



Policy PO001: Weapons, Firearms and Dangerous Devices on Campus

Recommended for Approval by:

Susanne Fenske

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Senior Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Student
Affairs

Approved by:

Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson

Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson, President

Effective Date: 07/01/2022

A. Intent

The President of PennWest University of Pennsylvania and the Chancellor of the State System of Higher Education under the guise of Act 188 of 1982 are responsible to provide a safe and secure educational environment and are authorized to establish policies governing the use of University facilities and property. In addition, PennWest University, under the "Rights and Responsibilities" has defined that the students and the University has the responsibility to ensure the safety and security of others; and thus this policy is to address and regulate the possession of deadly weapons on the campus of PennWest University of Pennsylvania. This policy applies to all persons who are enrolled, employed by, visiting or providing services to any portion of the campus or grounds of the University.

B. Definition(s)

For the purpose of this policy, a weapon includes (but not limited to) fireworks; a paintball, air soft, and/or BB gun; explosives; any item designed and/or used in a way to threaten, inflict bodily harm, and/or physical damage; and (i) a firearm and/or (ii) firearm ammunition.

C. Policy

The possession of carrying of any weapon by any person is prohibited in University academic buildings, administrative buildings, student residence buildings, dining facilities, or while attending a sporting, entertainment, recreational or educational event on the University's property. Entry upon University property in violation of this prohibition is expressly forbidden and will result in the individual(s) being directed to remove the weapon immediately from University property; or to have the weapon securely stored at the University Police station, per the procedures of **Handling and**

Storage of Firearms Policy. Failure to comply with this directive may result in further disciplinary actions for students in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct or employees.

Authorized Exceptions: Certified, Commissioned and Sworn Police Officers employed by this University Police Department or other State System University Police Departments on official business; or sworn and certified municipal, county, state or federal police officers, probation and parole officers who carry proper identification are exempt from this policy.

Notification of Use of Replica or Prop Weapons: Due to an inherent risk of being misidentified as a real weapon capable of causing serious bodily injury or death, any item which looks like a firearm, knife, or other weapon must be reported to the University Police Department prior to use in any activity. Examples of such activities include official ROTC military exercises, color guard, intercollegiate athletics, class room instruction or presentations, dramatic plays and similar artistic events. The retention and storage of realistic looking or replica style weapons in student resident hall is prohibited and shall be construed as a violation of University Policy and may result in disciplinary action. Replica and Prop weapons that are used for ROTC military exercises, color guard activities, intercollegiate athletics, class room instruction or presentations or dramatic plays and similar artistic events may be stored in convenient locations for the particular event, department or activity provided that each can be accounted for and are not left in unsecured areas in a manner that would permit them to be readily available to any unauthorized person.

D. Procedure(s)

N/A

E. Related policies

Student Code of Conduct

Handling and Storage of Firearms Policy

F. Contact Information

PennWest University Police California: (724) 938-4299

PennWest University Police Clarion: (814) 393-2111

PennWest University Police Edinboro: (814) 732-2921

G. Policy Review Schedule

Contact office responsible for dates

All policies will be reviewed every two years or on an as needed basis if a change in BOG, PASSHE or Pennsylvania law would create the need for an immediate change.