

LOW IMPACT WHEELED-VEHICLE POLICY

Division: Finance & Management
Responsible Office: University Police Department

Date Established: 07/17/2014
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POLICY SUMMARY

This policy establishes rules and guidelines for the use of low-impact wheeled vehicles on SUNY Buffalo State property. It ensures the safety of all campus community members while allowing appropriate use of these vehicles for transportation and recreation. This policy excludes motor vehicles, which are governed by New York State Vehicle & Traffic Law.

POLICY STATEMENT

To ensure the safety of all campus community members and to maintain a secure and accessible environment, the use of low-impact wheeled vehicles within all campus buildings is strictly prohibited, with exceptions for youth strollers and mobility-assistive devices. Proper use of these vehicles in approved outdoor areas is encouraged, provided users adhere to the outlined guidelines for safe operation, storage, and maintenance. By following these rules, the university seeks to balance individual convenience with the collective safety and functionality of campus spaces.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all faculty, staff, students, vendors, and visitors to SUNY Buffalo State.

DEFINITIONS

Electric scooter (E-scooter) - a type of device with handlebars, a floorboard or a seat that can be stood or sat upon by the operator, and an electric motor that can be powered by the electric motor and/or human power. Electric scooters have a maximum speed of no more than twenty miles per hour on a paved level surface when powered solely by the electric motor. Note: It is illegal to operate an electric scooter (as defined in §114-e of NYS VTL) in excess of fifteen miles per hour.

Bicycle with electric assist - multiple classes of bicycle with an electric motor less than seven hundred fifty watts and operable pedals that is no more than thirty-six inches wide meeting the equipment and manufacturing requirements for bicycles adopted by the Consumer Product Safety Commission under 16 C.F.R. Part 1512.1 et seq. A bicycle with electric assist doesn't qualify for registration as a motorcycle, limited use motorcycle, moped or ATV and doesn't have the same equipment.

SCOPE & PURPOSE

The use of low-impact wheeled vehicles, such as bicycles, scooters, and skateboards, has grown significantly on campus in recent years, reflecting broader trends in sustainable and efficient transportation, promoting health and wellness, and offering convenient travel across

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campus. However, their increased usage has also introduced challenges, including safety risks, property damage, and disruptions to pedestrian pathways and campus operations.

Buffalo State University has developed this policy to ensure the safe and responsible use of low-impact wheeled vehicles. This policy builds on existing guidelines, including those established by Residence Life, which restrict the presence of lithium-ion-powered devices in residence halls. By expanding these measures, the university aims to create a balanced environment that supports mobility while prioritizing the safety and accessibility of all campus members.

The policy reflects a commitment to fostering a campus culture that values shared responsibility and respect among users of various transportation modes. It also aligns with broader institutional goals of sustainability and community well-being.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Campus Community Members

Campus community members, including faculty, staff, students, vendors, and visitors, are expected to adhere to the policy by using designated storage areas and operating their vehicles responsibly. Additionally, community members are encouraged to report any violations or safety concerns to the University Police Department.

University Police Department

The University Police Department is responsible for ensuring the enforcement of this policy across the institution. However, enforcement should be approached in a measured and appropriate manner. For more information, please refer to the “How to Report” section within this policy.

Student Conduct and Community Standards Office

When appropriate, manage complaints or incidents involving students regarding non-adherence to this policy following the Student Conduct Process, as listed in the Student Code of Conduct.

Human Resources Office

Responsible for managing complaints or incidents involving University employees who do not adhere to this policy. Additionally, HR provides University employees with reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable laws.

Student Accessibility Services (SAS) Office

Responsible for ensuring that students with disabilities have equal access to campus resources, including mobility-related accommodations. SAS works with students to provide individualized support, assistive technology, and reasonable modifications that align with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

RELATED PROCEDURES

To ensure safety and prevent property damage or disruption, the following guidelines apply:

1. Building and Indoor Use

The use of low-impact wheeled vehicles is prohibited within campus buildings, except for youth strollers and devices that assist individuals with disabilities. Smaller wheeled devices, such as skateboards and rollerblades, must be stored inconspicuously (e.g., in a backpack or office).

