

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION FCMN Facilities Management		POLICY NUMBER FCMN 2.00
POLICY TITLE Camping on University Property		
SCOPE OF POLICY USC System		DATE OF REVISION March 25, 2025
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer		ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE Office of Facilities Management

PURPOSE

This policy establishes restrictions on the use of property owned, leased, managed, controlled or operated by the University of South Carolina (“University”), including all campuses comprising the University System, and prohibits camping except as set forth herein.

DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

Camping: means any of the following activities on University property:

- Setting up, occupying or remaining in or at a campsite for the purpose of establishing or maintaining a temporary or permanent place to live, regardless of duration.
- Establishing or attempting to establish, temporary or permanent living space or quarters at any location on University property other than residence halls, apartments, or other University managed housing, regardless of duration;
- Sleeping or undertaking personal habitation in a University building or facility not designated by the University for residential or housing purposes, regardless of duration;
- Sleeping outdoors on University property with or without bedding, sleeping bag, or other sleeping equipment, hammock, tarp, tent, lean-to, shack, or other structure;
- Sleeping in, on top of, or under a parked vehicle;
- Establishing or attempting to establish outdoors, or in or under any structure not designated by the University for human occupancy, at any time during the day or night, a temporary or permanent place for cooking, storing of personal belongings, or sleeping, by setting up any bedding, sleeping bag, or other sleeping equipment, hammock, tarp, tent, lean-to, shack, or other structure, or by setting up any cooking equipment.

Campsite: means any location at which bedding, sleeping bag, or other sleeping matter, or any stove or fire, is placed, set-up, established or maintained, whether or not such place incorporates the use of any tent, lean-to, shack or any other structure, or any vehicle.

Storing personal property: means leaving one's personal effects, such as, but not limited to, clothing, bedrolls, cookware, sleeping bags, luggage, knapsacks, or backpacks, outdoors and unattended for any prolonged period of time. This term does not include parking a bicycle or other mode of transportation (but see University Policy [VMPS 3.15, “Registration and Parking of Bicycles”](#)).

University-operated facility/University property: any buildings or properties that are owned or controlled by the university and directly support or relate to the university's educational purpose.

POLICY STATEMENT

The University of South Carolina is committed to maintaining its campuses in a clean, aesthetically pleasing, healthy, sanitary and safe manner in order to carry out its educational, research, community service and business missions. To this end, the University prohibits camping on University property except as set forth in this policy.

Exceptions to this policy may be approved on a case-by-case basis in advance by the President of the University or their designee for the Columbia campus, or by the Chancellor or Dean or their designee of the respective University comprehensive or regional campus. If camping is specifically authorized in writing by the University, campus leadership will notify appropriate University officials in Student Affairs, Law Enforcement and Facilities Management.

PROCEDURES

A. Overview

1. Absent prior written approval from the University, camping is not permitted on University property, or in University buildings or facilities, except as permitted in Section B.

B. Exceptions

1. Actions that constitute camping as defined herein may be permitted in the following circumstances:
 - a. The University's official use of its outdoor spaces for University sponsored or hosted programs, events and activities.
 - b. By artists and actors who participate in University authorized performances that require such actions as part of the artistic production and only so long as it relates to their performance.
 - c. In extraordinary circumstances, such as times of natural disaster, when approved in advance by the President of the University or their designee for the Columbia campus, or the Chancellor or Dean of a University comprehensive or regional campus.

C. Enforcement

1. All individuals on University property, including students, employees, affiliates, contractors, and visitors, are responsible for complying with this policy .

2. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to removal from University property, and disciplinary action for students and employees. Violations of state and federal law may be enforced by law enforcement.

RELATED UNIVERSITY, STATE AND FEDERAL POLICIES

[CR 1.00 Policy Against Discrimination Harassment & Sexual Misconduct](#)

[STAF 3.26 Procedures for Accommodating Distinguished Guests](#)

[UNIV 6.00 Freedom of Expression and Access to Campus](#)

[VMPS 3.15 Registration and Parking of Bicycles](#)

[City of Columbia Code of Ordinances Sec. 14.105 \(Urban Camping and improper use of public places\)](#)

HISTORY OF REVISIONS

DATE OF REVISION	REASON FOR REVISION
March 25, 2025	New policy approval