



**NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY**

Responsible University Official:
Executive Vice President
Responsible Office: University Police
Department
Origination Date: May 5, 2015

Prohibition of Weapons and Concealed Carry of Weapons on Campus

Policy Statement

Northwestern University is committed to providing a safe and secure learning, working and living environment. To this end, the University prohibits the possession, use or storage of firearms (regardless of the existence of a valid concealed carry permit); other lethal or non-lethal weapons; fireworks/explosive devices; and other dangerous objects or materials by anyone: (i) on any property owned, leased or controlled by the University, including but not limited to all buildings, land, parking areas, sidewalks and common areas; (ii) in any vehicle owned, leased or controlled by the University regardless of location; (iii) at any University-sponsored activities or events on- or off-campus; and (iv) employed by the University when conducting University business anywhere.

Reason for Policy/Purpose

Northwestern University hereby establishes this Policy to set clear expectations and guidelines pursuant to the Illinois Firearm Concealed Carry Act (430 ILCS 66/) and its enabling regulations.

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Who Approved This Policy

Provost
Executive Vice President

Who Needs to Know This Policy

This Policy applies to all employees, students, persons conducting business, or individuals visiting the Northwestern University campus.

Website Address for This Policy

<http://www.northwestern.edu/up/safety/prohibition-of-weapons-and-concealed-carry-of-weapons-on-campus.html>

Contacts

If you have any questions on the Prohibition of Weapons and Concealed Carry of Weapons on Campus Policy, you may:

1. Call the Deputy Chief of Northwestern University Police Department at 847 - 491 - 3456, or
2. Send an e-mail to universitypolice@northwestern.edu

Definitions

Word:	Definitions
Firearm	Any device, regardless of its name, that is designed to expel a projectile by the action of an explosion, expansion of gas or escape of gas; any imitation, facsimile, or replica firearm; and any firearm that has been rendered inoperative.
Other Lethal or Non-Lethal Weapons	Instruments, material or devices that ordinarily could result in or are readily capable of causing serious bodily injury or death, and include but are not limited to ammunition, gunpowder, other explosive devices, BB guns, pellet guns, air guns, paint guns, stun guns, flare guns, clubs, slingshots, blackjacks, artificial knuckles, swords, sabers, daggers, machetes, hatchets, crossbows, longbows, knives of all types (except for knives used as common eating utensils and knives with small folding blades four inches or less and designed for personal use), ice picks, nunchucks, throwing stars, batons, nightsticks, billy clubs, and
Fireworks/Explosive Devices	

imitations, facsimiles or replicas of all of the above.¹

**Other Dangerous Objects
or Materials**

Include, but are not limited, to firecrackers, skyrocket, rockets, roman candles, cherry bombs, sparklers, toy cannons or toy guns in which explosive materials are used, fire balloons, or other devices containing any combustible or explosive substance used to propel another object.

Any object or material designed to inflict injury or death, including but not limited to items that pose a potential hazard to the safety or health of others, and unauthorized hazardous materials or chemicals.

Policy/Procedures

The University prohibits the possession, use or storage of Firearms (regardless of the existence of a valid concealed carry permit); Other Lethal or Non-Lethal Weapons; Fireworks/Explosive Devices; and Other Dangerous Objects or Materials by anyone: (i) on any property owned, leased or controlled by the University, including but not limited to all buildings, land, parking areas, sidewalks and common areas; (ii) in any vehicle, owned, leased or controlled by the University regardless of location; (iii) at any external, University-sponsored activities or events; and (iv) employed by the University when conducting University business anywhere.

All employees, students, persons conducting business, individuals visiting the Northwestern University campus are strictly prohibited from carrying concealed Firearms or any Other Lethal or Non-Lethal Weapons as defined and described above unless authorized by the exceptions below and when fully compliant with the specifics of those exceptions.

