Guidelines for the safe use of university owned alternative vehicles (golf carts, utility vehicles, 4-wheelers, scooters and all-terrain vehicles) on campus.

Applies to students, staff, faculty, contractors/vendors
Became effective September 2007

Mostly common sense
General Requirements

- The vehicle must be registered with the appropriate permit from the University of Tennessee Parking and Transit Services
- Minimum age 18
- Possess a valid driver’s license
- Know and adhere to the State of Tennessee Motor Vehicle Laws.
- Successfully complete an Alternative Vehicle Safety Training Program (which includes a signed statement of understanding)
The three main departments on campus responsible for interpreting the standard are:

1. UT Police
2. Environmental Health and Safety
3. Parking and Transit Authority
The state regulation governing these vehicles can be found in the Tennessee Codes Annotated (TCA) 55-8-185 - Alternative/Off-Road Vehicle
Operation

- Shall not interfere with normal pedestrian or vehicular traffic flow
- Alternative vehicles will be driven only on inner vehicular drives and pedestrian sidewalks (with the exception of Intersection Rule 2 as listed below) on campus as designated on special route maps which can be obtained from the University of Tennessee Police Department.
- No vehicle traffic will be permitted on covered walkways or in buildings
- Always travel at least six feet away from buildings
- Stunt driving/horseplay is prohibited
Speed Limit

- Obey posted limits
- Reduce to “walking speed” on walkways during heavy pedestrian traffic
- Adjust speed based on weather, terrain, visibility, traffic, pedestrians, etc.
Operators must come to a complete stop before crossing a roadway or proceeding through intersecting sidewalks or other areas that have blind spots.

Alternative vehicles cannot use pedestrian crosswalks to cross roadways. To avoid the use of pedestrian crosswalks, an operator may need to merge into the normal flow of traffic at a reasonable and prudent distance from the intersection. This will allow the vehicle to safely cross the intersection without obstructing traffic, illegally using the pedestrian crosswalk or impeding the flow of traffic. This is in accordance to the Tennessee Code Annotated 55-8-185, where off-highway motor vehicles are only allowed to drive on a road “at a place where a quick and safe crossing may be made.”
Intersections and Crosswalks

- When the vehicle is crossing the road, the operator must abide by the rules of the road. When making turns, the operator must signal using either a mechanical/light turning signal or an arm turning signal.

- Obey all traffic signals. Operators must look in all directions prior to entering the intersections and crossing.

- Slow down before and during turns. All turns shall be executed at reduced speeds.
Pedestrians

- May not be able to hear or see ATV
- Have the right of way
- May be unpredictable
- Don’t try to intimidate pedestrians
Parking

- Park in designated Alternative/Off-Road Vehicle parking areas
- Do not park within 6 feet of the entrance/exit of any building, except at loading docks
Don’t exceed load rating of vehicle

Maneuverability and safe operation must be maintained

Loaded and secured so they will not cause a hazard by shifting or falling off the vehicle
Cargo

- Top heavy equipment is especially dangerous and should be secured near the center of the vehicle to avoid tipping. Be extremely careful during turning maneuvers.

- Cargo must not extend more than one foot from either side or the front of a utility vehicle.

- Loads that extend more than three feet from the rear of the vehicle must be flagged with a brightly colored material, usually red or orange.
Operators or passengers shall not jump on or off vehicles in motion.

No passengers will be permitted on alternative vehicles unless provided with adequate seating. No one is permitted to ride on the running boards, fenders, or any part of the vehicle except the seats.

Always remain seated and hold on while vehicle is in motion.

Operators must wear seatbelts if the vehicle is equipped with such.
Operators and passengers of 2-wheeled vehicles must wear helmets when driving. Helmet must be approved.

Operators may not wear headsets or ear protection at any time while operating vehicles.

Cell phone usage by driver is prohibited while in motion.

Avoid sudden stops or change of direction that may result in a loss of control.
Operators shall not stop in the middle of roads or walkways.

Alternative vehicles are not to be driven on any landscaped area unless it is the only available way to allow a pedestrian the proper right-of-way. The vehicle should be brought to a full stop on the landscaped area, then immediately returned to the walkway as soon as the area is clear.

DO NOT leave keys in unattended vehicles.
Vehicles must be inspected and maintained in accordance with manufacturer’s recommendations.

Operator must report problems immediately to his/her supervisor.

Vehicles that are unsafe to operate (e.g. brake failure) shall be taken out of service and secured to prevent use until repairs are completed.
Refueling and Recharging

- Re-fueling must be completed outdoors, away from any sources of ignition, with adequate ventilation and at least 50 feet from building ventilation air-intakes.

- Smoking is prohibited when the vehicle is being re-fueled and within 15 feet of vehicles where battery charging is in progress.

- Approved flammable liquid storage cans must be used when re-fueling with portable containers.
Accidents

- All accidents involving an Alternative/Off-Road Vehicle will be reported immediately to:

1. University of Tennessee Police Department and

2. Department to which the vehicle belongs
To complete the Campus Alternative Off-Road Vehicle Training Module, please click here for the quiz.