



UNIVERSITY OF
WEST GEORGIA

Last Approved N/A
Effective N/A
Next Review N/A

Area Risk/Security/
Envrnmntl Hlth &
Safety
(Procedures)
Chief Or Chief of
Responsible Police, UWG
Office Police
Department

Possession and Carrying of Weapons on Campus

Authority for Procedure granted by [UWG PL #7003, Weapons on Campus](#).

This procedure establishes compliance with Georgia law and University System of Georgia (USG) Board of Regents (BOR) [Policy Manual 6.11, Weapons](#), regarding the possession and carrying of Weapons on University of West Georgia (UWG) Property. It also recognizes statutory exemptions under O.C.G.A. § 16-11-130 for certain individuals authorized by law to carry firearms or Weapons on property owned, leased, or controlled by UWG.

A. General Rule

Except as permitted under [O.C.G.A. § 16-11-127.1](#) and related laws, it shall be unlawful for any Person to carry, possess or have under their control any Weapon on University of West Georgia (UWG) Property. All permitted Weapons must be **Concealed** in accordance with law.

Lawful Weapons Carriers may carry a Handgun in any building or on any real property owned or leased by UWG; however, this exception **does not apply** to the following:

1. Any building or property used for **athletic sporting events** or **student housing**, including but not limited to, fraternity and sorority houses;
2. Any **Preschool or Childcare Space** located within such buildings or real property;
3. Any room or space used for **classes related to a college and career academy or other specialized schools** defined under [O.C.G.A. § 20-4-37](#);
4. Any room or space used for **classes with dual-enrolled** high school students, including but not limited to, classes related to the "Move on When Ready Act" under [O.C.G.A. § 20-2-161.3](#); **For confirmation of dual enrollment classroom status**, email studentsolutions@westga.edu.
5. Any **faculty, staff, or administrative office or room** where **disciplinary proceedings** are conducted; and

6. Any **location or situation** where the Weapon is not fully **Concealed** as defined by law.

Any Person aged 18 years or older, or currently enrolled in classes at a USG institution, **may possess** an Electroshock Weapon (e.g., stun gun or taser) or a Lachrymator (tear gas) product (e.g., pepper spray, oleoresin capsicum spray, OC spray, capsaicin spray, mace, or capsicum spray) on UWG Property, but may use it **only in defense of self or others**.

B. Statutory Exemptions (O.C.G.A. § 16-11-130)

Certain individuals are exempt from the restrictions above when acting within the **scope of their official duties** and **as authorized by law**, including:

- Peace officers, as defined by Georgia law;
- Law enforcement officers employed by the United States, the State of Georgia, or any political subdivision thereof;
- Judges, magistrates, solicitors-general, district attorneys, and their designated investigators;
- Members of the armed forces of the United States or Georgia National Guard while performing official duties;
- Wardens, superintendents, and corrections officers of state or federal penal institutions;
- Retired law enforcement officers meeting the qualifications in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-130; and
- Any other individual expressly exempted under O.C.G.A. § 16-11-130 or future amendments thereto.

1. Verification of Exemption

Individuals claiming exemption under O.C.G.A. § 16-11-130 may be required to present valid identification, credentials, or written authorization verifying their exempt status to the **UWG Police Department** or **other authorized university officials** upon request.

2. Classroom and Instructional Exceptions

This procedure **does not** prohibit instruments used for **classroom instruction or academic demonstration** when:

1. The item is approved in writing by both the course instructor and the **UWG Chief of Police**; and
2. The instructor provides documented academic justification and security considerations.

Weapons brought to campus for instructional use **must not include live ammunition**, although **deactivated rounds** may be permitted for demonstration purposes only. Failure to comply with these safety requirements may constitute a violation of this procedure.

C. Compliance and Enforcement

All members of the UWG Community must comply with state and federal firearms laws, BOR Policy [6.11, Weapons](#), and **UWG Policy #7003 [Weapons on Campus](#)**. The **UWG Police Department** is responsible for

enforcement, verification of exemptions, and providing guidance regarding the lawful possession and carrying of Weapons on UWG Property.

D. Violations

In addition to the penalties by law, UWG may take disciplinary action against any employee or student who violates state law, USG policy, or this procedure.

Employees may be subject to disciplinary actions, up to and including termination.