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Within the residence halls, smaller wheeled devices are permitted to be carried in and out of the building but cannot be used while inside the building.

2. Storage and Parking

All low-impact wheeled vehicles, including bicycles, e-bikes, scooters, and e-scooters, must be secured in designated bicycle storage spaces or bike racks. Securing vehicles to unauthorized structures, such as trees, poles, stairways, railings, or handrails, is prohibited. Vehicles found in these areas may be impounded by University Police. Unclaimed or abandoned items will be handled according to the University Police Department's found property policy.

3. Outdoor Use

Operators must adhere to the speed limits (≤ 15 mph), yield to pedestrians, and ensure safe operation of their vehicles. Reckless activities such as jumping, riding over steps or curbs, or riding on walls and railings are prohibited. On roadways, operators must stay in the right lane, travel at a safe speed (≤ 15 mph), and remain as close to the curb as feasible.

4. Motorized Vehicles

Motorized vehicles, such as e-scooters and e-bicycles, must not be operated on sidewalks or block pedestrian pathways, emergency exits, or building access points. Operators are required to follow manufacturer guidelines for charging, storage, repair, and maintenance. Additionally, devices powered by lithium-ion batteries are strictly prohibited in all Buffalo State University buildings.

HOW TO REPORT

If an item is improperly stored in a residence hall or office, the department overseeing that space should first address the issue with the individual. If the individual refuses to comply, the matter should be escalated to Student Conduct or Human Resources, depending on the status of the violating party. This approach mirrors the enforcement structure of other campus policies, such as the tobacco, smoke, and cannabis-free policy. The University Police Department will primarily handle cases involving interference with emergency egress, operating devices inside buildings, or reckless operation on roadways and sidewalks.

1. File a report with The Student Conduct and Community Standards Office [[CLICK HERE](#)]
 - a. Complaints/incidents filed with the Student Conduct and Community Standards Office are reviewed and processed daily.
 - b. All reports need to be completed in as much detail as possible. If there are any issues or questions, please call 716-878-3051 or email studentconduct@buffalostate.edu
2. File a report with the University Police Department (UPD)
 - a. Incidents may be reported to University Police by calling (716) 878-6333 or in person at UPD dispatch, Karner Hall 100.
3. File a report with Human Resources (HR)
 - a. Incidents may be reported to Human Resources by calling (716) 878-4822 or in person at Cleveland Hall 403.

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RELATED POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Found Property Policy: Guidelines for handling impounded and unclaimed items. Lost/found property shall be kept in the custody of police for the following time periods:

- Value \$100 or less: 3 months
- Value \$100.01 to \$499.99: 6 months
- Value \$500 to \$4999.99: 1 year
- Value \$5000+: 3 years

Residence Life Policies [\[CLICK HERE\]](#): Restrictions on lithium-ion-powered devices within residence halls.

Student Code of Conduct [\[CLICK HERE\]](#): Adjudication process for alleged violations of the code of conduct and University policies.

Campbell Student Union Policies [\[CLICK HERE\]](#): Policy prohibiting the use of skates, scooters, bikes, skateboards, and similarly wheeled devices inside the Student Union (This policy does not apply to mobility devices used by individuals with disabilities).

SAS Initial Accommodation Request [\[CLICK HERE\]](#): Guidelines and procedures for students seeking accommodations related to accessibility needs. Students who require accessibility accommodations related to low-impact wheeled vehicles can submit a formal request through the SAS Initial Accommodation Request process. SAS also collaborates with other campus departments to promote an inclusive and accessible environment.

Reasonable Accommodations for Employees [\[CLICK HERE\]](#): Employees who require accommodations related to mobility and the use of low-impact wheeled vehicles may submit a formal request through the HR Reasonable Accommodation process.

Americans with Disabilities Act [\[CLICK HERE\]](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

University Police Department
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Buffalo, NY 14222

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Website: <http://police.buffalostate.edu/>
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APPROVAL

4/2/2025 – Dr. Bonita Durand, Interim President

REVISION HISTORY

Date of change: 05/06/2026

Brief description of edit: Adapted to ADA compliant template