

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY WEAPONS POLICY

Prohibition of Possession or Use of Weapons on University Premises: To prevent personal injury and to provide a safe environment in which Lehigh University community members may engage in study, research, work and otherwise conduct their activities, Lehigh University prohibits the possession or use of weapons on University premises (as defined below) and in connection with University operations as set forth in this policy. Lehigh University is a private institution and the University's property is private property. Accordingly, the University reserves the right to interpret, apply, and amend this policy as it deems appropriate and desirable in the pursuit of the stated objectives of this policy.

Application: This policy applies to all University faculty, staff, students, guests, visitors, vendors, and contractors while on University premises unless this policy provides an express exemption. This prohibition applies regardless of whether an individual has a valid weapon permit or license or is otherwise authorized by law to possess, carry, or use the weapon. Moreover, those with a concealed carry permit for a weapon are not permitted to bring such weapon onto University premises.

Weapons: This policy prohibits the use or possession on University premises of "weapons," which is defined as any kind of instrument designed and/or traditionally used to inflict or threaten bodily harm (or any facsimile thereof that a reasonable person could believe is a real weapon), including, but not limited to the following:

- Any device that shoots a bullet, pellet, flare, tranquilizer, spear, dart, or other projectile, whether loaded or unloaded, regardless of the propellant used, including those powered by CO₂, and ammunition, silencers or mufflers for any such device. This includes, but is not limited to, firearms, pistols, revolvers, rifles, shotguns, pellet guns, BB guns or stun guns;
- Tasers and other electroshock weapons;
- Swords, switchblades, daggers, razors with unguarded blades, and knives (except for lawful use in food preparation or consumption or in furtherance of the University's ordinary operations, such as facility maintenance, construction, education or research);
- Martial arts weapons and striking instruments (including clubs and metallic knuckles);
- Bow and arrow combinations and crossbows;

- Explosive and incendiary devices (including hand grenades, bombs, black powder, fireworks and detonating devices) and dangerous chemicals (except for lawful and authorized use in furtherance of the University's ordinary operations, such as education or research, in a laboratory setting); or
- Any other object legally controlled as a weapon or treated as a weapon under the laws of the jurisdiction in which the University premises is located.

This list is illustrative only, and not exhaustive.

The possession of non-lethal self-defense instruments, such as mace and pepper spray, is not prohibited. The use of non-lethal self-defense instruments is not prohibited for bona fide self-defense purposes; however, the reckless use of such devices may be considered a violation of this policy.

Prohibited Activities: This policy prohibits the "use and possession" of weapons, which is defined as using, threatening to use, possessing, storing, transferring, distributing, selling, and/or manufacturing any weapon. This includes the prohibition on 3D printing of any weapons or weapon components.

University Premises, Property, and Locations as to which this Policy Applies: This policy applies to all "University premises," which is defined as all University premises, campus, grounds, property (whether developed or undeveloped), buildings or facilities owned, leased, controlled or used by the University, University sponsored off-campus activities, and University owned, leased or controlled vehicles (whether on or off-campus). University premises includes any vehicle on University property, and undeveloped University land, whether or not signage appears regarding the University prohibition of weapons.

Exemptions to the General Prohibition

This policy does not apply to the following:

- Commissioned Lehigh University police officers, with respect to weapons used in the ordinary course of their official duties.
- Other commissioned law enforcement officers, with respect to weapons used in the ordinary course of their official duties, to the extent they are legally permitted to possess weapons in the jurisdiction in which the University premises are located. The exemption shall apply solely with respect to the University premises in such jurisdiction.

- Persons in the military in performance of their official duties, with respect to weapons used in the ordinary course of such duties, to the extent they are legally permitted to possess weapons in the jurisdiction in which the University premises are located. The exemption shall apply solely with respect to the University premises in such jurisdiction.
- 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.). The exemption shall apply solely with respect to the University premises in such jurisdiction.
- University sanctioned groups or events at which 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 express advance written authorization of the University by making written application to the Assistant Vice President of Campus Safety. If granted, such authorization shall be limited in scope, time, and place of the group, event, or activity.
- Any other person with the explicit advance written authorization of the University by making written application to the Assistant Vice President of Campus Safety. Such exemptions shall be granted only under highly unusual circumstances and shall be limited in scope, time, and place based upon the circumstances under which such exemption is granted.

Policy Violations; Reporting Violations of this Policy

Anyone in violation of this policy is subject to disciplinary action by the University up to and including expulsion (in the case of students) or termination or dismissal (in the case of employees). Weapons may be subject to immediate confiscation and relinquishment (i.e., confiscated weapons will not be returned) subject to applicable law. These consequences are in addition to any and all other remedies available to the University at law or in equity, including pursuing criminal or civil proceedings at the local, state, and/or federal levels.

Under **no circumstances** should anyone take any unnecessary risk or compromise their safety by confronting an individual who may be carrying loaded firearms or another deadly weapon. If you suspect an individual to be carrying a weapon in violation of this policy, do not confront the individual. Instead, contact the Lehigh University Police Department at 610-758-4200. If you become aware of an imminent violent act or threat of

an imminent violent act, immediately contact the Lehigh University Police Department at 610-758-4200.

To maintain a safe educational and work environment and prevent or investigate violations of this policy, the University reserves the right at all times to search or inspect the surroundings and possessions of individuals to whom this policy applies while they are on University premises. This right extends to the search or inspection of clothing, offices, dorms, desks, lockers, bags, briefcases, containers, packages, any University-owned/leased vehicles, and any vehicles parked on University premises. Refusal of a University community member to cooperate with or to allow such search or inspection may result in disciplinary action.

No Retaliation

The University prohibits any form of discipline, reprisal, intimidation, or retaliation for reporting violations of this policy, reporting incidents of workplace violence of any kind, or cooperating in related investigations.

The University is committed to enforcing this policy. However, the effectiveness of the University's efforts depends largely on community members reporting weapons on University premises. Community members who become aware of the use or possession of weapons in violation of this policy should contact the Lehigh University Police Department immediately at 610-758-4200. Otherwise, the University may not become aware of a possible violation of this policy and may not be able to take appropriate corrective action.

Approved by Board of Trustees

October 2023