

Business and Finance

Policy Title: Use of Golf Carts and Specialty Vehicles

Created: December 2010

Updated:

Purpose: To ensure safety guidelines when operating golf carts and specialty vehicles within and around Drake's campus, especially in areas of high pedestrian traffic.

Drake University departments are using various golf carts and other specialty vehicles (hereafter called carts) to move people and materials around campus or other university facilities. In addition to golf carts, other examples include electric/gas mini trucks, mules, and off-road "quad" type vehicles. This policy is applicable to this class of vehicles used on university business, whether electric or gas-powered.

*NOTE: Iowa Law prevails over first and then Drake's Golf Carts and Specialty Vehicle policy.

From State Code of Iowa: 321.247 Golf cart operation on city streets.

Incorporated areas may, upon approval of their governing body, allow **the operation of golf carts on city streets by persons possessing a valid driver's license**. However, a golf cart shall not be operated upon a city street which is a primary road extension through the city but shall be allowed to cross a city street which is primary road extension through the city. **The golf carts shall be equipped with a slow moving vehicle sign and a bicycle safety flag** and operate on the streets only from **sunrise to sunset**. Golf carts operated on city streets shall be equipped with adequate brakes and shall meet any other safety requirements imposed by the governing body. . . .

- a. University owned carts used on public roadways must be licensed and marked with appropriate university markings.
- b. The number of passengers in a cart must not exceed the vehicle seating capacity. If seat belts are installed, they must be used while the vehicle is in motion.
- c. Carts must comply with posted speed limits, stop signs, and other traffic control regulations. On campus streets, the speed limit is 20 mph unless otherwise marked.
- d. Carts may be operated on sidewalks, plazas, and bike paths within campus if absolutely necessary, and no regular street route is available. The speed limit for carts in these locations is 5 mph. When moving through congested areas, speed should be no faster than pedestrians walking in the same area. Exercise extreme caution at blind corners and areas of crossing pedestrian and bicycle traffic.
- e. Street legal carts may not be driven along major streets including between University and Clark, and 24th and 31st Streets or any public street with a posted speed limit greater than 25 mph. Carts may cross major streets only at signal controlled intersections. When crossing intersections, cart drivers need to take extra care to ensure they are seen by other vehicle drivers before proceeding.
- f. Carts must not be parked where they block regular traffic paths, building exits, fire department connections, wheelchair ramps or curb cuts, or any other location that may present a hazard. Additional parking restrictions may be applicable. Contact Drake Security for guidance about parking carts on campus.
- g. Drivers of golf carts used on public roadways must meet driver eligibility, licensing, and training requirements including the University's motor vehicle checks to approve university drivers.
- h. Operators of specialty vehicles used off-road are required to receive instruction for safe operation before initial operation of the vehicle. Training for specialty vehicle operators must be based on nationally recognized industry standards or manufacturer's instructions for the types of vehicles to be operated. Training may be conducted by qualified in-house personnel, or by qualified outside organizations. NOTE: Golf carts driven at high speeds also are prone to tipping during a crash or simply because a driver attempts a turn without slowing down or tries to maneuver on an uneven surface.

Send policy comments to: Web Administrator

Responsibility for Administration: Vice President for Business and Finance

Policy Resides in: Business and Finance