



THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON DC

Responsible University Official:
Chief, University Police Department
Responsible Office: University
Police Department
Origination Date: Not Available

FIREARMS AND WEAPONS POLICY

Policy Statement

All members of the University community, including faculty, staff, and students, are prohibited from possessing firearms, explosives or weapons (hereafter referred to as “weapons”) on the premises of the University without the explicit authorization of the University, whether or not a federal or state license to possess the same has been issued to the possessor.

Reason for Policy/Purpose

The University is committed to maintaining a safe and secure environment in which to conduct educational and research activities. This policy is a proactive step towards reducing the risk of injury or death associated with intentional or accidental use of weapons.

Who Needs To Know This Policy

Faculty, staff and students

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Policy/Procedures

It is prohibited to possess weapons on the premises of the University without the explicit authorization of the University, whether or not a federal or state license to possess the same has been issued to the possessor. The only exceptions to this policy are as follows:

1. Commissioned law enforcement officers to the extent they are legally permitted to possess weapons in the jurisdiction in which they are located, may do so on the premises of the University in such jurisdiction;
2. Persons authorized by their employer, and duly licensed and legally permitted under the laws of the jurisdiction in which they are located to possess weapons, such as employees of armored car services that collect or transport cash, checks, valuables, etc. may do so on the premises of the University in such jurisdiction;
3. Persons in the military in performance of their official duties to the extent they are legally permitted to possess weapons in the jurisdiction in which they are located may do so on the premises of the University in such jurisdiction; and
4. Faculty or staff legally permitted to possess weapons in the jurisdiction in which they are located, may do so on the premises of the University in such jurisdiction if they are part of an academic or research activity. Such use must have received prior written approval by the Chief, University Police Department.
5. University sanctioned groups or events where a particular weapon(s) is a required part of the curriculum or activity, i.e. martial arts classes/clubs; fencing classes/clubs; theatrical events, etc. Such use must have received prior written approval by the Chief, University Police Department.

Anyone possessing a weapon other than those in the exception categories will be asked to remove them from the campus immediately. They may also be subject to arrest and/or disciplinary action as discussed below. Exceptions to this policy may be requested in writing to the Chief, University Police Department. The Chief will review the request with the Vice President and General Counsel. Only under the most unusual circumstance would an exception be granted. If an exception is granted, FWP will be placed in the comment section of the individual's banner record. Questions about the applicability of this policy to specific items may also be directed to the Chief, University Police Department.

Any student, faculty or staff member violating this policy shall be subject to the disciplinary policies and procedures applicable to students, faculty or staff.

Additionally, possession of unlicensed firearms or weapons may lead to criminal prosecution by the appropriate jurisdiction.

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Website Addresses for This Policy

[GW University Policies](#)

Contacts

Subject	Contact	Telephone	E-mail
Firearms/ Weapons	University Police	(202) 994-6111	upd@upd.gwu.edu
	Employee Relations	(202) 994-9611	emplrel@gwu.edu
	Associate Vice President and Dean of Students	(202) 994-6710	dos@gwu.edu
	Faculty Recruitment and Personnel Relations	(202) 994-6783	frpr@gwu.edu

Definitions

Firearm	Any device that shoots a bullet, pellet, flare, tranquilizer, spear dart, or other projectile, whether loaded or unloaded, including those powered by CO ₂ . This includes, but is not limited to, guns, air guns, dart guns, pistols, revolvers, rifles, shot guns, cannons, etc, and any ammunition for any such device.
Weapon	Any device that is designed to or traditionally used to inflict harm. This includes, but is not limited to: 1) firearms, slingshots, switchblades, daggers, blackjacks, brass knuckles, bows and arrows, hand grenades, hunting knives, nun-chucks, throwing stars, etc.; 2) any object that could be reasonably construed as a weapon; or 3) any object legally controlled as a weapon or treated as a weapon under the laws of the jurisdiction in which the University premises is located.
Explosives	Any chemical compound or mechanical mixture that contains any oxidizing and combustible units, or other ingredients, in such proportion, quantities or packing that an ignition by fire, friction, concussion, percussion, or detonator, or any part of the compound or mixture, may cause a sudden generation of highly heated gases that results in gaseous pressures capable of producing destructive efforts on contiguous objects or of destroying life or limb. This includes, but is not limited to, firecrackers, black powder, dynamite, etc. as

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well as detonating devices such as detonators, blasting caps, timers, incendiary wire and the like.

Related Information

[Code of Student Conduct](#)

[Employee Handbook](#)

[Faculty Code](#)

Who Approved This Policy

Robert A. Chernak, Senior Vice President for Student and Academic Support Services
Beth Nolan, Senior Vice President and General Counsel

History/Revision Dates

Origination Date:	Not Available
Last Amended Date:	February 16, 2007
Next Review Date:	February 28, 2010