



Bicycle Safety



Under Oregon Law, ORS 814.400(1)(a), all bicycles ridden on public streets are subject to the same rules and regulations as motor vehicles, except for those that cannot apply. Some basic Monmouth bicycle rules are:

Always ride with (in the same direction) as the flow of traffic.

- Obey all traffic signs and signals.
- Bikes are prohibited on the sidewalks of the business district (Main Street between Monmouth Avenue and Pacific Highway 99W).
- On sidewalks where bicycle riding is allowed, you must yield the right-of-way to the pedestrian and give an audible warning before overtaking and passing. You must also slow to a speed not greater than an ordinary walk when near a crosswalk, driveway, or pedestrian ramp.
- When riding at less than the normal speed of traffic on streets without bike lanes, you must ride as close as practical to the right curb or edge of the roadway to allow traffic to move smoothly.
- Bicyclists must use the following hand signals: For a left turn, extend the left arm; for a right turn, extend the right arm or extend the left arm creating a 90-degree angle with the hand extended upwards.
- For riding at times of low visibility, such as at night or in fog, a white headlight visible 500 feet to the front and a red reflector visible 600 feet to the rear are required.
- The law requires bicycle helmets for bicycle riders under the age of 16 and for bicycle passengers under the age of 16. However, a helmet is recommended for all ages at all times.
- Park your bike in a safe place where it will not be an obstruction or hazard to others. Bicycles parked on sidewalks, at building entrances, in roadways, and in driveways can be dangerous.

Recommended Bike Equipment

For night riding wear bright and reflective clothing. Also, have reflectors on the wheel spokes to allow you to be visible from the side. A bell or horn can help to warn people of your presence. Sirens or whistles are prohibited because they may be confused with emergency vehicles. Your brakes should be good enough to skid on dry pavement. **While riding, bicycle helmets are HIGHLY recommended for bicyclists of all ages and abilities.** When buying a helmet be sure it meets ANSI safety performance standards. Other protective clothing such as sturdy shoes and heavy pants prevent minor spills from causing major abrasion

Register your bike with Public Safety

Western Oregon University Campus Public Safety provides free bicycle registration to all WOU staff, faculty, and students. <https://wou.edu/safety/services/bicycle-registration/> This free registration consists of recording basic information from the bicycle's owner in addition to make, model, serial number, and a photograph of the bicycle. We also provide you with a unique WOU CPS bicycle registration sticker that provides an additional owner-applied number to the bicycle that will further assist investigations into lost or stolen bicycles. It is highly recommended that you utilize this free service which is provided by WOU CPS. To participate in the WOU CPS bicycle registration program bring your bicycle to the CPS office.

Be Smart

Be Safe

Wear a Helmet