Policy Exceptions

1. Law Enforcement Personnel. This Policy permits the concealed and unconcealed possession and storage of Firearms and Other Lethal or Non-lethal Weapons by federal, state, or

¹ The University recognizes that many common objects and materials are designed for use other than as a weapon but nevertheless may be used or modified for use as a weapon. In deciding whether a particular common object or material is a weapon under this Policy, the University will use reasoned judgment when considering, among other factors, the time, place and other circumstances surrounding the possession of the common object or tool, including the explanation for its possession or use and whether it has been modified or altered to make it a more effective weapon.

local law enforcement agency personnel and lawfully designated peace officers within the scope of their employment as authorized under Section 24-2 of the Illinois Criminal Code (which generally covers police, military, prison guards and security guards licensed to carry a Firearm) and other applicable law.

2. **Within Scope of University Employment or Work.** This Policy permits lawful possession, use and storage of Other Lethal and Non-Lethal Weapons, and Other Dangerous Objects or Materials to the extent such possession falls within the scope of a person's employment at the University. For example, this Policy does not prohibit the authorized possession, use and storage of radioactive materials in connection with laboratory research, or the authorized possession, use and storage of knives in connection with food preparation or consumption; or the authorized use, possession and storage of saws or shearing devices by Facilities Management employees or contractors.

3. **Part of Educational and University- Sanctioned Athletic Programs.** This Policy permits the lawful possession, use and storage of Other Lethal or Non-lethal Weapons in connection with regularly scheduled and University-authorized educational, recreational or training programs, where the weapon is required for or is a central part of the curriculum or activity (e.g., the use of foils in fencing classes).

4. **Public Ceremonies, Parades and Theatrical Performances.** This Policy permits the lawful possession, use and storage of imitation Firearms or Other Lethal or Non-lethal Weapons by participants in any University-sponsored public ceremony, parade, athletic program, ROTC training, Color Guard Ceremonies or theatrical performance (e.g., stage props), provided that previous permission has been obtained from University Police. To submit a request for authorization to possess or use prop or replica weapons on university property go to <http://tinyurl.com/propweapons>.

NOTE: Imitation Firearms and Other Lethal or Non-lethal Weapons should only be possessed, used and stored in settings where it is unlikely that their purpose would be misunderstood; also, easily identifiable toys, such as brightly colored or clear water guns, are excepted from this Policy. Possession of imitation or replica Firearms on University premises or at University activities or events are prohibited except as specifically authorized by University Police.

5. **Parking Lots and Non-University Vehicles.** This Policy permits a person in possession of a Firearm and a valid Illinois Concealed Carry License under the Illinois Firearm Concealed Carry Act to park a non-University owned or controlled vehicle he or she is driving or in which he or she is a passenger in any University owned, leased or occupied parking area or lot, but only if the Firearm and any associated ammunition are maintained, at all times, in a case within the locked vehicle or in a locked container out of plain view and within the vehicle. A "case" includes a glove compartment or console that completely encloses the Firearm and ammunition, the trunk of the vehicle, or a firearm carrying box, shipping box or other container. Also, the person may carry the concealed Firearm in the immediate area surrounding the vehicle within the parking lot, but only for the limited purpose of storing or retrieving it from the trunk and only if the person unloads the Firearm before exiting the vehicle.

Consequences of Violations of this Policy

If any faculty, staff or student of Northwestern, any person conducting business with Northwestern, or any individuals visiting the Northwestern University campus violates the terms of this Policy, disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with relevant disciplinary procedures contained in the relevant handbooks, policies, procedures, practices, or contracts. In addition, all violators may be subject to criminal charges as covered in the Illinois Firearm Concealed Carry Act and its enabling regulations as well as any other applicable criminal laws.

Forms/Instructions

N/A

Appendices

N/A

Related Information

N/A

History/Revision Dates

Origination Date: May 4, 2015

Last Amended Date: Month, Day, Year

Next Review Date: August 31, 2016