



NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Firearms or Other Weapons Strictly Prohibited on Campus

Weapons Policy Applies To

All students and faculty and staff members of Nova Southeastern University (NSU) or (university), as well as individuals visiting or conducting business on university property.

For purposes of this policy, university property includes any facility that is owned, leased, or operated by the university. Examples of university property include, but are not limited to, any NSU campuses, NSU's Regional campuses, university housing, university parking areas, and university owned vehicles. This policy also applies to university sponsored or supervised events, whether conducted on or off campus. Examples of such events include graduation ceremonies, receptions, meetings, conferences, and seminars.

Purpose

Nova Southeastern University prohibits the possession and control of weapons, firearms, and dangerous devices, except as provided in the following paragraphs. Weapons are potential safety hazards, threaten to interfere with the teaching and learning process, and are incompatible with the objective of preventing violence. Accordingly, the purpose of this policy is to ensure a safe and secure university environment. NSU is committed to providing an environment that is violence free.

Definitions

Weapons: For the purpose of this policy, the term "weapon" or "weapons" means any object, device, or instrument that is designed as a weapon; or through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily harm; or which may be used to inflict self-injury including, but not limited to,

1. any firearm as that term is defined below
2. ammunition for any firearm
3. any object or device which propels or shoots, or that is capable of propelling or shooting, a projectile that could cause bodily harm including, but not limited to, BB guns, pellet guns, air rifles, paintball guns, tear gas launchers, sling shots, dart guns, flare guns, blow guns, spear guns, slings, bows and/or arrows, and/or crossbows, except those instruments and equipment utilized in NCAA-authorized sporting events
4. any throwing device that could cause bodily harm and is normally intended for such purpose, including, but not limited to, spears, throwing sticks, clubs, maces, throwing knives, and throwing stars
5. destructive or incendiary devices and their accelerants, fuses, igniters, blasting caps and/or timing devices, including, but not limited to, gun powder, explosives, bombs, improvised

explosive devices, pipe bombs, letter bombs, gas bombs, plastic explosives, chemical explosives, detonators, fireworks, flash-bang devices, grenades, mines, rockets and/or missiles (and any plans or diagrams for the construction of any of the above devices)

6. poisons, chemicals, acids, and toxins—except those marketed for nonviolent and nonthreatening purposes and are being used for nonviolent and nonthreatening purposes, or those that are being used in laboratory or coursework (mace and tear gas are prohibited under this section; chemical sprays such as pepper spray, of not more than two ounces, may be used for personal self-defense to the extent permissible by law)
7. edged or piercing blades such as knives; swords; axes; sword canes; dirks; daggers; switchblades; or any other piercing, slashing, cutting, or bladed instrument greater than three (3) inches in length (excluding ordinary pocket knives or plastic knives, blunt-bladed table knives, or kitchen knives in designated food-preparation areas)
8. blunt or striking instruments such as nightsticks, batons, clubs, fighting sticks, staves, and brass knuckles, as well as all traditional martial arts weapons (such as, but not limited to, sais, kamas, nunchaku, swords, and tonfa), except those instruments and equipment utilized in NCAA-authorized sporting events
9. stunning or immobilizing devices such as Tasers, electronic conductive devices (whether contact or dart firing), tear gas, nerve gas, and biological or chemical agents
10. slashing or lashing instruments such as, but not limited to, whips
11. traps and spring guns
12. replicas, toys, models, miniaturized, or ceremonial versions of any of the above, when exhibited or used for the purpose of intimidating or causing fear of violence in another person

Firearm: For the purpose of this policy, the term "firearm" means any weapon that will, is designed, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; and any firearm muffler or firearm silencer. Examples of firearms include, but are not limited to, handguns, machine guns, pistols, revolvers, rifles, shotguns, or other firearms of any nature.

