

Roger Williams University and Roger Williams University School of Law

Weapon-Free Campus Policy

Purpose:

Roger Williams University and Roger Williams University School of Law (collectively referred to as the “University”) have adopted this Weapon-Free Campus Policy (the “Policy”) to provide for a weapon-free environment for students, employees, vendors, and visitors of the University.

Definitions:

Prohibited Weapon: includes any object or substance designed to inflict a wound, cause injury, or incapacitate, including but not limited to all (i) firearms, firearm ammunition, machine guns, pistols, rifles, shot guns, air guns, blank guns, BB guns, pellet guns, zip guns, dart guns, stun gun, tasers, and paint ball guns; (ii) daggers, dirks, stilettos, swords-in-canes, bowie knives, switchblade knives, metal-tip darts, razors or knives of any description having a blade of more than three (3) inches in length measuring from the end of the handle where the blade is attached to the end of the blade, or other similar weapon designed to cut and stab another; (iii) instruments or weapons of the kind commonly known as blackjacks, slingshots, billy clubs, sandclubs, sandbags, metal knuckles, slap gloves, bludgeons, and so-called “Kung-Fu” weapons; (iv) chemicals such as mace or tear gas, except for normally available over-the-counter self-defense repellents such as pepper spray; (v) fireworks, fire crackers, sparklers, rockets, or any propellant-activated device whose intended purpose is primarily for illumination, except for firework displays officially recognized and sanctioned by the University; and (vi) any dynamite, nitroglycerin, black powder, or other similar explosive material, including plastic explosives, or any breakable container that contains a flammable liquid with a flash point of 150 degrees Fahrenheit or less and has a wick or similar device capable of being ignited.

University Property: includes (i) the University’s Bristol and Providence campuses, the Baypoint Inn and Conference Center in Portsmouth, and all other University owned or leased properties, including but not limited to all buildings, parking areas, grounds, structures, residence hall rooms, offices, workspaces, and lockers; (ii) all motor vehicles located on University property and all motor vehicles owned, leased, or rented by the University regardless of location; (iii) any work site or location at which University duties are being performed by University employees, students, or vendors as part of any University activity; and (iv) off-campus activities of student groups recognized by the University.

Weapon-Free Policy:

No student, employee, vendor, or visitor on University Property shall carry a Prohibited Weapon on or about his or her person, whether visible or concealed, or possess a Prohibited Weapon. Those possessing permits to carry concealed weapons in public are subject to this Policy and are prohibited from bringing Prohibited Weapons onto University Property. Participants in the ROTC program shall be permitted to carry unloaded firearms for ROTC activities on University Property when the activities are officially recognized and sanctioned by the University. The use of blank guns shall be permitted in

theatrical and athletic events held on University Property when such events are officially recognized and sanctioned by the University. The Department of Public Safety reserves the right to prohibit the possession of and confiscate knives of any kind at University events. This Policy shall not apply to University equipment provided to employees or students for University business. The application of this Policy to law enforcement officers is addressed below.

Application to Law Enforcement Officers:

Law enforcement officers carrying firearms who are on University Property in an official capacity and in the performance of their duties shall be exempt from the provisions of this Policy. Law enforcement officers meeting the criteria of Rhode Island General Laws § 11-47-9 who are off duty shall be permitted to possess a firearm while attending classes, meetings, or seminars on University Property, provided that (i) a firearm carried by a uniformed law enforcement officer may be visible or concealed; (ii) a firearm carried by a non-uniformed law enforcement officer must be concealed; and (iii) a non-uniformed law enforcement officer carrying a firearm must possess and be carrying a valid and official badge and credentials to carry the firearm. Firearms carried by law enforcement officers on University Property shall be carried on the law enforcement officer's person at all times.

Violation of Weapon-Free Campus Policy:

In addition to any action taken by law enforcement authorities, the University will impose disciplinary sanctions on students and employees for violations of this Policy, which may include expulsion of student or termination of employment. Any vendor or visitor who violates this Policy may be barred from entering upon University Property. The University also reserves the right to refer any violations of this Policy to appropriate law enforcement agencies to investigate for possible violations of federal, state, or local laws.

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