Students will be referred to the [Office of Community Standards](#) for disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

Definitions

Concealed - carried in such a fashion that does not actively solicit the attention of others and is not prominently, openly, and intentionally displayed except for purposes of defense of self or others. Such term shall include, but not be limited to, carrying on one's person while such handgun is substantially, but not necessarily completely, covered by an article of clothing which is worn by such person, carrying within a bag of a nondescript nature which is being carried about by such person, or carrying in any other fashion as to not be clearly discernible by the passive observation of others.

Electroshock Weapon - commercially available device that is powered by electrical charging units and designed exclusively to be capable of incapacitating a person by electrical charge, including, but not limited to, a stun gun or taser.

Handgun - a firearm of any description, loaded or unloaded, from which any shot, bullet, or other missile can be discharged by an action of an explosive where the length of the barrel, not including any revolving, detachable, or magazine breech, does not exceed 12 inches; provided, however, that the term "handgun" shall not include a gun which discharges a single shot of .46 centimeters or less in diameter.

Lachrymator (tear gas) - commercially available spray that is a volatile, irritating chemical agent that induces temporary, but intense, discomfort to the eyes, nose, throat, and skin, which quickly dissipates after exposure ends. (e.g., pepper spray, oleoresin capsicum spray, OC spray, capsaicin spray, mace, or capsaicin spray).

Lawful Weapons Carrier - any person who is licensed or eligible for a license pursuant to Code Section 16-11-129 and who is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing a weapon or long gun, any resident of any other state who would otherwise be eligible to obtain a license pursuant to such Code section but for the residency requirement, and any person licensed to carry a weapon in any other state, any individual who has successfully completed the requirements as established by O.C.G.A. § 16-11-129 for weapons carry license, and whose license is current and valid without restrictions on its use.

Person - for the purposes of this Procedure, person includes faculty, staff, students, third parties, vendors, and visitors to the Campus, with exceptions as noted by O.C.G.A. § 16-11-127.1(c). O.C.G.A. § 16-11-130, and O.C.G.A. 16-11-130.1. Said exceptions include certain persons acting within their official capacity, or while en route to or from their official duties, i.e., law enforcement officers, prosecuting

attorneys; etc. For a complete list, please refer to the code sections listed immediately above.

Preschool or Childcare Space - means any room or continuous collection of rooms or any enclosed outdoor facilities which are separated from other spaces by an electronic mechanism or human-staffed point of controlled access and designated for the provision of preschool or childcare services, including, but not limited to, preschool or childcare services licensed or regulated under Article 1 of Chapter 1A of Title 20.

University Community - For purposes of this procedure, (1) All persons enrolled at or employed by the University, including University students, faculty, staff, administrators, and employees, (2) recognized University-affiliated entities, including University departments, foundations, and registered University student organizations, and (3) Alumni and members of the public.

UWG Property - UWG-owned or leased buildings, grounds, and property, including sidewalks and streets within its campus boundaries.

Weapon - includes any pistol, revolver, or any instrument designed or intended to propel a missile of any kind, or any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nunchuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any instrument of like kind, and any stun gun or taser as defined in subsection Georgia Code Section 16-11-106(a). This paragraph excludes any of these instruments used for classroom work authorized by the faculty member.

Exceptions: does not include sporting equipment (i.e., baseball bats, hockey sticks, or other sports equipment possessed by competitors) possessed for legitimate use in formal or informal athletic or exercise activities.

This procedure excludes any instruments used for classroom work authorized by an instructor and as approved in writing by the University Chief of Police. Students must secure approval from the instructor prior to requesting permission from the UWG Chief of Police. Permission requests to the Chief of Police must include academic justification and security considerations. Failure to comply with safety stipulations may be considered a violation of this procedure. Weapons brought on campus for classroom instruction will not include live ammunition although deactivated rounds are allowed for demonstration purposes only.

Related Documents and References

- **O.C.G.A. § 16-11-126:** Carrying a weapon without a license
- **O.C.G.A. § 16-11-127.1:** Carrying weapons within school safety zones
- **O.C.G.A. § 16-11-130:** Exemptions from Code Sections 16-11-126 through 16-11-127.2

- **O.C.G.A. § 20-2-161.3:** Move on When Ready Act
- **O.C.G.A. § 20-4-37:** College and Career Academies
- **Board of Regents Policy Manual** [6.11 – Weapons](#)
- **UWG Policy #7003** – [Weapons on Campus](#)
- [UWG Office of Community Standards](#) webpage
- [UWG Police Department](#) webpage

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
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