



BOV POLICY # 17 (2016) WEAPONS

Policy Title:	Weapons
Policy Type:	Board of Visitors
Policy No.:	BOV Policy # 17 (2016)
Approved Date:	XXXX XX, 2021
Responsible Office:	University Police
Responsible Executive:	Vice President of Finance and Administration
Applies to:	University Community

POLICY STATEMENT

The Norfolk State University Board of Visitors is authorized under the [Code of Virginia 23.1-1301](#) to, among other things, make regulations and policies concerning the institution. As such, the Board intends to promote a safe learning and working environment for the University community at all times and make every reasonable effort to prevent violence on campus.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to help further this safe environment for the University community and its invitees at all Norfolk State University locations by minimizing the risk of violence by use of a weapon. This policy provides rules and procedures for the possession of weapons on campus grounds, in campus buildings, off-campus University owned or leased property, at campus events and on University property. It is consistent with the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE NUMBER

Definitions	2
Contacts.....	3
Stakeholder(s)	3
Weapons: Policy Contents.....	3
Education and Compliance.....	4
Policy Violation/Compliance.....	4
Publication.....	6
Review Schedule.....	7
Related Documents.....	7
Forms.....	7



BOV POLICY # 17 (2016) WEAPONS

DEFINITIONS

Employees: any person employed by the University in any capacity whether permanent, temporary, full-time, part-time, adjunct, or contract, and as faculty or staff.

Explosives: as 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 result 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, pipe bombs, Molotov cocktails, grenades, etc. as well as detonating devices such as detonators, blasting caps, timers, incendiary wire and the like.

Firearms: as any device that can be used as a weapon, and that are designed to fire either single or multiple projectiles propelled at high velocity regardless of the type of propellant used. Firearms include, but not limited to any gun, rifle, air-gun, pistol, cannon, or handgun designed to fire bullets, BBs, pellets, balls, air, spears, flares, tranquilizers, darts, shots (including paintballs), or any other projectile, whether loaded or unloaded, and the ammunition for any such device.

Invitees: those who enter pursuant to the express or implied invitation of the owner or occupier.

In the **Code of Virginia**, the term "police officer" refers to law-enforcement officials and sworn federal officers appointed under specific chapters and sections. These include:

- **Local and Constitutional Officers:** Officials appointed pursuant to [Article 3 \(§ 15.2-1609 et seq.\) of Chapter 16](#), which covers Sheriffs and their deputies.
- **Local Police Forces:** Officers organized under [Chapter 17 \(§ 15.2-1700 et seq.\) of Title 15.2](#), including municipal and county police departments.
- **Campus Police:** Officers appointed under [Article 3 \(§ 23.1-809 et seq.\) of Chapter 8, Title 23.1](#), for public institutions of higher education.
- **Conservation Police:** Officers appointed under [Chapter 2 \(§ 29.1-200 et seq.\) of Title 29.1](#) to enforce wildlife, inland fish, and boating laws.
- **State Police:** Officers appointed under [Chapter 1 \(§ 52-1 et seq.\) of Title 52](#), which establishes the Department of State Police.
- **Federal Law Enforcement:** Sworn federal law-enforcement officers or agents.

Student: any person who is enrolled for classes through Norfolk State University, including full-time, part-time, for credit or non-credit, degree-seeking or non-degree seeking, who has the intent to pursue an education at Norfolk State University.

Transient Personnel: individuals who are not faculty, staff, or employees of Norfolk State



BOV POLICY # 17 (2016) WEAPONS

University, but who temporarily transact business on or at University property, University-controlled sites, or at University sponsored activities, services and programs.

Third Parties: those individuals who are not state employees or students, such as relatives, acquaintances, contractual workers, vendors, visitors, volunteers, customers, clients, or strangers.

