



## 27:005 Weapons Policy

**Responsible Executive:** Vice President for Student Affairs  
**Responsible Office:** Office of Student Services/Judicial Affairs  
**Related Policy:**  
**Approved-On Date:** December 5, 2008 General Counsel  
December 8, 2008 Executive Cabinet  
December 12, 2008 Board of Visitors  
**Effective Date:**  
**Revision Date:**

### Policy Statement

It is Norfolk State University's intent to make every reasonable effort to prevent violence on campus and to 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, as defined in this Policy, 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 that weapon. This prohibition includes the unauthorized storage of firearms and weapons in vehicles on campus and in residence halls. This policy prohibits all concealed weapons. The unauthorized possession of realistic replicas of weapons is prohibited. 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 will be considered a violation of this policy.

A safe and secure environment is essential to effective learning, teaching, research, and service on any university campus. A person who violates this Weapons Policy will be subject to immediate administrative action by the University, independent of and in addition to, any appropriate charges that the criminal or civil authorities may pursue.

Norfolk State University is governed by its Board of Visitors and supported by the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Office of the Attorney General has advised that colleges and universities have the authority to institute policies regarding firearms and weapons with respect to students, faculty, administration, and employees; and that invitees are subject to the conditions that are set out by the Institution.

## Definitions

- **Firearms** are defined 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.
- A **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. The unauthorized possession of realistic replicas of weapons is prohibited. 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 will be considered a violation of this policy. Examples include, but are not limited to, steak knives, butcher knives, tools, hammers, shovels and any other potentially harmful object or implement.
- **Explosives** are defined 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.
- A **Student** is 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.
- **Faculty, staff, and employees** are any persons employed by the University in any capacity whether permanent, temporary, full-time, part-time, adjunct, or contract.
- **Invitees** are those who enter pursuant to the express or implied invitation of the owner or occupier.

- **Transient Personnel** are individuals who are not faculty, staff, or employees of Norfolk State University, but who temporarily transact business on or at University property, University-controlled sites, or at University sponsored activities, services and programs.
- **Third Parties** are those individuals who are not state employees or students, such as relatives, acquaintances, contractual workers, vendors, visitors, volunteers, customers, clients, or strangers.
- **University property** and **University-controlled sites** are any location, either permanent or temporary, owned or leased by Norfolk State University. 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** are any events sponsored by the University either on or off campus. Such programs also include distance education sites and study abroad locations.

## Procedures

Violation of this Weapons Policy is serious. Any party found in violation of this policy may be subject to appropriate sanctions or disciplinary action, including suspension or termination of an employee, or suspension or expulsion of a student.

1. Any faculty, staff, employee or student of Norfolk State University who becomes aware of any violation of this Weapons Policy has an affirmative duty to report the violation immediately to the Norfolk State University Police Department.
2. Any faculty, staff, employee or student found in violation of this policy may be subject to the appropriate disciplinary policies and procedures applicable to their status with the University. Sanctions for a violation may include suspension or termination of a faculty member, staff member or employee, and suspension or expulsion from the University for a student.
3. If anyone is found in violation of this policy, the unauthorized weapon will be confiscated immediately.
4. Any person found in violation of this policy may be subject to the appropriate criminal prosecution by the appropriate jurisdiction, independent of and in addition to any disciplinary action taken by the University.
5. Any questions as to the applicability of this policy to a specific item(s) may be directed to the Chief of the Norfolk State University Police Department.

## **Authorized Exceptions to the Prohibition on Possession of Firearms and Weapons**

It is prohibited to possess firearms and weapons on the premises of Norfolk State University without the explicit authorization of the University, whether or not a federal or state license to possess that weapon has been issued to the possessor. The following are the only exceptions to this policy:

1. Sworn officers of the Norfolk State University Police Department 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 the Norfolk State University Police Department.
2. An Employee may possess a firearm or weapon on campus if it is required as part of the Employee's job duties with the Commonwealth of Virginia and/or connected with the Employee's training for those job duties with the Commonwealth of Virginia, in coordination with granted acknowledgement by the Chief of the Norfolk State University Police Department.
3. Students may utilize unloaded/blocked muzzle firearms if they are participating in ROTC and honor guards in which firearms are part of the training or ceremony.
4. University sanctioned groups, exhibits, events or classes in which a particular weapon(s) is a required part of the curriculum, activity or display, i.e. theatrical performances; martial arts classes/clubs; historical/art exhibits, etc. Such use must have received the prior written authorization by the Chief of the Norfolk State University Police Department.
5. 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 approved under the University Policies in the Student Handbook.
6. 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;
7. Persons in the military in 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 in such jurisdiction; and
8. 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, University Police Department.

9. Other exceptions must be approved by the Chief of the Norfolk State University Police, in consultation with the appropriate University officials. Requests for such exceptions must be detailed and made in writing.

Anyone possessing a weapon other than those in the exception categories referenced above (i) will be asked to remove the weapon(s) from the campus immediately; and (ii) may be subject to arrest and/or disciplinary action as described above.

**Contacts:**

<b>Contact</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
University Police	(757) 823-8102
Human Resources	(757) 823-8160
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