The majority of bicycles or motor scooters stolen from the campus of the University of Maryland were poorly secured using wire type or cable type locks which are easily defeated.

The University of Maryland Police strongly urges the use of “U” type locks, with the lock fed through the front wheel and frame for bicycles, secured to a bicycle rack.

“U” locks should be fed through either the front or rear wheel and against the frame for motor scooters. If available, the “U” lock should be secured to a fixed object.

Motor scooters and bicycles are required to be registered with UM DOTS. In case of theft, this will aid police in identifying the owner if recovered.

In all cases, please record the color, make, model, and serial number (vehicle identification number for motor scooters) to aid in identification in case of theft.

On October 1, 2012, the following changes to the Maryland Transportation Article relating to motor scooters will take effect:

1. Owners will be required to title their motor scooter with the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration. Upon titling, the Maryland MVA will issue a permanent decal as evidence of titling.

2. All owners of a motor scooter will be required to have PIP insurance as required by Maryland law for the motor scooter.

3. The operator of the motor scooter shall carry the evidence of insurance when operating the motor scooter.

4. An individual may not operate or ride on a motor scooter unless they are wearing a MVA approved helmet and eye protection.
Pursuant to §21-1202 of the Transportation Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, bicyclists and motor scooter operators are obligated to follow all Maryland Vehicle Laws, just as any motorist. This is in addition to those laws that specifically govern the operation of bicycles and motor scooters under Title 21, Subtitle 12 of the Transportation Article. Just like any motorist, bicyclists and motor scooter operators can be issued State Traffic Citations which can result in hefty fines, the assessment of points on their driver’s license or even incarceration. Pursuant to § 26-301 of the Transportation Article, the UM Department of Transportation Services has the authority to regulate the operation and parking of vehicles on University property. This includes the authority to issue citations and impound vehicles.

Motor Scooter or Motorcycle?

Check your owner’s manual! If your motor scooter has a motor rating greater than 2.7 brake horsepower or has an internal combustion engine greater than 50 cubic centimeter piston displacement, it’s a motorcycle!

If you own a motorcycle, you are required to comply with all legal requirements in operating a motorcycle such as titling and registering your motorcycle, obtaining insurance, having a motorcycle license, and complying with applicable safety requirements (i.e. helmet & eye protection).

License Required!

Maryland Law requires that an operator of a motor scooter possess a valid Driver’s License issued in this State, or
If the operator is a non-resident of this State, the operator must possess a valid license to drive issued by their State or Country of residence; or
Obtain a Moped Operator’s Permit issued by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration.

Title & Tags

Vehicles that fall under the category of motor scooter are required to be titled in Maryland.
If you are a non-resident of this State, you must comply with the laws of your home State.

UM Parking Permits

All motor scooters used, stored, or parked on the University are required to be registered with the UM Department of Transportation and display a valid permit.
UMD Affiliates are required to register their bicycles with the UM Department of Transportation. This is a free service.

Equip. Standards

Under Federal Law, all motor scooters are manufactured to conform with the US Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards for a motorcycle.
Motor scooter operators are responsible for ensuring that headlamps, turn signals, horn, reflectors, marker lights, mirrors, tail lights, stop lights, brakes, tires etc. are in good working order.
A bicycle or motor scooter is required to have a bell or other device capable of giving an audible signal for a distance of at least 100 feet.
During periods of insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, a bicycle or motor scooter shall be equipped with a front lamp that emits white light at least 500 feet to the front and have approved rear reflectors visible from 600 feet, and/or a rear lamp that emit red light or a flashing amber light visible from 500 feet.

Rules of the Road

Bicyclists and motor scooter operators are obligated to follow all Maryland Vehicle Laws, just as any motorist to include obeying all traffic control devices and the “rules of the road” applicable under Maryland State Law.
A person may not ride a motor scooter on a sidewalk or sidewalk area.
Bicycles and motor scooters must be operated in the direction of traffic flow.
In general, if a designated bike lane or paved shoulder is provided, a person may not operate a bicycle or motor scooter in the roadway.
A person riding a bicycle or motor scooter at a speed less than the speed of traffic, shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable and safe unless:
1. Making or attempting to make a left turn;
2. Operating on a one-way street;
3. Passing a stopped or slower moving vehicle;
4. Avoiding a pedestrian or road hazard;
5. The right lane is a right turn lane; or
6. Operating in a lane that is too narrow for a bicycle or motor scooter and another vehicle to travel safely side by side.
A bicyclist and motor scooter operator is required to exercise “due care” to avoid colliding with any pedestrian.
A bicyclist must dismount their bicycle and walk across any crosswalks.
A bicycle or motor scooter may not carry a passenger unless it is designed for and equipped with a seat (and footrests for motor scooters) for each passenger.
A person may not operate a bicycle or motor scooter while carrying a package, bundle or other article that prevents the person from keeping both hands on the handle bars, or interferes with their view or balance.

Speed Limits

A person may not ride a bicycle or motor scooter on any roadway where the posted speed limit is more than 50 miles per hour.
A motor scooter may not be operated at a speed in excess of 30 miles per hour.

Securing/ Parking

Under State Law, a person may not secure a bicycle or motor scooter to any place that would obstruct or impede vehicular or pedestrian traffic (i.e. sidewalk areas, hand rails etc...).