Bicycle Safety Tips

1. Always strap on an approved safety helmet before you ride.
   Head injuries cause 75% of bicycle deaths. Research shows that helmets can prevent 85% of cyclists’ head injuries. (helmets.org/stats.htm, 2010)

   You’re less likely to get hit on your bike ride when motorists aren’t taken by surprise. Let motorists know you’re about to turn or move by signalling with your left arm. Don’t weave in-and-out of traffic and don’t move without making your intentions known to others.

3. Avoid busy, narrow streets. Use bike paths and lanes.
   Many streets on campus are not wide enough to accommodate a bicycle lane, like Knoles Drive. The Pedway provides a safe corridor with a dedicated bike lane that runs the length of campus.

4. Take the whole lane, when appropriate.
   Generally, bicycles must stay to the far right of the road; however, it is legal to take the lane when passing, making a left turn, avoiding hazards, or if the lane is too narrow for a vehicle and bicycle to safely travel together. As always, signal your intentions to take the lane.

5. Re-think music players and mobile phones.
   It’s more important to hear what’s around you when you’re cycling. The fewer distractions, the better.

6. Keep your bike in good repair.
   Keep your bike clean and in top shape so you can rely on it when you need it most. Visit the NAU Bike Hub at the HLC from Monday through Friday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

7. Light up and be seen.
   Wear reflective gear and/or light-colored clothing to improve your visibility, especially when riding at night. Front headlights are required by law, but adding a rear red light is a safe investment.
Yellow Bikes are a free campus bicycle program. Reserve yours at the University Union, Health and Learning Center, or du Bois Center.

Did You Know?

Bike HUB

The HUB is an on-campus space designed for students to come and educate themselves about bicycle maintenance. The HUB is designed to be a resource for students to use, in order to promote cycling as a form of healthy and sustainable transportation. The HUB is located in the Health and Learning Center. Visit on Monday through Friday from 1:00 pm. to 5:00 pm.

Arizona Revised Statues—Title 28

28-812 Applicability of traffic laws to bicycle riders

A person riding a bicycle on a roadway or on a shoulder adjoining a roadway is granted all of the rights and is subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by this chapter and chapters 4 and 5 of this title, except special rules in this article and except provisions of this chapter and chapters 4 and 5 of this title that by their nature can have no application.

28-813 Riding on bicycles

A. A person propelling a bicycle shall not ride other than on or astride a permanent and regular seat attached to the bicycle.

B. A person shall not use a bicycle to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.

28-814 Clinging to vehicle

A person riding on a bicycle, coaster, sled, or toy vehicle or on roller skates shall not attach the bicycle, coaster, sled, toy vehicle, or roller skates or that person to a vehicle on a roadway.

28-815 Riding on roadway and bicycle path; bicycle path usage

A. Persons riding bicycles on a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.

B. A path or lane that is designated as a bicycle path or lane by state or local authorities is for the exclusive use of bicycles even though other uses are permitted pursuant to subsection D or are otherwise permitted by state or local authorities.

C. A path or lane that is designated as a bicycle path or lane by state or local authorities is for the exclusive use of bicycles even though other uses are permitted pursuant to subsection D or are otherwise permitted by state or local authorities.

D. A person shall not operate, stop, park, or leave standing a vehicle in a path or lane designated as a bicycle path or lane except in the case of emergency or for crossing the path or lane to gain access to a public or private road or driveway.

28-816 Carrying article on bicycle

A person shall not carry a package, bundle, or article while operating a bicycle if the package, bundle, or article prevents the driver from keeping at least one hand on the handlebars.

28-817 Bicycle equipment

A. A bicycle that is used at nighttime shall have a lamp on the front that emits a white light visible from a distance of at least five hundred feet to the front and a red reflector on the rear of a type that is approved by the department and that is visible from all distances from fifty feet to three hundred feet to the rear when the reflector is directly in front of lawful upper beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle. A bicycle may have a lamp that emits a red light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the rear in addition to the red reflector.

B. A person shall not operate a bicycle that is equipped with a siren or whistle.

C. A bicycle shall be equipped with a brake that enables the operator to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement.

28-735 Bicycles and Vehicles

When overtaking and passing a bicycle proceeding in the same direction, a person driving a motor vehicle shall exercise due care by leaving a safe distance between the motor vehicle and the bicycle of not less than three feet until the motor vehicle is safely past the overtaken bicycle.