



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Personal Transport Devices

Policy Name: Personal Transport Devices

Policy Purpose

This policy specifies guidelines for the safe and responsible use of Personal Transport Devices (PTD) on University property.

Applicability

This policy applies to all faculty, staff, students, visitors, and third parties.

Accessibility Exception

This policy does not apply to the use of Mobility Assistance Devices by individuals with mobility impairments. ETSU is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable accessibility laws. Any mobility aid used by individuals with disabilities is permitted throughout University property, including inside buildings.

Responsible Official, Office, and Interpretation

The Associate Vice President of Administration is responsible for the review and revision of this policy. For questions about this policy, please contact the ETSU Office of Administration. The Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with the Office of University Counsel, has the final authority to interpret this policy.

Defined Terms

A defined term has a specific meaning within the context of this policy.

Personal Transport Device (PTD)

A Personal Transport Device (PTD) refers to any small, portable human or electric-powered device designed for individual transportation that does not require a license to operate. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Bicycles (manual and electric)
- Kick scooters (manual and electric)
- Skateboards and longboards (manual and electric)

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- Inline- skates and roller-skates
- One-wheels and unicycles (manual and electric), hoverboards and similar small transport devices.

Mobility Assistance Devices

Includes wheelchairs, mobility scooters, and any other mobility used by individuals with disabilities or impairments for personal mobility. Mobility Assistance Devices should be registered with the [ETSU Office of Disability Services](#)

Campus Site Furnishings

Site furnishings refer to the outdoor furniture and amenities designed to enhance the functionality and aesthetics of campus public spaces, like benches, tables, trash receptacles, bike racks, and planters.

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Policy

1. General Use Guidelines – All Personal Transport Devices.

- 1.1. Personal Transport Devices must be operated safely and responsibly at all times, and operators must follow all posted signage across University property.
- 1.2. PTDs are permitted on open walkways as long as they do not constitute a hazard to pedestrians, disabled persons, disrupt classes, or damage property
- 1.3. Yield to Pedestrians – Pedestrians have the right of way at all times. PTD users must slow down and give space to pedestrians.
- 1.4. Crosswalks – PTD operators must dismount when entering crosswalks.
- 1.5. Speed Limits – PTDs may not exceed 10 mph in pedestrian-heavy areas on campus
- 1.6. Use on Campus Site-Furnishings Prohibited – PTD operation is prohibited on all Campus Site-Furnishings, lawns, athletic fields, and courts.
- 1.7. PTDs may not be operated inside University buildings. unless specifically permitted. All PTDs must be walked through campus buildings.
- 1.8. PTDs may not be used in stairways, pedestrian-only zones, loading zones, or ADA accessible ramps (Mobility Assistance Devices excepted). Only bicycles and scooters may be operated in University in parking structures/garages.
- 1.9. Stunt riding, jumping, or grinding on Campus Site-Furnishings or handrails, weaving through pedestrian traffic, or use under the influence of drugs or alcohol, is strictly prohibited.
- 1.10. PTD operators will be responsible for any damage done to University property caused by reckless or negligent PTD operation.
- 1.11. PTDs should not be used in poor weather conditions that impair visibility or control.
- 1.12. PTD operators are strongly encouraged to use protective gear while riding.
- 1.13. Prohibited Parking Areas – PTDs may not be parked in areas or in such a manner that:
 - 1.13.1. Obstruct entry and exit doorways and passages;
 - 1.13.2. Obstruct or are attached to stairwells, stairways, and ramps;
 - 1.13.3. Impede access to handrails;
 - 1.13.4. Obstruct roadways, pathways, and sidewalks.
 - 1.13.5. Cause damage to Campus Site Furnishings, infrastructure, or landscaping.