Weapon: is defined as but not limited to any instrument of combat or any object that is used, designed to be used or intended to be used by the possessor to inflict death or bodily injury to any person, or for the purpose of threatening or intimidating any person with death or bodily injury. Examples of weapons include, but are not limited to, knives with fixed blades, pocket knives, dirks, switch-blades, butterfly knives, firearms, ammunition, explosives or other incendiary devices, box cutters, razors, broken bottles, metal knuckles, blackjacks, bows and arrows, billy clubs, night sticks, bludgeons, sling shots, machetes, hatchets, nun chukkas, foils, chains, swords, ice picks, stun weapons, acid and other corrosive chemicals.

University property and University-controlled sites: any location, either permanent or temporary, owned or leased by Norfolk State University or affiliated entities. This includes, but is not limited to, the buildings, grounds, and the surrounding perimeter, including parking lots, field locations, classrooms, residence halls, alternate work or class locations.

University-sponsored activities, services and programs: any events sponsored by the University either on or off campus. Such programs also include distance education sites and study abroad locations.

CONTACTS:

Norfolk State University Police Department officially interprets this policy. The Vice President for Finance and Administration is responsible for obtaining approval for any revisions as required by BOV Policy # 01 (2014) Creating and Maintaining Policies through the appropriate governance structures. Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Norfolk State University Police Department.

Norfolk State University Police Department telephone contacts:

Emergency Number: (757) 823-9000

Non-Emergency Number: (757) 823-8102

Anonymous Call Number: (757) 823-2148

STAKEHOLDERS:

University Community



BOV POLICY # 17 (2016) WEAPONS

WEAPONS POLICY:

Norfolk State University will make every reasonable effort to prevent violence on its campus and provide a safe and secure environment for its employees, students and visitors. In furtherance of this effort, Norfolk State University prohibits the unauthorized possession, carrying, maintaining, storage, control, brandishing, or use of firearms and weapons, or any reasonable facsimiles thereof by students, faculty, staff, transient personnel, invitees or any other third parties while on University property, on University-controlled sites, and at University-sponsored activities, services or programs, even if the owner has a valid permit for the weapon.

The prohibition includes the unauthorized storage of firearms and weapons in vehicles on campus and in residential halls, as well as all concealed weapons and unauthorized possession of realistic replicas of weapons. The possession, carrying, use and brandishing of a potentially-harmful object(s) in a situation where there is no reasonable use for it and/or when such object(s) is used to intimidate, cause death or serious bodily injury, or to threaten another with death or serious bodily injury are violations of this policy.

Examples include, but are not limited to, use of steak knives, butcher knives, tools, hammers, shovels and any other potentially harmful object or implement within this context.

EDUCATION AND COMPLIANCE:

All employees will be required to review and acknowledge receipt of this policy during orientation.

POLICY VIOLATION/COMPLIANCE:

Violators of this policy or regulations, rules or laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia applicable to weapons on campus are subject to immediate administrative action by the University, independent of and in addition to, any charges that the NSU Police Department or civil authorities may appropriately pursue, including criminal prosecution. Appropriate sanctions or disciplinary action may include but are not limited to suspension or termination of an employee, suspension or expulsion of a student.

If the violator is a licensee, invitee or visitor, authorization to remain on campus may be withdrawn, and he/she may be directed to leave the premises. Failure to leave or unauthorized return may subject the individual to applicable penalties under city, county, or state laws.

Faculty, staff, employees or students of Norfolk State University who are aware of any violation of this policy has an affirmative duty to report the violation immediately to the Norfolk State University Police Department. Any faculty, staff, employee or student found to be in violation of this policy may be subject to the appropriate disciplinary actions and procedures applicable to their status with the University. Unauthorized weapons on campus will be confiscated immediately.



BOV POLICY # 17 (2016) WEAPONS

Authorized Exceptions

Possession or carrying of any weapon by any person, except a police officer who is working in their official capacity or granted permission by the Chief of Police or designee, is prohibited on University property in academic buildings, administrative office buildings, clinics, laboratories, research facilities, student residence buildings, and dining facilities, or while attending sporting, entertainment, or educational events. Other exceptions may be requested with explicit authorization of the University, whether or not a federal or state license to possess that weapon has been issued to the possessor.

