohibited, including residence halls, fraternity and sorority housing, Cedarbrook, and other campus properties, regardless of whether such storage or charging may otherwise be permitted under

the International Fire Code.

- Charging PEMDs using any electrical outlet located on or attached to a University building or facility, including residence halls, fraternity and sorority housing, Cedarbrook, and other campus properties, is prohibited.
- When using a University-approved designated exterior charging station, only the PEMD manufacturer's approved charging equipment shall be used. Modified, aftermarket, damaged, recalled, rebuilt, or otherwise altered batteries, chargers, or charging systems are prohibited.
- At University-approved designated exterior charging stations, chargers must be connected directly to the station's permanently installed electrical receptacles. The use of extension cords, relocatable power taps, adapters, or power strips is prohibited.

- **Prohibitions**

- PEMDs may not be operated, stored, parked, or charged inside any University building including but not limited to residence halls, student apartments or suites, fraternity or sorority houses, offices, classrooms, libraries, assembly occupancies, laboratories, mechanical or electrical rooms, exit access corridors, stair enclosures, elevator lobbies, means of egress, or any locations not approved by The University of Southern Mississippi, and where required by applicable fire code, the Mississippi State Fire Marshal's Office.
- PEMDs are to be used for mobility purposes only. Racing, stunt, and trick riding are prohibited.
- Tandem (two or more) riding is prohibited.
- PEMD operators shall not operate the device while under the influence of alcohol and/or controlled substances.

- **Additional Restrictions**

- Charging or storing removable lithium-ion batteries associated with PEMDs inside University buildings is prohibited.
- Circumventing these requirements by removing the battery from the PEMD prior to bringing the device into any University building is prohibited.
- The University reserves the right to further limit or prohibit the use of PEMDs in order to preserve the safety of the University community.

B. Abandoned PEMDs

PEMDs abandoned on University property, including outdoor parking or rack areas, will be picked up and impounded at regular intervals by the University Police Department and/or Parking Transit Services.

PEMDs may be considered abandoned if they are not moved or relocated within 30 days or not in an

operable condition.

C. Impoundment of PEMDs

Impoundment of any unattended PEMD may occur immediately without notice if the PEMD presents a safety hazard or impedes traffic. Neither the University or its representatives will be held liable for any damage that occurs during removal or impoundment procedures. Impounded PEMDs must be collected by the owner within ninety (90) days. After ninety (90) days, impounded PEMDs will be deemed abandoned and disposed of by the University. Fees may be required to retrieve an impounded PEMD.

D. Enforcement

- **Students** found to be in violation of this policy may be subject to (1) discipline in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct, (2) penalties imposed by Dean of Students Office, University Police Department (UPD), and/or (3) civil or criminal penalties.
- **Employees** found to be in violation of the policy may be subject to (1) discipline in accordance with the Employee Handbook, Faculty Handbook, and other applicable policies, (2) penalties imposed by UPD, and/or (3) civil or criminal penalties.
- **Campus Visitors** found to be in violation of this policy may be subject to (1) discipline in accordance with applicable University policies, (2) penalties imposed by UPD, and/or (3) civil or criminal penalties.
- Violations may result in warnings, restitution, removal from residence halls, trespass order, and/or suspension of riding privileges.
- Registration with Parking and Transit Services is not required for PEMDs.

E. Emergency Response Plan

The University shall maintain emergency response procedures for lithium-ion battery incidents consistent with applicable requirements of the International Fire Code, including Sections 322.5 and 403.10.6.

Review

The Assistant Vice President for Public Safety/Chief of Police for University Police is responsible for the review of this policy every four years (or whenever circumstances require immediate review).

Forms/Instructions

n/a

Appendices

n/a

Related Information

MS Code § 63-3-103 (2024) ([MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972| PAW Document Page](#))

MS Code § 63-3-208 (2024) ([MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972| PAW Document Page](#))

2024 International Fire Code Section 322 (322.1; 322.4; 322.5)

Official interpretation from the International Code of Council (ICC) on the application of Section 322.1

2024 International Fire Code 403.10.6 Emergency response for lithium-ion battery fires

USA Traffic and Parking Regulations ([eCFR :: 36 CFR Part 4 – Vehicles and Traffic Safety](#))

USM Parking and Traffic Regulations Policy (https://usm.policystat.com/policy/token_access/026e48b6-1df8-4044-a3e0-813a0871040e/)

All Revision Dates

08/2026

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
General Counsel	Jon Weathers: General Counsel	08/2026
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Assistant Vice President of Public Safety & Chief of Police	Rusty Keyes: AVP Public Safe & Chief of Pol	08/2026
Director of Parking Management	Ronald Wilson: Dir Parking & Transit Serv	08/2026
Associate Director of Compliance and Ethics	Amanda Butler: Regulatory Specialist	08/2026