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.
Know the facts

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

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.

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.

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.

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

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

*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.