

WEAPONS

Possession, discharge, or other use of any weapon is prohibited on the grounds or in the buildings of any campus, division, unit or other area controlled by the University of Arkansas System, except that a handgun may be possessed by an individual who has a concealed handgun permit and has completed enhanced certification training in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 5-73-322(g). Storage of any weapon, including handguns, is prohibited at any location owned or operated by any campus, division or unit of the University of Arkansas System, except that a concealed handgun may be stored in a licensee's locked and unattended motor vehicle.

*This policy does not apply to **on-duty or off-duty** certified law enforcement officers who are authorized by law to carry a handgun or firearm. Off-duty officers are required to be in physical possession of valid identification identifying themselves as law enforcement officers.*

*This policy also does not apply to **on-duty** security personnel employed or contracted by a campus, division or unit of the UA System who are specifically authorized to carry a weapon in the scope of their employment.*

Definitions

A weapon is any object designed or used for inflicting bodily harm or physical damage. Weapons include, but are not limited to: firearms, air pistols, air rifles, fireworks, incendiary devices, knives with a blade length of four inches or greater, blackjacks, metal knuckles, bows, arrows, nunchucks, tasers or other electrical stun devices, or any other such offensive objects.

Ark. Code Ann. § 5-73-309 defines a handgun as “any firearm, other than a fully automatic firearm, with a barrel length of less than twelve inches (12”) that is designed, made, or adapted to be fired with one (1) hand.” A concealed handgun must be covered from observation so as to prevent public view.

Exceptions

Carrying a concealed handgun at the following locations and events is prohibited, whether or not a person obtains enhanced licensure:

1. UAMS and collegiate athletic events as defined by Ark. Code Ann. § 5-73-101(11), provided they are posted as firearm sensitive areas and have a security plan approved by the Arkansas State Police.
2. A public K-12 school, prekindergarten, or daycare facility
3. Grievance or disciplinary meetings conducted in accordance with certain specifications of Act 562

In accordance with Ark. Code Ann. §§ 5-73-306 and -322, campus, division and unit policies shall specify locations, such as those identified above, at which individuals remain prohibited from carrying concealed handguns, and appropriate signage will be displayed.

The campuses, divisions and units of the UA System are authorized to establish policies that create other specific exceptions permitting the use and storage of weapons related to the scope of an individual's employment or to regular educational or recreational activities conducted under the supervision of appropriate university personnel. Campus policies established under this subsection must be reviewed by the Office of General Counsel.

Conduct of Licensed Concealed Carry Holders with Enhanced Certifications

Ark. Code Ann. §§ 5-73-322(j) specifies that unless an employee is required to carry a concealed handgun as part of the employee's specific job duties, any possession or use of a concealed handgun by the employee is not considered to be within the scope of employment with the University. As such, any employee who chooses to possess or use a concealed handgun is acting in the employee's individual capacity and not as an agent of the University, and is not immune from personal liability with respect to possession or use of the concealed handgun. If the employee is injured by his or her own negligence in possessing or using a concealed handgun in the workplace, he or she will not be entitled to worker's compensation.

1. A person with a license and enhanced certification to carry a concealed handgun on campus:
2. Must comply with all relevant federal or state laws;
3. Must conceal the handgun at all times;
4. Must maintain possession and control of the weapon at all times, unless the weapon is stored in a locked and unattended vehicle;
5. May not intentionally display or use the handgun in a threatening manner unless such display or use is allowed by federal or state law; and
6. May not discharge a concealed handgun on the grounds or in the building of any campus, division, unit or other area controlled by the University of Arkansas System unless such discharge is allowed by law.

Enforcement

Violations of the weapons policy or state law regarding carrying concealed handguns may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination for employees, and up to and including dismissal from the University for students.

Violations of the weapons policy or state law regarding carrying concealed handguns by contractors or visitors may result in the violator being removed from a University campus, unit or division.

The various campuses, units and divisions of the University may adopt more specific guidance consistent with and in furtherance of this policy. Such policies must be reviewed by the Office of General Counsel.

March 15, 2019 (with approval of Act 472)

August 25, 2017