



Policy Number: I.04
Policy Level: Operating Policy
Originally Issued: March 13, 2013
Revised: September 13, 2013
Revised: March 9, 2016
Reviewed: March 7, 2019
Revised: October 21, 2022
Policy Owner: President
Policy Implementation: VP for Financial Affairs

Weapons and Firearms on University Property Effective January 1, 2023

I. Policy Statement and Purpose

This policy establishes prohibitions and exceptions related to the possession of weapons and firearms on property owned or controlled by the University. **Note: The Alabama Center for the Arts and the Athens State Off-Campus Centers located on community college campuses are subject to the policies and regulations of the Alabama State Board of Education and the Department of Postsecondary Education. The University Center on Redstone Arsenal is subject to applicable state and federal regulations.**

The prohibitions specified in this policy apply to all members of the University community, as well as visitors to the University, subject to the exceptions detailed below.

The prohibitions and exceptions contained in this policy are established with the intent of ensuring the safety and well-being of members of the University community in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations.

Violations of this policy will result in appropriate action under other applicable University policies and local, state, and federal regulations.

II. Prohibitions on Possession of Weapons and Firearms

The possession of firearms or other dangerous weapons is prohibited while on property owned or controlled by the University. This includes all buildings, parking lots, and grounds. This prohibition applies to faculty, staff, students, visitors, and guests, and applies whether or not a person in possession of the weapon has a permit to carry or possess the weapon, subject to the exceptions detailed below.



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III. Exceptions

The prohibition on weapons does not apply to:

- Duly authorized law enforcement officials of the federal government, state, or of any county, city, or town when in the discharge of their official duties;
- Civil officers of the United States in the discharge of their official duties;
- Private police or security personnel when hired by, or under contract with, the University;
- Law enforcement officers attending the University as students, whose weapons must be concealed unless wearing a uniform or clearly displaying a badge identifying them as an officer;
- Campus food service knives;
- Personal weapons in the President's Residence, as permitted by state and federal law, that are owned by the President or members of the President's family who reside in the Residence, and in their vehicles for the purpose of transporting on or off campus.
- Properties owned or controlled by the University that are used for residential purposes.
- Temporary exclusions granted by a written permit issued by the Chief of University Security or an authorized designee for job-related, educational, or demonstration activities and purposes, where the safety and security of the activities have been considered in granting the exclusion.

In addition, notwithstanding the foregoing, individuals (not otherwise prohibited from possession of a firearm by state or federal law) may possess a firearm and ammunition for that firearm in the individual's privately owned motor vehicle while parked or operated on the grounds of the University; provided that the individual satisfies all of the following conditions:

- (1) If the firearm is a pistol, the individual is not generally prohibited from possession of a pistol by state or federal law;
- (2) If the firearm is any firearm legal for use for hunting in Alabama other than a pistol:
 - a. The individual possesses a valid Alabama hunting license;
 - b. The firearm is unloaded at all times on the grounds;
 - c. It is during a season in which hunting is permitted by Alabama law or regulation;
 - d. The individual has never been convicted of any crime of violence as that term is defined in [Section 13A-11-70, Code of Alabama 1975](#), nor of any crime set forth in Chapter 6 of Title 13A, Code of Alabama 1975, nor is subject to a domestic violence order, as that term is defined in [Section 13A-6-141, Code of Alabama 1975](#); and
 - e. The individual has no documented prior incidents on the grounds of the institution involving the threat of physical injury or which resulted in physical injury to another;



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- (3) The motor vehicle is operated or parked in a location where it is otherwise permitted to be; and
- (4) The firearm is either of the following:
 - a. In a motor vehicle attended by the individual, kept from ordinary observation within the individual's motor vehicle; or
 - b. In a motor vehicle unattended by the individual, kept from ordinary observation and locked within a compartment, container, or in the interior of the individual's privately owned motor vehicle or in a compartment or container securely affixed to the motor vehicle.

Individuals possessing a firearm or ammunition in their privately owned vehicle under the terms of the foregoing paragraph must complete and file a *Declaration of Firearm in Vehicle* form with the President of the University. Individuals possessing a firearm or ammunition in their privately owned vehicle under the terms of the foregoing paragraph **may not remove the same from that person's vehicle while on any property owned or controlled by the University, and the same must be securely stored and concealed when the vehicle is unattended.**

The declaration form will be maintained in a confidential file available only to the Chief of University Security or other senior administrators.

This policy shall be construed in accordance with Alabama Act No. 2022-133, as codified or later amended.

V. Responsibility for this Operating Policy

A. Policy Owner

This policy has been approved by the Athens State University Board of Trustees, and the board must approve any amendments to it. Otherwise, the President is the policy owner for the ongoing evaluation and review of this policy. Subsequent reviews and revisions to this policy must be in accordance with approved operating policy procedures and processes.

This policy should be reviewed every three years or more frequently as needed by the Policy Owner. Recommendations for revisions may be made by the President, upon review by the Cabinet, and presented to the Board of Trustees. This policy will be updated/published in the University's Policy Library.



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B. Responsibility for Policy Implementation

The President has assigned the responsibility of implementing this policy to the Vice President for Financial Affairs.