

# Safety Notice-Surge in Thefts of Scooters and Electric Bikes

Dear Campus Community,

This academic year, UCRPD has seen a surge in thefts of scooters and electric bikes. As these items are more popular than ever, it's important for you to take steps now to minimize your chances of being the victim of this type of theft. Here are some basic steps to help reduce the opportunity for thieves to steal your property:

1. Invest in a quality lock: Purchase a sturdy, high-quality u-lock specifically designed for scooters or bikes. Look for locks made of hardened steel and with anti-pick mechanisms for added security. Make sure the lock fits your property and does not allow a thief to slide the scooter or bike through the locking mechanism without unlocking it.
2. Secure your property to immovable objects. Always lock your scooter or bike to a fixed and immovable object, such as a bike rack or a designated scooter parking spot. Avoid locking it to weak or easily movable structures, or to structures not intended for the purpose.
3. When parking your scooter, choose well-lit and highly visible locations. Thieves are less likely to attempt theft in areas with good lighting and high foot traffic. At the Residence Halls, use the bike cages and be sure to close the doors when you exit.
4. Consider using multiple locking mechanisms, such as a U-lock combined with a cable lock or a disc brake lock. Layering locks adds an extra level of security and makes it more difficult for thieves to bypass.
5. Enable Tracking Devices: Install GPS or Bluetooth tracking devices on your scooter or bike to help locate it in case of theft. Some models can send alerts to your phone if your scooter or bike is moved without authorization. If possible, install these devices under the deck of the scooter, beneath the seat of the bike, or in some other place where it is not easily found.
6. Avoid leaving any valuable items or accessories on or attached to your scooter or bike when parked, as they may attract thieves. Take them with you or store them securely.
7. Register your scooter with the manufacturer, if they have a program, and with UCRPD. Registration can help in recovery efforts and prove ownership if the scooter is stolen. Look for details of the UCRPD scooter registration program in the Spring Quarter on our Instagram.

By following these proactive steps, you can reduce the risk of being the victim of scooter or bike theft.

Thanks,  
The UCRPD Team