



Bike Safety FAQs

Do I have to wear a helmet when bicycling?

Although bicycle helmets are not mandated by law in the City of Chicago, it is *strongly recommended* that you wear one when cycling. Helmets help to reduce the risk of permanent injury or death.

How should I lock my bike to prevent theft?

Using a high quality U-lock or chain, always lock the frame and the front wheel to a secure University-maintained bike rack.

Are bike lights required when cycling at night?

Yes, a white headlight visible from 500 feet away and a rear red reflector visible from up to 600 feet are required by law. These aid in increasing cyclist visibility. Flashing lights are especially effective.

Can I wear headphones when cycling?

Not only are earphones dangerous, they are illegal. Hearing traffic is nearly as important as seeing it.

Can I ride my bike on the sidewalk?

No, cycling on the sidewalk is prohibited by Chicago law. Bicyclists should adhere to all of the standard rules of the roads, like other vehicles.

Is bike registration available?

Yes, the [University Police](#) will provide cyclists with a numbered identification sticker and put it on record with the Chicago Police Department. Be sure to keep a record of your bike's make, model and serial number, and to immediately report a stolen bike to the UCPD (773-702-8181).

What is the policy for abandoned bikes?

Bikes abandoned or illegally locked are subject to removal by Facilities Services, which will store impounded bicycles at the Young Building, 5555 South Ellis Avenue, for 10 days, during which time a bicycle can be reclaimed by calling 773-834-1414. After 10 days, the bicycle will be donated to charity.

Can I take my bike on the bus?

Although bicycles aren't permitted on buses, some University and [CTA buses](#) do have bike racks on the front. Racks accommodate two bicycles at a time and bikes ride for free.

Load your bike onto the rack in 3 easy steps:

- Alert the bus operator that you need to lower the rack, then do so by squeezing the handle. If another bicycle is in position, the rack will already be lowered. If the rack is full, wait for the next bus.
- Lift your bicycle so it sits in the empty wheel well. If yours is the first bicycle to be loaded, place it in the position nearest the bus, with the front wheel facing the curb. If yours is the second bicycle to be loaded, place it with the rear wheel facing the curb.
- Swing the bicycle support arm over the front tire to hold the bicycle in place. Locks may not be used to secure the bicycle to the rack.

Board the bus and pay your fare. When you come to your stop, get off the bus at the front and tell the operator that you'll be taking your bicycle off the rack.

Can I take my bike on the train or Metra?

Yes. Bicycles are permitted on the CTA Trains every week-day, except during rush hours (7am -9am and 4pm - 6pm). On weekends, bicycles are allowed on trains all day. The [CTA's Bike & Ride](#) provides additional details and helpful tips. Metra permits bicycles on all weekday trains arriving in Chicago after 9:30am and leaving Chicago before 3pm and after 7pm, and on all weekend trains. [Metra's Bikes on Trains](#) provides details, including exceptions and additional rules.

Where can I purchase bicycles and safety equipment?

There are several bicycle shops within a 5-mile radius of the Hyde Park campus:

- [Blackstone Bicycle Works](#)
- [Blue City Cycles](#)
- [Dj's Bike Doctors Inc.](#)
- [Wheels & Things](#)
- [TATI Cycles](#)

Additional bicycle safety resources:

- [Student Cycling in Chicago \(PDF\)](#)

