



Oberlin College & Conservatory

Title: Bicycle Policy (2026-2027)

Responsible Position for Policy: Director of Campus Safety

Office/Department Responsible for Policy: Office of Campus Safety

Last Revision Date: 8/7/2026

- a. Students owning a bicycle (whether new or second hand) must register it in their own name with the Oberlin College and Conservatory Office of Campus Safety (140 West College Street, Dascomb Hall, Suite C) before using it on campus or in town. A college registration permit will be attached to each bicycle when registered. The college registration permit has no fee and is non-expiring.
- b. Cyclists operating their bicycles in the street or upon any path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles must follow the Ohio Traffic Code and comply with the Oberlin City ordinances that directly affect the operation of bicycles in the city. These traffic codes and ordinances address rules such as obeying stop signs, traffic lights, and other traffic control devices.
- c. It is a violation to ride a bicycle on the sidewalks in the downtown area. The Downtown is defined on North and South Main Streets (OH-58) as between the crosswalk at Hall Auditorium to Vine Street [north to south] and on East and West College Streets from Pleasant Street to Professor Street [east to west]. Cyclists may ride on any sidewalk in or around Tappan Square. Cyclists may ride on city sidewalks outside of the downtown area.
- d. Bicycles must be ridden on the right side of roads, sidewalks, or bike paths at a reasonable and safe speed. Reasonable operation of bicycles is for the safety of pedestrians, motor vehicle drivers, and that of the rider. Pedestrians have the right of way on sidewalks, pathways, and crosswalks.
- e. Students who ride their bicycles at night (within one half-hour after sunset to one half-hour before sunrise) are required to use a white front light and red rear light (on their bicycle or person) as well as a red rear reflector on their bicycle. Side reflectors are recommended for wheels. It is recommended that cyclists wear light colored clothing while riding at night.
- f. City ordinances suggest that bicycles be equipped with a bell or horn by which the rider may warn pedestrians of their approach.
- g. Bicyclists must use appropriate hand signals to indicate turns when riding.
- h. Both in the city and on campus, bicycles may ONLY be parked in properly constructed racks. Bicycles may not lean against or be locked to signposts, light poles, handrails, columns, trees, or benches. Recommendations on securing bicycles are available from the Office of Campus Safety.

- i. Bicycles that are not in use, are not removed from campus, or are improperly registered and stored with the Office of Campus Safety create increased opportunities for theft and vandalism. Bicycles not removed from all outside bike racks or stored properly by the day after commencement will be considered abandoned property. These bicycles will be removed and stored by Campus Safety. Bicycles that are not in working condition for more than two weeks will be considered abandoned, even during the second semester. Students actively using their bicycles after commencement for college or summer employment, or classes must notify Campus Safety. If removed and stored by Campus Safety, a fee of \$50 will be assessed for not properly storing the bicycle. Oberlin College will dispose of any bikes not claimed after September 30 of the following academic year.