

BICYCLING AT MU

Bicycles at MU can be a safe and convenient way to get around the campus and the city of Columbia; however, there are some safety concerns that must be addressed.

Many bicycle accidents are caused by inattention and/or bicyclist failing to follow traffic ordinances and/or rules and regulations. The following ordinances and rules are offered as a reminder to bicyclist when riding.

Bicycles must obey state statutes, city ordinances and MU regulations.

City Ordinances applying to vehicles can be viewed at a link off of the City of Columbia webpage at:

http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Council/Columbia_Code_of_Ordinances/

Bicycle ordinances are located in Chapter14 of the motor Vehicle and Traffic section. Some of the more common ordinances are listed below:

Section 14-501 Traffic laws apply to cycle riders.

Every person riding a cycle upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the operator of a motor vehicle as provided by Chapter 304 RSMo., and all amendments from time to time made thereto, and as provided by this chapter applicable to the driver or operator of a motor vehicle, except as to special regulations in this article and except as to those provisions of laws and ordinances which by their nature can have no application. (Code 1964, §§ 12.375, 12.1480)

Section 14-502 Obedience to traffic control devices.

(a) Any person operating a cycle shall obey instructions of official traffic control signals, signs and other control devices applicable to vehicles, unless otherwise directed by a police officer.

(b) Whenever authorized signs are erected indicating that no right or left or U-turn is permitted, no person operating a cycle shall disobey the direction of any such sign. A person may dismount from the cycle to make any such turn, in which event such person shall then obey the regulations applicable to pedestrians. (Code 1964, § 12.1490)

Section 14-503 Riding conduct, generally.

- (a) *Seat.* A person propelling a cycle shall not ride other than astride a permanent and regular seat attached thereto.
- (b) *Number of riders.* No cycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.
- (c) *Riding to right; riding abreast.* Every person operating a cycle at less than the posted speed or slower than the flow of traffic upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as safe, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction, except when making a left turn, when avoiding hazardous conditions, when the lane is too narrow to share with another vehicle, or when on a one-way street. Bicyclists may ride abreast when not impeding other vehicles.
- (d) *Speed.* No person shall operate a cycle at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under conditions then existing.
- (e) *Age--For major thoroughfares.* No person less than nine (9) years of age shall ride a cycle on any major thoroughfare unless accompanied by his or her parents or other responsible adult.
- (f) *Same--Night, any street.* No person less than nine (9) years of age shall ride a cycle at night on any street or thoroughfare unless accompanied by his or her parents or other responsible adult. (Code 1964, §§ 12.375(2), 12.1500; Ord. No. 17496, § 1, 11-4-02) (Ord. 17496, Amended, 11/04/2002, [Prior Text](#))

Section 14-504 Emerging from alley or driveway.

The operator of a cycle emerging from an alley, driveway or building shall, upon approaching a sidewalk or the sidewalk area across any alleyway, yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians approaching on such sidewalk or sidewalk area, and upon entering the roadway shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles approaching on such roadway. (Code 1964, § 12.1510)

Section 14-505 Carrying articles.

No person operating a cycle shall carry any package, bundle or article which prevents the rider from having both hands free and available to control the cycle. (Code 1964, § 12.1530)

Section 14-507 Riding on sidewalks.

- (a) No person shall ride a cycle upon a sidewalk within a business district.
- (b) The designee of the city manager is authorized to erect signs on any sidewalk prohibiting the riding of cycles thereon by any person, and when such signs are in place, no person shall disobey the same.
- (c) Whenever any person is riding a cycle upon a sidewalk, such person shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian, and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing such pedestrian. (Code 1964, § 12.1550)

Section 14-508 Required equipment.