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2. Device-Specific Rules

- 2.1. One-wheel and Hoverboard Use Prohibited – ETSU must prioritize the safety of all individuals on campus. Due to control and collision issues and fire hazard risks associated with these devices, the use of self-balancing one-wheels, electric unicycles, and hoverboards, including charging and/or storage is prohibited on University property.
- 2.2. Electric and manual bicycles and scooters are considered vehicles when on roadways and must follow all local traffic laws and speed regulations.
- 2.3. Only manual or electric bicycles may be locked to bike racks. Bicycles should not take up more than one space or prevent access to other bicycles on a bike rack.
- 2.4. Scooters and electric scooters must only be parked in paved areas adjacent to bike racks and must not prevent access to bicycles parked at a bike rack.
- 2.5. Lithium-ion batteries used to power PTDs may only be charged in designated areas and may not be charged inside any University dormitory room or residential hall. The primary concern with lithium-ion batteries is the risk of thermal runaway—a condition where the battery overheats and can catch fire or explode. This risk is heightened in personal transport devices due to their larger battery sizes and energy storage, their exposure to repeated stresses, impacts, and vibrations while in motion, and the potential for improper charging practices.

3. Lost, Stolen, Relinquished and Abandoned PTDs

- 3.1. If a PTD is suspected of being lost or stolen, the ETSU Police Department should be contacted with identifying information.
- 3.2. If a lost or stolen PTD is found, the ETSU Police Department should be contacted with identifying information.
- 3.3. Abandoned, lost, inoperable and prohibitively parked PTDs may be collected by the University. After 48 hours PTDs will be considered abandoned property and removed from bike racks unless the [ETSU Police Department](#) is notified of any genuine extenuating circumstances. The University will not be responsible for replacing or compensating for locks damaged during the collection process.
- 3.4. PTDs found locked or attached to any ADA ramp, elevator, access railing, egress space, stairwell, fire escape, or otherwise prohibitively parked will be removed immediately.

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4. Safety & Enforcement

- 4.1. The ETSU Police Department is responsible for promoting adherence to campus and local traffic rules and speed regulations, regularly demonstrating proper security techniques, and promoting safe and responsible PTD use on University property.
- 4.2. Electric and manual bicycles and electric scooters are considered vehicles when operated on ETSU roadways and operators may be issued citations for violating campus and local traffic laws and speed regulations.
- 4.3. Campus Police Officers may issue warnings or citations for violations of this policy.
- 4.4. Penalties for policy violations:
 - 4.4.1. 1st Offense: Verbal or written warning.
 - 4.4.2. 2nd Offense: Verbal or written warning or device confiscation.
 - 4.4.3. 3rd Offense:
 - 4.4.3.1. Students – Possible referral to the [ETSU Student Conduct Office](#).
 - 4.4.3.2. ETSU Employees – Possible disciplinary action pursuant to the ETSU [Employee Code of Conduct Policy](#)
- 4.5. Accidents & Reporting – Any incidents involving PTDs, including lost or stolen PTDS should be reported to [ETSU Police Department](#).
- 4.6. PTDs operated by community members affiliated with ETSU may be removed or banned from University property for violating this policy.
- 4.7. The [ETSU Police Department](#) may be contacted to inquire about abandoned, removed or confiscated PTDs.

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Procedures

N/A

Applicable Forms and Related Websites

[ETSU Parking Rules and Traffic Regulations](#)

[ETSU Office of Disability Services](#)

[Sherrod Library: E-Scooters and Micro-Mobility Devices Policy](#)

[ETSU Student Conduct Office](#)

[ETSU Employee Code of Conduct Policy](#)

[ETSU Police Department](#)

Authority and Revisions

Authority: TCA § 49-8-203, et seq.

Previous Policy: N/A

The ETSU Board of Trustees is charged with policy making pursuant to TCA § 49-8-203, et seq. On March 24, 2017, the Board delegated its authority to ETSU's President to establish certain policies and procedures for educational program and other operations of the University, including this policy. The delegation of authority and required process for revision to this policy can be found on the [Policy Development and Rule Making Policy webpage](#).

To suggest a revision to this policy, please contact the responsible official indicated in this policy. Before a substantive change to the policy section may take effect, the requested changes must be: (1) approved by the responsible office; (2) reviewed by the Office of University Counsel for legal sufficiency; (3) posted for public comment; (4) approved by either Academic Council or University Council; and (5) approved by ETSU's President.

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