

ASU System Policy

Effective Date: 7/01/97; Revised 12/12/08; Revised 5/23/13; Revised 9/18/2015
Subject: Weapons

1. Purpose

The Arkansas State University System is dedicated to providing an educational and social climate which is conducive to the safety of all members of the university community. Acts of violence on university campuses have proven that weapons pose a serious threat to the safety of persons and property.

2. Arkansas State University System Weapons Policy

No person shall possess, discharge, or otherwise use any weapon at any campus, office, building, or event which is part of the Arkansas State University System. This prohibition extends to individuals having such weapons on their persons; in briefcases, purses, handbags, backpacks, or other carrying cases; in personal vehicles or storage boxes contained in or affixed to their personal vehicles; or among other personal property or effects. This policy expressly disallows the carrying of concealed handguns except as permitted by Act 1078 of 2015. Each System location shall post written notice of this prohibition. Exceptions to this prohibition are listed below.

3. Definitions

Weapons include, but are not limited to, firearms, (specifically including concealed handguns), explosive devices, hazardous chemicals, (other than pocket-sized sprays used for personal protection), knives with blades longer than four inches, nunchucks, brass knuckles, tasers or other electrical stun devices, bows or cross bows, arrows, objects that propel projectiles, replicas of weapons (including water or toy guns), or any device or substance designed to or used to inflict a wound, cause injury, or incapacitate.

4. Exceptions

These prohibitions do not apply:

- a. To an officer of an Arkansas State University Police Department who is regularly employed by a campus in the University System and who has been authorized by the Campus Chief of Police, or designee, to carry weapons as outlined in the applicable Police Policy.

- b. To an employee authorized by the Campus Chief of Police to possess or use such a device during the time when the employee is engaged in work for the university requiring such a device.
- c. When an individual uses or possesses a weapon in connection with an educational, recreational, or training program, or an activity authorized by the appropriate University Official and the Chief of Police and under the supervision of a university employee.
- d. During the time when the weapon is worn as part of a military or fraternal uniform in connection with a pre-approved public ceremony or parade.
- e. To non-university law enforcement officers of legally established law enforcement agencies who are required by their employer to carry their weapons at all times.
- f. To non-university law enforcement officers of legally established law enforcement agencies who are engaging in work on campus requiring a weapon as part of their official duties or who have obtained approval from the Campus Chief or designee to carry their weapon on campus.
- g. During a theatrical performance where a realistic replica of a weapon is used.
- h. To equipment, tools, devices and materials which are prescribed for use by authorized university employees as a condition of employment or class enrollment.
- i. To the use and possession of weapons for educational, instructional, and research activities under the supervision of appropriate faculty members.
- j. To weapons found in vehicles that are traveling through city maintained streets within campus proper.

The Campus Chief of Police, applicable Vice Chancellor, or their designees, may impose restrictions upon individuals who are otherwise authorized to possess or use weapons pursuant to this policy when it is determined such restrictions are appropriate under the circumstances.

5. Violations

Any student violating this policy shall be subject to sanction up to and including expulsion. Any employee violating this policy shall be subject to discipline through the process applicable to that employee up to and including discharge. Others violating this policy will be subject to prosecution under criminal laws and may be banned from Arkansas State University System campuses and events.

(Adopted by the Arkansas State University Board of Trustees on August 8, 1997, Resolution 97-23; Revised December 12, 2008, Resolution 08-80; Revised May 23, 2013, Resolution 13-11, Revised September 18, 2015, Resolution 15-35)