- (a) *Brakes.* Each person operating a cycle shall have that cycle equipped with a brake or brakes which will enable its operator to stop the bicycle within twenty-five (25) feet from a speed of ten (10) miles per hour on dry, level, clean pavement.
- (b) *Lights.* Each person operating a cycle on a street or highway during the period from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise shall have his cycle equipped with the following:
 - (1) A front-facing lamp on the front or carried by the rider which shall emit a white light visible at night under normal atmospheric conditions on a straight, level, unlighted roadway at five hundred (500) feet.
 - (2) A rear-facing red reflector, at least two (2) square inches in reflective surface area, on the rear which shall be visible at night under normal atmospheric conditions on a straight, level, unlighted roadway when viewed by a vehicle driver under the lower beams of vehicle headlights at six hundred (600) feet.
 - (3) Essentially colorless or amber reflectors on both front and rear surfaces of all pedals. Each pedal reflector shall be recessed below the plan of the pedal or reflector housing. Each reflector shall be at least ninety one-hundredths (90/100) square inches in projected effective reflex area, and must be visible at night under normal atmospheric conditions on a straight, level, unlighted roadway when viewed by a vehicle driver under the lawful lower beams of vehicle headlights at two hundred (200) feet.

(4) A side-facing essentially colorless or amber reflector visible on each side of a wheel mounted on the wheel spokes of the front wheel within three (3) inches of the inside of the wheel rim and a side-facing essentially colorless or red reflector mounted on the wheel spokes of the rear wheel within three (3) inches of the inside of the wheel rim or continuous retro-reflective material on each side of both tires which shall be at least three-sixteenths (3;frax;16;) of an inch wide. All such reflectors or retro-reflective tire sidewalls shall be visible at night under normal atmospheric conditions on a straight, level, unlighted roadway when viewed by a vehicle driver under the lawful lower beams of vehicle headlights at three hundred (300) feet. (Code 1964, § 12.1560)

Section 14-509 Use of Helmets.

(a) No person fifteen (15) years of age or younger shall ride a cycle within the city limits as an operator or passenger without properly wearing an approved bicycle helmet securely fastened by chin or neck strap.

(b) An approved bicycle helmet is headgear which meets or exceeds the impact standard for protective helmets set by the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission federal safety standards.

(c) No parent, custodian, or legal guardian of a person fifteen (15) years of age or younger shall allow that person to ride or be a passenger on a cycle within the city limits as set out in this ordinance without wearing an approved bicycle helmet. This is an offense of absolute liability. (Code 1964, § 12.1570; Ord. No. 17642, § 1, 4-7-03) (Ord. 17642, Amended, 04/07/2003, [Prior Text](#))

Section 14-506 Parking.

No person shall park a cycle upon a street or upon the sidewalk in such a manner as to obstruct the flow of vehicles or pedestrian traffic. (Code 1964, § 12.1540)

Section 14-494 License--Required.

No person who resides in the city shall ride or propel a cycle on any street or upon any public path set aside for the exclusive use of cycles unless such cycle has been licensed and a license or permanent stamp is attached thereto, as provided herein. (Code 1964, § 12.1410)

Cross reference(s)--Licenses, permits and miscellaneous business regulations, Ch. 13.

Section 14-498 Same--Attachment of license or stamp.

(a) Upon issuing a cycle license, a designee of the city manager shall attach to the frame of the cycle a license bearing the license number assigned to the cycle and the name of the city, or shall affix a permanent stamp to the cycle frame just above the fork on the right side or under the bottom bracket.

(b) No person shall remove a license from a cycle unless the cycle is dismantled and no longer operated upon any street in the city. (Code 1964, § 12.1440)

Note on Bicycle Registrations: **Free property registrations** can be done online. Visit mupolice.missouri.edu and click on the “property registration” button to complete your registration online.

Bicycle regulations for the MU campus can be found in the M-Book.

6.01 Bicycle Regulations

a. All persons owning or operating a bicycle on the MU campus are required to register the vehicle with the University of Missouri Police Department. Bicycles or mopeds shall be parked in or immediately adjacent to the bicycle racks provided. Lowry Mall and the Arts & Science Mall have been designated as dismount zones. Abandoned bicycles or mopeds will be removed by cutting and removing locking devices if necessary.