

Policy Title: Policy on Firearms, Other Lethal Weapons, Fireworks and Dangerous Objects

Policy Summary: Prohibition Against Weapons

Policy Category: Safety, Health and Security

Policy Owner: Public Safety

Policy Summary

This policy prohibits the possession and use of weapons on property owned by Drake University, while providing limited exceptions appropriate with University operations.

Purpose

The University is committed to maintaining a safe and secure environment for students, faculty, staff and University guests, visitors, and contractors.

Scope

This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff and University guests, visitors, and contractors.

Definitions

"Explosives" means any combustible or incendiary capable of causing injury, including, but not limited to, fireworks, firecrackers, hand grenades, bombs, black powder, dynamite, plastic explosives or blasting caps.

"Executive Director of Public Safety" means the individual employed by the University responsible for leading the Department of Public Safety or that individual's designee.

"Firearm" means any device that shoots a bullet, pellet, flare, tranquilizer, spear, dart, or other projectile, whether loaded or unloaded, including those powered by CO₂. This includes, but is not limited to, guns, air guns, dart guns, pistols, revolvers, rifles, shot guns, cannons and any ammunition for such devices.

"Possession" means that the person has actual physical control of the weapon because it is on or in the immediate reach of the person, in an item of personal property belonging to the person (e.g., backpack, briefcase or handbag) or in a locker or other space individually assigned to the person. Possession also means that the person knows or should know of the presence of a weapon within a vehicle which the person owns or operates, and that the person has the ability or right, either alone or with any other person, to maintain control of the weapon.

"University Property" means all University property, whether owned, leased or controlled by the University, including, but not limited to, buildings, grounds, and University owned vehicles.

"Weapon" means any device or replica of a device that is designed or traditionally used to inflict physical harm. This includes but is not limited to firearms; explosives; slingshots; any knife with a blade exceeding five inches in length and any switchblade, dagger, or hunting knife; bows and arrows; tasers; and stun guns. This definition includes any object that could be reasonably

construed as a weapon or that is intended to be used to inflict bodily injury. Small dispensers of mace or pepper spray designed solely for personal defense are excluded from the definition of weapons under this policy.

Policy

No person may possess a weapon on University property except for authorized exceptions listed below.

Authorized Exceptions

Exceptions to the prohibition of the possession of weapons on University property are:

1. Sworn law enforcement officers or authorized military personnel in performance of their official duties.
2. Security personnel registered to carry firearms who are working in the course and scope of their employment and with the prior written approval of the Executive Director of Public Safety (e.g., employees of armored car services that collect or transport cash, checks or other valuables).
3. Individuals retained or approved by the University to offer a service, performance or activity where a weapon is required as part of the activity and who possess the prior written approval of the Executive Director of Public Safety (e.g., approved fireworks displays, the use of replicas in theatrical performances, ROTC exercises, etc.).

Requests for approval under exceptions 2 and 3 above must be made to the Executive Director of Public Safety in writing at least ten (10) business days prior to the applicable date of use. Once approved, a record of the approved exception will be maintained in the Office of Public Safety and made available to those with an operational need to know.

Notification

Anyone who observes an individual possessing, displaying, manufacturing, transferring, selling, or using a weapon and who reasonably believes that the individual has not been specifically authorized by the University to do such should immediately contact the Department of Public Safety. Law enforcement should also be contacted if concern exists regarding physical harm from the weapon(s).

Removal and Penalty

Individuals violating this policy may be asked to immediately remove the weapon from University property. As with the violation of any University policy, violations of this policy may result in disciplinary measures for employees or students, and prohibitions on entering University property for third parties. Violations may also be referred to federal, state, and/or local authorities, as appropriate.

Last Review Date: January 2023

Effective Date: January 2023