

Rules of the road.

If you operate a moped, scooter or motorcycle, it's critical to know that even though these vehicles may look alike, the power of their motors are different and so are the laws governing them. From parking to licenses, registration, tags, helmets and passengers, the rules for each vary. Read on to stay within the law and keep yourself and others safe from harm.

The Division of Law Enforcement and Safety

We are professionals in law enforcement, compliance and professional standards, environmental health and safety, and risk management working diligently—24 hours a day, 365 days a year—to protect the people and property of the University of South Carolina. Our values—human life, integrity, excellence and accountability—are your assurance of our commitment to provide a safe and secure environment.

Helpful Resources

View the online videos at les.sc.edu to help you better prepare for an active shooter incident. Our presentation, "Community Response to an Active Shooter" is available for your organization, classroom, or event. To schedule a presentation, contact Maj. Geary at 803.777.0507 or email him at iageary@maibox.sc.edu.

Learn more. Find more crime prevention and safety resources online at les.sc.edu.

Rave Guardian Safety App

Download our free mobile app that turns your cell phone into a personalized protection network, connecting with University Police during an emergency and giving us important information we need instantly.

les.sc.edu/RaveSafetyApp



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

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University of South Carolina

Division of Law Enforcement and Safety

Mopeds, Scooters & Motorcycles

Know the rules of the road.



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

Know the facts

Under South Carolina law, there is no scooter classification, only motorcycle and moped.



25 MPH

State law prohibits mopeds from exceeding a speed of 25 miles per hour.

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Any person under the age of twenty-one must wear a helmet on a moped and motorcycle.

A moped is not a motorcycle or a scooter

Even though some manufacturers give mopeds and scooters the same model name, they are not the same. Under South Carolina law, there is no scooter classification, only motorcycle and moped. Engine size determines which category the vehicle falls in.

- If the engine size is 50 CC or less, the vehicle is considered a moped.
- Anything greater than 50 CC is a motorcycle.
- All vehicles that are considered scooters must be registered and insured as motorcycles, regardless of whether or not they have a transmission with gears.

Have the right license and vehicle tags

License requirements for motorcycles are not the same as for a moped. The vehicle license plate requirements are different as well. Moped tags are issued by moped dealers while motorcycles must have a vehicle license tag from the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles.

- Moped tags must be made of reflective metal and have a validation sticker on the tag.
- To operate a moped, you must have a class D, G, or M driver's license, while motorcycle drivers must have a class M driver's license.
- Moped drivers are subject to traffic laws governing other motor vehicles.
- A moped driver must have his or her license in possession at all times when operating a moped.

Stay off the sidewalks and within the law

The safety of students, faculty and staff is important. It is unsafe and unlawful to operate a moped on any sidewalk. Mopeds and motorcycles must all remain on the street.

- State law prohibits mopeds from exceeding a speed of 25 miles per hour.
- It is illegal for more than one person to ride on a moped, unless the moped was designed for two people.
- Any person under the age of twenty-one must wear a helmet on a moped or motorcycle.
- The operator of a moped must have the operating lights turned on at all times while the moped is in operation on the public highways and streets of South Carolina.

Parking your vehicle

Please note that mopeds and motorcycles have designated spaces in which they must park.

- Parking on the sidewalk or securing your moped to a bicycle rack is never allowed.
- Mopeds or motorcycles should never be brought inside any University building.

Register your vehicle

University policy requires mopeds and motorcycles to be registered with Parking Services. Register online at www.sc.edu/vmps/

Reference guide

	Moped	Motorcycle/ Scooter
Engine	50cc or less	+50cc
Max Speed Allowed	25 mph	Max posted limit
Top Speed Capacity	30 mph*	No limit
Veh License	Moped tag	Motorcycle
Operator License	Class G,D,M**	Class M
No. of Passengers	Single or two if moped was designed for two	Single + 1
Liability Insurance	No	Yes
Helmet Required	Yes (1)	Yes (1)

*This is the top max speed capability for the vehicle. If a moped has been altered to exceed a top speed of 30 MPH, then it should be classified as a motorcycle.

**May be operated on any class of SC license. Class G license enables riders 14 years old to operate a moped. Operators may only be suspended from operating a moped for violations occurred while riding a moped. Class D operators who are under suspension for DUI may operate a moped during their suspension. Their driver's license must be reinstated by DMV at the end of their suspension period in order to continue to operate a moped.

(1) Helmet law requires operators and passengers under age 21 to wear a helmet. Optional for those 21 or older.