UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
UNK
KEARNEY

Effective: November 8, 2016
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Responsible University Office:
UNK Police Department

Responsible University Administrator:
Office of the Chancellor

Policy Contact:
Chief of Police

Firearms & Weapons Policy

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Scope

This policy applies to any person on University property, on the worksite, in University vehicles, or in personal vehicles when on University property at the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK).

Policy Statement

Possession of dangerous weapons - concealed or unconcealed - on University property, on the worksite, in University vehicles, or in personal vehicles when on University property shall be a violation of UNK policy. A dangerous weapon shall include firearms, knives, explosives, or any other item defined by statute or as determined by the University, which in the manner used or intended is capable of producing death, serious bodily injury, or harm to property. Violation of this policy shall make the offender subject to appropriate disciplinary or legal action.

This prohibition applies to all members of the general public, students, and University employees, except University employees who are specifically authorized as part of their job responsibilities and certified law enforcement personnel performing official duties.

In accordance with Section 28-1204.04 Nebraska Statutes and University of Nebraska Board of Regents Policy 6.4.8., this policy prohibits individuals from possessing firearms on the University of Nebraska Kearney Campus.

In addition, Section 12-1202.02 Nebraska Statutes, regulates concealed handguns; which are not allowed on campus.

Reason for Policy

This policy is intended to help provide for the safety and security of the University of Nebraska at Kearney community.

Procedures

Exceptions to this policy may only be authorized by the Office of the Chancellor, or their designee. Any person violating this policy is subject to university discipline up to and including expulsion/termination and/or may be charged with the appropriate criminal offense.

This prohibition applies to all members of the general public, students, and University employees, except:

- Certified University of Nebraska at Kearney Police Department (UNKPD) personnel;
- Law enforcement officers and security personnel working directly with UNKPD and acting in their official capacity for purposes of carrying out work responsibilities;
- Qualified law enforcement officers or qualified retired law enforcement officers carrying a concealed handgun pursuant to 18 U.S.C 926B or 926C.

In order to maintain and protect the health and safety of UNK property or persons on UNK property, persons who are neither UNK employees nor students who are found to be in possession of a dangerous weapon on UNK property may be subject to immediate seizure of the weapon by the University of Nebraska at Kearney Police Department and removal from campus. Seized property not held as evidence in an investigation will be returned to the person upon exiting UNK property.

Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, the term “property controlled by the University of Nebraska” shall mean and include all property owned by the University, all property leased by or licensed to the University, and all fraternity houses, sorority houses, or other student housing facilities recognized by the University.

Concealed Weapon – A weapon that is entirely obscured from view.

Deadly Weapon - any instrument which, in the manner it is used or intended to be used, is capable of producing a bodily injury involving a substantial risk of (1) death, (2) serious permanent disfigurement, or (3) protracted loss or impairment of the function of any organ or body part. The weapon need not actually produce such injuries, but need only be used in a manner which makes it capable of producing them.

Firearm – Any weapon which is designed to or may readily be converted to expel any projectile by the action of an explosive or frame or receiver of any such weapon. A firearm does not have to be operable in order for the defendant to be guilty of use of a deadly

weapon to commit a felony.

Knife - Any dagger, dirk, knife, or stiletto with a blade over three and one-half inches in length and which, in the manner it is used or intended to be used, is capable of producing death or serious bodily injury; Or any other dangerous instrument which is capable of inflicting cutting, stabbing, or tearing wounds and which, in the manner it is used or intended to be used, is capable of producing death or serious bodily injury.

Knuckles and brass or iron knuckles means any instrument that consists of finger rings or guards made of a hard substance and that is designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with a fist enclosed in the knuckles.

History

April 2026 – Reviewed and updated
June 2023 – Changes policy contact
Replaces page #124 of Previous policy and procedure document.