A request for an exception must be detailed and made in writing annually to the President, University's Chief of Police, and in the case of an employee or student, to the appropriate divisional vice president. Failure to receive authorization to possess or carry weapons on campus within the exceptions provided shall be a violation of this policy. The Chief of Police is directed to maintain a directory of individuals with explicit authorization to possess or carry weapons on campus and shall review the directory annually for compliance.

Authorized exceptions to the prohibition of weapons on campus include:

- (1) Law enforcement officers of the Norfolk State University Police Department or from other law enforcement agencies: are permitted to possess and use issued firearms or other weapons on campus. Sworn officers of other law enforcement agencies, to the extent they are legally permitted to possess weapons in the jurisdiction in which they are located, and has been mandated through federal or state reciprocity may do so on the premises of the University in such jurisdiction or may possess issued firearms on campus in coordination with granted acknowledgement by the Chief of Police of the Norfolk State University Police Department.
- (2) Employees may possess a firearm or weapon on campus if it is required as part of the employee's job duties and responsibilities with Norfolk State University, the Commonwealth of Virginia and/or are connected with the employee's training for those job duties with the Commonwealth of Virginia in coordination with granted acknowledgement by the Chief of Police of the Norfolk State University Police Department.
- (3) 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 of Police of the Norfolk State University Police Department.
- (4) Employees and students may possess and use appropriate tools, such as saws, knives, and other such implements for the performance of their job duties or schoolwork or for student recreational purposes as permitted and approved under the applicable Employee or Student Handbooks, and with granted acknowledgement by the Chief of Police of the Norfolk State University Police Department.



BOV POLICY # 17 (2016) WEAPONS

- (5) ROTC Students may utilize unloaded or blocked muzzle firearms if they are participating in ROTC and Honor Guards in which firearms are part of the training or a ceremony with granted acknowledgement by the Chief of Police of the Norfolk State University Police Department.
- (6) University-sanctioned groups, exhibits, events or classes in which a particular weapon(s) is a required part of the curriculum, activity or display, such as in a theatrical performance; martial arts class or clubs; historical activity or art exhibit, etc. Such use must have received prior written authorization by the Chief of Police of the Norfolk State University Police Department.
- (7) 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.
- (8) Military persons in the 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 with granted acknowledgement by the Chief of Police of the Norfolk State University Police Department.
- (9) Any other use or request for an exception require a detailed, written request and explicit approval from the President, Chief of Police, or respective divisional vice president. Such request shall not be unreasonably delayed or denied.

Persons Lawfully in Charge

In addition to university personnel responsible for the management or supervision of university property and activities, university law-enforcement officers are lawfully in charge of university property for purposes of forbidding entry upon or within or prohibiting remaining upon or within university property while possessing weapons or other devices, instruments, fireworks, explosives, or combustible chemicals in violation of this policy. University personnel or students who violate this policy also may be subject to disciplinary action. The provisions of this policy apply regardless of whether a person has a concealed weapon permit.

PUBLICATION

The policy will be published and distributed to the University community. To ensure timely publication and distribution thereof, the Responsible Office will make every effort to:

- Communicate the policy in writing, electronically or otherwise, to the University community within 14 days of Board approval;
- Submit the policy for inclusion in the online Policy Library within 14 days of Board approval;
- Post on the policy on the appropriate SharePoint and/or Website; and
- Educate and train all stakeholders and appropriate audiences on the policy's content, a necessary, failure to meet the publication requirements does not invalidate this policy.



BOV POLICY # 17 (2016) WEAPONS

REVIEW SCHEDULE

- Next Scheduled Review: March 2027
- Approved by, date: March 19, 2021
- Revision History: March 17, 2016; December 18, 2008; August 28, 2017; September 15, 2017; December 11, 2020, XXXX XX, 2026
- Supersedes: Policy #27:005 Weapons

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- [Weapons Regulation – Weapons on Campus - 8VAC110-10-10](#)
- [Norfolk State University Administrative and Professional Handbook](#)
- [Policy # 27-02 \(2021\) Code of Student Conduct](#)

FORMS

There are no forms associated with this policy.