



Policy

UNIVERSITY POLICY PS-02.03-05/14

Policy Title: Weapons on University Property

Originator: Dr. Judith Bense, President

Responsible Office: University Police

Policy/Purpose: In order to maintain a safe academic environment, the University of West Florida (“University”) prohibits the use, storage and possession of weapons on University property, with limited exceptions.

A. Applicability

Except for law enforcement officers, this policy is applicable to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, visitors (invited and uninvited), contractors, and guests at any University campus, facility or event.

B. Definitions- for purposes of this policy

1. Weapon- means any knife, dirk knife, metallic knuckles, slungshot, billie, tear gas gun, BB gun, air-soft gun, pellet gun or other gun operated with compressed air or gas, chemical weapon or device, electric weapon or device, or other deadly weapon except for a firearm, common pocket knife, plastic knife or blunt-bladed table knife. (790.001).
2. Firearm-means any weapon or device (including a starter gun), which will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer' any destructive device (as defined in Florida statutes); or any machine gun. The term firearm does not include an antique firearm unless the antique firearm is used in the commission of a crime.

C. Prohibitions

1. Weapons: Except as otherwise allowed by Florida law, the University prohibits the possession of all weapons on University property, other than legitimate tools appropriately used in authorized work on campus, and other limited exceptions defined in this policy.
2. Firearms: In accordance with Section 790.115, Florida Statutes, the University prohibits the possession of all firearms on University property, except as otherwise allowed by Florida law
3. Scope of Prohibition:
 - i. Ownership: This prohibition includes weapons, regardless of ownership

- ii. Location: Except as otherwise allowed by Florida law, the possession of weapons or firearms at University sponsored events, on the University campus, or any land or property occupied by the University is prohibited.

D. Exceptions

Notwithstanding the foregoing, weapons are permitted under the following limited circumstances:

1. ROTC member or instructor acting under the supervision of an ROTC unit in a manner prescribed by military regulations and approved by the UWF Chief of Police.
2. Non-functioning antique display weapons may be used for classroom instructional purposes with the prior approval of the UWF Chief of Police.
3. Individuals may carry a self-defense chemical spray, which is a device carried solely for the purposes of lawful self-defense that is compact in size, designed to be carried on or about the person, and contains not more than two ounces of chemical.
4. Adults may possess firearms inside motor vehicles on campus. Firearms contained inside motor vehicles on campus must be “securely encased” as defined in Section 790.001 (17), Florida Statutes.
5. Any other exceptions to this policy must be approved in writing by the UWF Chief of Police.

E. Procedure

1. Reports of any unauthorized weapons or other violations of this policy should be made to the UWF Police.
2. Any weapon found on a University campus or facility in violation of this policy will be confiscated by the UWF Police.
3. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action and criminal prosecution by appropriate authorities.

Approved By: Dr. Judith A. Bense, President

Date: 12 May 2014

History: Amended May 2014; amended January 2014; adopted January 2011.