



**THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY**
WASHINGTON, DC

Responsible University Official: Senior Associate Vice President for Safety and Security
Responsible Office: Division of Safety and Security
Last Revised Date: March 14, 2017

FIREARMS AND WEAPONS

Policy Statement

All members of the university community, as well as visitors, are prohibited from possessing firearms, explosives or weapons (hereafter referred to as “weapons”) on the premises of the university without the explicit advance authorization of the university, regardless of whether a federal or state license to possess the same has been issued to the possessor.

Reason for Policy

The university is committed to maintaining a safe and secure environment 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 is Governed by this Policy

Faculty, staff, students and visitors

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Policy

All faculty, staff, students and visitors to the university are strictly prohibited from possessing firearms, ammunition for any caliber of firearm, explosives or weapons (hereafter referred to as “weapons”) on the premises of the university without the explicit advance authorization of the university, regardless of whether 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 the university premises are located may do so on the premises of the university in such jurisdiction. For instance, Metropolitan Police Department officers who are legally permitted to possess weapons in the District of Columbia may possess such weapons on the Foggy Bottom or Mount Vernon campuses.
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. Written notification must be made by the individual carrying the firearm to the Chief, GW Police Department.
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 only. Persons subject to this exemption must obtain the explicit advance authorization of the university by making written application to the Chief, GW Police Department.
5. University sanctioned groups or events where a particular weapon(s) is a required part of the curriculum or activity, for example, martial arts classes/clubs; fencing classes/clubs; theatrical events, etc. Persons subject

to this exemption must obtain the explicit advance authorization of the university by making written application to the Chief, GW Police Department.

Anyone possessing a weapon other than those in the exception categories will be asked to remove it from university premises immediately. They may also be subject to arrest and/or disciplinary action.

Exceptions to this policy must be requested in writing to the Chief, GW Police Department. The Chief will review the request with the Senior Associate Vice President for Safety and Security and the Senior Vice President and General Counsel. Only under the most unusual circumstance will a request for an exception be granted. If an exception is granted, the notation "FWP" will be placed in the comment section of the individual's Banner record, indicating they are approved to carry a firearm on campus. Questions about the applicability of this policy to specific items may also be directed to the Chief, GW 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 will result in confiscation and may lead to criminal prosecution by the appropriate jurisdiction.

Definitions

Firearm Any device that shoots a bullet, pellet, flare, tranquilizer, spear dart, or other projectile, whether loaded or unloaded, including those powered by CO2. This includes, but is not limited to, guns, air guns, dart guns, pistols, revolvers, rifles, shot guns, cannons, and plastic firearms made with 3-D printers and copying technology, 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 or detonation by fire, friction, concussion, percussion, static, RF (radio frequency) Energy 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, plastic explosive, or any improvised compound with the same properties etc. as 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](#)

Contacts

Contact	Telephone	Email
GW Police Department	(202) 994-6110	gwpd@gwu.edu
Human Resources	(202) 994-8500	
Vice Provost and Dean of Students	(202) 994-6710	students@gwu.edu
Faculty Recruitment & Personnel Relations	(202) 994-6783	facrel@gwu.edu

Document History

- **Last Reviewed Date:** April 25, 2017
- **Last Revised Date:** March 14, 2017

- **Policy Origination Date:** Not available

Who Approved This Policy

Louis H. Katz, Executive Vice President and Treasurer

Beth Nolan, Senior Vice President and General Counsel

This policy, as well as all [university policies](#), are located on the [Office of Compliance and Privacy](#)'s home page.