

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY



Prohibition of Weapons

Category: Operations

Responsible Department: Public Safety

Responsible Officer: Vice President for Facilities

Effective Date: 8/31/2016

Policy Summary

This policy bans weapons from University property and University-sponsored events. The policy describes limited exceptions for this prohibition on weapons and outlines the process for reporting weapons violations, as well as resulting disciplinary procedures.

Scope

This policy affects the following groups of the University:

- Entire University Community

This policy affects all members of the University Community.

Policy

DePaul University seeks to maintain a safe and secure environment for its employees, students, and visitors and to protect participants in the University's educational, service, and extra-curricular activities. This policy is intended to reduce the risk of injury associated with the intentional or accidental use of weapons. The University complies with applicable state and federal statutes and local ordinances regarding the possession of firearms or other dangerous weapons, including the Illinois Firearm Concealed Carry Act, 430 ILCS 66.

Subject to these laws, DePaul University prohibits the use, display, possession, or storage of weapons, or assistance thereof, on all University property and at all University-sponsored events, whether on- or off-campus. This prohibition applies to all University faculty, staff, students, visitors, guests, and contractors, regardless of whether the individual has been issued a state or federal permit to possess or carry a weapon. For purposes of this policy, University property consists of all University owned, leased, and/or controlled property, including University owned, rented, or leased vehicles and personal vehicles while they are being used in the course of University business (as defined in the [University Driver, Vehicle and Travel Safety](#) policy).

Definition of Weapons

Weapons are defined as equipment, material, or devices that could ordinarily result in or are readily capable of causing serious bodily injury. These include, but are not limited to, firearms, knives, bows and arrows, clubs, ammunition, explosive devices, fireworks, flammable liquids, taser guns, stun guns, imitation firearms, other objects that can be reasonably construed or used as weapons, and items that pose a potential significant safety hazard to others. These also include any deadly or dangerous weapons as defined by Illinois law. Small dispensers of mace or pepper spray designed solely for personal defense shall not be deemed to be weapons for purposes of this policy.

Public Safety will be responsible for determining whether an object is a weapon under this policy. The University recognizes that many common objects and tools are designed for uses other than as a weapon but may be used or may be modified for use as a weapon. In determining whether a particular common object or tool is a weapon under this policy, Public Safety will consider the time, place, and other circumstances surrounding the possession of the common object, including the explanation for its possession and whether the object has been modified or otherwise altered to make it more threatening.

Exceptions

The University's prohibition on weapons does not apply to the following:

- Any federal, state, or local law enforcement officer performing his or her official duties.
- University-sanctioned programs, groups or events where real or imitation weapons are a required part of the curriculum or activity (e.g. theatrical productions, etc.), provided that the activity's sponsor has received prior written approval from the Director of Public Safety or designee.

Other extraordinary circumstances to be approved in writing by the Director of Public Safety.

Procedures

Reporting Procedures

A student, faculty, or staff member who knows or has a reasonable belief that any person is in violation of this policy should promptly report the incident to a supervisor or to Public Safety. Supervisors receiving reports of violations should contact Public Safety immediately. However, in an emergency or crisis situation, contact 911 for police assistance first and then report the incident to Public Safety. Incidents will be investigated as appropriate, as outlined in University policies including the University's [Threat Assessment and Reporting Policy](#).

Disciplinary Procedures

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary measures, be referred to federal, state, and/or local authorities, or be otherwise addressed as appropriate. Employees found in violation of the policy may be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the Faculty Handbook and Progressive Discipline policy, up to and including termination, and may face criminal or civil sanctions. Students found in violation of the policy may be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the Code of Student Responsibility, up to and including dismissal, and may face criminal or civil sanctions.

Visitors, guests, and other members of the public found in violation of the policy may be removed from University property and/or University-sponsored events and may be subject to all applicable legal penalties, including criminal trespass and violation of the Illinois Firearm Concealed Carry Act, 430 ILCS 66. Finally, any weapon in violation of this policy may be confiscated.

Divisional Collaborations

Facility Operations
Office of Academic Affairs
Office of Human Resources
Office of Student Affairs

Contact Information

Public Safety

Robert Wachowski, Director, Public Safety
<https://publicsafety.depaul.edu/index.asp>
bwachows@depaul.edu
(773) 325-7762

Appendices

None.

History/Revisions

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