

BICYCLE LAW

TEXAS BICYCLE LAW

In the state of Texas, bicycles are generally subject to the same rules and traffic regulations as automobiles.

- Do not ride your bike on any sidewalk.
- Stop at all stop signs & red lights.
- Yield the right-of-way to pedestrians.
- Drive on the right side of the road.

Many Tech students, staff and faculty use bicycles for transportation on campus. However, they often only become aware of the state laws and local regulations governing bicycles after receiving a ticket. The following sections are some general rules applicable to bicycle use and operation to educate the cyclist before learning the laws and regulations through a punitive process. Specific questions should be referred to the Campus Police department for a more detailed response.

The information contained in this brochure was prepared by the office of Student Legal Services (SLS) for informational purposes only, and does not constitute legal advice. Legal advice can only be given with knowledge of the client's specific facts. You should not act upon information contained in this brochure without seeking professional counsel.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Student Legal Services

Texas Bicycle Law

VIOLATION OF TEXAS BICYCLE LAWS:

- Generally, violating any of the following rules will result in a citation for a misdemeanor offense and a fine up to \$500.
- More information can be found in chapter 551 of the Texas Transportation Code or on the Texas Legislature Web page at: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/statutes.htm>

BEFORE YOU RIDE:

Is there any required safety equipment I need? Do I have to wear a helmet?

- Your bicycle must be equipped with a brake capable of making a skid on dry, level pavement.
- Texas law does not require the use of a helmet, but the Texas Bicycle Coalition believes strongly in and encourages the use of a bicycle helmet.

Do I have to carry a license when I ride?

- You do not have to carry a driver's license or other ID when operating a bicycle.
- If you have been stopped on your bike, you are required to give your name, address and date of birth to a police officer who requests it.
- It is a crime to give false information about your identity, whether you have been arrested or merely detained while operating your bicycle.

What if I want to ride at nighttime?

To operate a bicycle at nighttime, your bicycle must be equipped with:

- Lamp on the front of the bicycle capable of emitting a white light visible at least 500 feet in front of the bicycle and
- Red reflector on the rear of the bicycle visible from at least 300 feet.

HOW TO RIDE:

What are some general rules regarding bicycle operation?

- Only ride on a regular permanent seat attached to the bicycle.
- You may not carry a passenger unless the bike is built for more than one person.
- Do not carry anything that prevents you from keeping at least one hand on the bike.
- It is illegal to be towed by any moving vehicle while riding your bike.

What hand signals should I use?

- Left Turn: fully extend left arm from the body horizontally.
- Right Turn: extend left arm from the body horizontally with forearm extending upward in a vertical position.
- Stop or Deceleration: extend left arm straight down from body with open palm facing rear traffic.

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

- Texas law gives the Texas Tech Board of Regents authority to regulate traffic and bicycle use on campus.
- Use only the bicycle racks provided on campus to park your bike. The use of trees or any structure including light poles and step railings is strictly prohibited.
- Violation of TTU bicycle parking rules may result in impoundment of your bike plus the cost of a citation and any applicable storage fees.
- Any bike or locking device left after the Spring semester will be considered abandoned and may be confiscated by the University Police.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY INFORMATION:

- The Tech Police Department will register your bicycle free of charge at the Texas Tech Police Department Building. All necessary information is placed on file while may assist in recovery if your bike is stolen.
- Additional tips regarding bicycle security and theft prevention can be found by contacting the Texas Tech Police Department at 742-3931 or on the Department Web site at www.dept.ttu.edu/ttpd/