

Oklahoma State University Policy and Procedures

WEAPONS, FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, FIREWORKS, EXPLOSIVES, AND DANGEROUS CHEMICALS

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PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1.01 Students, faculty, and staff at Oklahoma State University (OSU) can best learn, work, and live in an environment free from dangers and constraints, both physical and psychological, which can arise from unauthorized weapons, firearms, ammunition, fireworks, explosives, and dangerous chemicals on the campus. Similar items used for decorative purposes or rendered inoperable are included in this policy.

DEFINITIONS

2.01 **Campus** includes real property, buildings, other structures, or improvements owned or controlled by Oklahoma State University.

2.02 **Firearm** means any device capable of discharging a projectile by gunpowder, gas, or other means of propulsion. By way of example and without limitation, firearms shall include shotguns, rifles, handguns, pellet guns, BB guns, flare guns, Airsoft-type guns, and other similar devices, loaded or unloaded.

2.03 **Weapon** means any object with the potential to inflict injury or harm if used in a threatening, aggressive, or careless manner. By way of example and without limitation, weapons shall include firearms, archery equipment, slingshots, martial arts devices, clubs, blackjacks, loaded canes, batons, hand chains, metal knuckles, swords, cane swords, bayonets, daggers, bowie knives, dirk knives, switchblade knives, spring-type knives, knives having a blade which opens automatically by hand pressure applied to a spring, button, or other device in the handle of the knife. Weapons do not include devices used solely for defensive purposes such as tasers, pepper spray, mace, electronic control devices, small pocket or kitchen knives, and other similar devices.

2.04 **Fireworks** means any combustible or explosive composition, or any substance or combination of substances, or article, prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or an audible effect by combustion, explosion, or detonation. By way of example and without limitation, fireworks shall include firecrackers, torpedoes, skyrockets, roman candles, and other similar devices, whether commercially produced or homemade.

2.05 **Ammunition** means any device containing gunpowder, or any other substance designed to propel a projectile, intended for use in a firearm.

2.06 **Explosives and dangerous chemicals** means any substance whose chemical properties make them inherently dangerous. By way of example and without limitation, explosives and dangerous chemicals shall include dynamite, blasting caps, plastic explosives, detonation cord, gunpowder, flammable liquids and solvents such as gasoline, kerosene, and propane, and any other combination of compounds/chemicals designed to produce an explosive effect. Nothing contained

in this policy shall be deemed to prohibit the use of chemicals in the normal conduct of classes, facilities maintenance functions, or operation of equipment or motor vehicles.

2.07 **Certified police or peace officer** includes those persons employed by municipal, county, state, or national agencies who comply with the statutory requirements for certification as a police or peace officer.

POLICY

3.01 Except as expressly provided in this policy, no person is allowed to possess, display, or use firearms, weapons, ammunition, fireworks, explosives or dangerous chemicals on campus at any time.

PROCEDURES AND EXCEPTIONS

4.01 Police and peace officers employed by OSU and those who have been called by OSU to assist or perform law enforcement duties on campus may possess or use firearms, ammunition, or weapons in a manner consistent with professional standards which prevail in the State of Oklahoma.

4.02 Police and peace officers, who, in their official on-duty capacities and in the performance of their duties find it necessary to come on campus, may possess firearms.

4.03 Police and peace officers who have been invited to demonstrate or lecture to a class may carry a firearm, ammunition, or weapon on campus. OSU employees responsible for extending these invitations should advise the OSU Police Department concerning these visits.

4.04 With the exception of OSU police officers, police and peace officers who are students shall not be permitted to possess or display firearms, ammunition, or weapons in class, but may store these items at the OSU Police Department designated area or in other appropriate areas approved by the institution's President.

4.05 Certain classes and activities, both on campus and off, involve the use of firearms, ammunition, dangerous chemicals, or fireworks. Authorization and conditions for these classes and activities and other appropriate exceptions will be given by the institution's President.

4.06 When archery, shooting sports, or hunting is allowed on campus, persons with express written permission will be allowed to possess appropriate weapons for the activity.

4.07 Except as specified above, all exemptions to this policy must be approved by the institution's President.

4.08 Individuals may possess or store a firearm on any property set aside for the use of parking of a vehicle, whether attended or unattended, provided the firearm is carried or stored as required by law and the firearm is not removed from the vehicle without the prior consent of the institution's President while the vehicle is on any college or University property.

Approved:
Board of Regents, April 1990
E-Team, January 2020
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