



National University of Health Sciences General Policies

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Date Adopted: 11/09/15	Date(s) Revised:			
President 	Date			

Policy Statement

National University of Health Sciences (NUHS) is committed to maintaining a safe educational and workplace environment that is free of violence. The University recognizes the existence of extensive state and federal legislation and constitutional provisions pertaining to the rights and obligations of citizens who own or possess firearms, including statutes addressing the right to carry, store, and transport firearms on one's person and within motor vehicles.

Pursuant to legislation (the 2013 *Illinois Firearm Concealed Carry Act (430 ILCS 66 et seq.)*, 790.33 of the *Florida Statutes and Article I., Section 8 of the Florida Constitution*) authorizing public and private universities to promulgate policy regulating the use of weapons on campuses, and in the furtherance of our commitment to maintain a sensitive enclave where people can congregate safely within a learning environment that is free of violence, NUHS establishes this policy to set forth restrictions on the possession, storage, and/or concealed carry of firearms and weapons on University property as defined below.

Definitions

Concealed firearm – means loaded or unloaded handgun (any device which is designed to expel a projectile or projectiles by the action of an explosion, expansion of gas, or escape of gas that is designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand) carried on or about a person completely or mostly concealed from view of the public or on or about a person within a vehicle.

Restricted University property – Any building, classroom, laboratory, medical clinic, hospital, artistic venue, athletic venue, entertainment venue, officially recognized university-related organization property, whether owned, leased, or controlled by the University, and/or where University programs, activities and classes are held. This includes but is not limited to any University owned or leased vehicles, real property, including parking areas, sidewalks, any buildings and common areas owned, leased, or under control of the University at its site in Illinois or Florida. (NOTE: This definition includes on-campus University housing.)

Procedures

NUHS is authorized by law to restrict the right to carry, store, and transport weapons & firearms on one's person and within motor vehicles on University property. State and federal legislation identifies the primary place of storage for a weapon or firearm and its ammunition, as "locked in a case out of plain view within a locked vehicle that is parked in an unrestricted parking area."

NUHS does ***not*** provide on-site storage services for owners of weapons or firearms who arrive on campus (Illinois or Florida) without the ability to secure their weapon or firearm out of plain view within a locked motor vehicle on campus. Any person found to have knowingly carried a weapon or firearm onto NUHS restricted property, or found to be carrying a weapon or firearm under circumstances in which the individual should have known that he or she was in possession of a weapon or firearm, may be subject to administrative action by NUHS or result in referral to external law enforcement agencies.

This policy applies to all University employees (faculty and staff), students, vendors conducting business with the University and visitors. All persons covered by this policy, unless authorized by law or a specific exception in this policy, are prohibited:

1. From possessing, storing, carrying, or unlawfully using any weapon or firearm on restricted University property (including on-campus University housing) or in any vehicle owned, leased or controlled by the University, even if that person has a valid federal or state license to possess or carry a firearm.
2. From displaying, brandishing, discharging or otherwise using any and all weapons or firearms, including concealed weapons or firearms on restricted University property.

Exceptions

The carrying or use of a firearm will be permitted in the following circumstances:

1. The firearm is carried by an on-duty law enforcement officer required to carry a weapon or firearm as a condition of his or her employment; the firearm is carried by an enforcement officer from an external agency conducting official business on University property; or
2. A concealed firearm may be stored within a personally owned vehicle on University property only if all of the following conditions are met:
 - **In Illinois:** the individual must have a valid concealed-carry license,
 - **In Florida:** the individual may do so *without a license*; and
 - The firearm and its ammunition must be concealed in a locked case within a locked vehicle ("case" includes a glove compartment or console that completely encloses the firearm or ammunition, the trunk of the vehicle, or a firearm carrying box, shipping box, or other container) OR within a locked container out of plain view within a locked vehicle; and

- If the person removes the concealed firearm from the vehicle, it must first be unloaded inside the vehicle, and it may only be removed for the limited purpose of storing or retrieving it from the trunk of the vehicle.
3. **Florida site only:** a firearm in the possession of a student or instructor while actively involved as a student or instructor at the Allstate Campus or persons actively utilizing the Allstate Campus' indoor firing range, but only while actively involved in these two activities or directly and immediately going to or coming from those activities. All such firearms (except those in the possession of a law enforcement officer) must be completely unloaded, with any magazine removed, until the student or instructor arrives at the Allstate Campus, and before leaving the Allstate Campus to go to a parked automobile or to leave campus.

Prohibited Activities

National University of Health Sciences is committed to a safe and secure environment for all employees, students, and visitors. Conduct that threatens the health or safety of any person, or creates a reasonable fear that such a result will occur, including but not limited to: acts of violence, threats of violence, threatening behavior, reckless disregard for the health or safety of any person, and/or possession of weapons(s) on restricted University property without proper written authorization or within a specific exception in this policy are not acceptable conduct at National University of Health Sciences and will not be tolerated.

Prohibited Weapons

All weapons, including but not limited to a concealed firearm/handgun are prohibited on any restricted University property unless all provisions of a firearms exception above are met, or the weapon is authorized for use by an employee in the ordinary course of employment (e.g. an on-duty law enforcement officer).

Prohibited weapons include but are not limited to:

1. Firearm, Handgun, Firearm ammunition, BB gun, pellet gun, paintball gun, tear gas gun, stun, taser, or other dangerous or deadly device of similar type; (*In Florida, a registered student who is licensed to carry a concealed weapon may carry a stun gun or nonlethal electric weapon or device designed solely for defensive purposes if the weapon does not fire a dart or projectile*);
2. Knife with a blade of at least 3 inches in length (except an ordinary eating utensil), dagger, dirk, switchblade knife, stiletto, ax, hatchet, or other deadly or dangerous weapon or instrument of similar type;
3. Bludgeon, blackjack, slingshot, sandbag, sand club, metal knuckles, billy-club, throwing star, nunchaku, or other dangerous or deadly weapon of similar type;

4. Bomb, bombshell, grenade, firework, bottle, or other container containing an explosive, toxic, or noxious substance, unless under academic/classroom supervision, (other than an object containing a nonlethal noxious liquid, gas, or substance designed solely for personal defense possessed by a person 18 years of age or older);
5. Souvenir weapon or other weapon that has been rendered permanently inoperative.

Enforcement

Any **student** found to have knowingly carried a weapon or firearm onto NUHS restricted property, or found to be carrying a weapon under circumstances in which the student should have known that he or she was in possession of a weapon or firearm, may be subject to discipline up to and including, but not limited to, expulsion from NUHS.

Any **employee** found to have knowingly carried a weapon or firearm onto NUHS restricted property, or found to be carrying a weapon or firearm under circumstances in which the employee should have known that he or she was in possession of a weapon or firearm, may be subject to discipline up to and including, but not limited to, immediate termination of employment, subject to such other employment rules or regulations in place.

Any **visitor or other individual conducting business with the University** found to have knowingly carried a weapon or firearm onto NUHS restricted property, or found to be carrying a weapon or firearm under circumstances in which the individual should have known that he or she was in possession of a weapon or firearm, may be subject to administrative action by NUHS and possible arrest and prosecution. Violations of this Policy may also result in referrals to external law enforcement agencies.

Reporting Violations

Knowledge of violations of this policy should be reported to the NUHS Campus Security (IL or FL), the Dean of Students and/or the Vice President for Administrative Services. In their absence or in the case of emergency, the local Police (911) should be contacted.

Campus Security personnel (IL or FL) may refer suspected violations of law to appropriate law enforcement authorities, and cooperate with the investigation or access to data as permitted by law.