Law Enforcement Officials: For the purpose of this policy, the term "law enforcement officials" means

1. all officers or employees of the United States or the state of Florida, or any agency, commission, department, board, division, county, city, town, municipality or subdivision thereof who have authority to make arrests

2. officers or employees of the United States or the state of Florida, or any agency, commission, department, board, division, county, city, town, municipality or subdivision thereof, special district, or other governmental authorities licensed and authorized as a condition of employment to carry a concealed weapon
3. members of the Armed Forces of the United States, the organized reserves, state militia, state defense force, or Florida National Guard when on duty; preparing themselves for, going to, or coming from military duty; or under orders
4. an employee of the state prisons or correctional systems who has been so designated by the Department of Corrections
5. all state attorneys and United States attorneys and their respective assistants and investigators licensed and authorized as a condition of employment to carry a concealed weapon

Florida State Statutes

Section 790.25(5), Florida Statutes, authorizes people 18 years of age or older to possess a concealed firearm or other weapon in a private conveyance for self-defense if the weapon is securely encased and not readily accessible for immediate use. Section 790.115(2) (a), Florida Statutes prohibits possessing weapons or firearms on school property. Although Section 790.115(2)(a)3, Florida Statutes, provides that a person may carry a firearm in a vehicle pursuant to Statute 790.25(5), it provides that schools may provide policies prohibiting this exception.

Nova Southeastern University is a "school," as defined under Section 790.115(2)(a), Florida Statutes. This policy is intended to prohibit the exception for carrying firearms in a vehicle on university property pursuant to Sections 790.115(2)(a) and 790.25(5), Florida Statutes.

Policy

1. Except as expressly provided herein, it is strictly prohibited for any Nova Southeastern University student, staff member, faculty member, or any individual visiting or conducting business on university property or at a university sponsored or supervised event to knowingly, intentionally, deliberately, or inadvertently introduce, possess, store, use, purchase, sell, or exchange any weapon, as defined herein, while on any university property or at any university sponsored or supervised event. This prohibition includes weapons stored on one's person; in a motor vehicle; or in an office, residential hall, or any building on university property.
2. This policy does not prohibit
 - a. weapons carried by law enforcement officials or other state or federal agents authorized by their governmental agency to carry weapons
 - b. legitimate work tools required to complete work on campus

3. The director of Public Safety may grant exceptions to this policy to allow an individual to possess a weapon for the conducting of university-approved academic programs or training exercises or other university-approved activities or practices and in other special circumstances (e.g., ROTC, starter guns utilized at swim meets or other university-sanctioned activities or events, marksmanship competitions, etc.). An exception may only be granted with the express written permission of the president of Nova Southeastern University. Any request for an exception to this policy must have sufficient detail to fully describe the purpose or objective of having a weapon on university property or at a university sponsored or supervised event, the time period during which the weapon will be on university property or at a university sponsored or supervised event, what use will be made of the weapon while on university property or at a university sponsored or supervised event, and where and for how long the weapon will be stored. Any exception granted by the director of Public Safety must be in writing, shall specify any limitations on use and possession of the weapon, and must address the issue of storage of the weapon. The written exception must be approved by the NSU president prior to its issuance by the director of Public Safety.

4. Any violation of this policy is a serious offense. Any violation of this policy by any individual is considered serious misconduct and may subject the violator to penalties including, but not limited to, discipline up to and including termination under this and any other applicable NSU policy or adjudication of the violation according to the NSU Student Handbook. This may result in discipline up to and including dismissal from the university; eviction from the property or event; notification of local law enforcement officials for police response and action; or issuance of a written directive from the Public Safety Office barring future access to or entry upon university property or at a university sponsored or supervised event.

Any person who becomes aware of a violation of this policy must notify the Office of Public Safety immediately. Failure to notify the Office of Public Safety of a violation of this policy constitutes misconduct and may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion in the case of a student, termination in the case of an employee, and eviction from university property or a university sponsored or supervised event in the case of a person visiting or conducting business on university property or at a university sponsored or supervised event, as well as notification of local law enforcement for police response and action. Additionally, in the case of an individual visiting or conducting business on university property or at a university sponsored or supervised event, that individual may be issued a written directive from the Public Safety Office barring future access to or entry upon university property or at a university sponsored or supervised event.