

Firearms and Other Dangerous Weapons Policy

I. SCOPE

This policy applies to all employees, students, contractors, visitors, and all other persons on campus.

II. STATEMENT

No weapons (as defined below) are allowed on Goucher College premises, including in vehicles parked on campus, except for the exceptions listed. The use, possession, wearing, carrying, or transporting of weapons on campus is prohibited. This prohibition applies regardless of whether the individual has a valid permit or license to carry a weapon. The term weapon includes any potentially dangerous object or substance that is designed to or is used to threaten, menace, injure or inflict harm, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. firearms (including any weapon or instrument from which a shot, projectile, or other object may be discharged by force, whether operable or inoperable, loaded or unloaded),
2. handguns, long guns, machine guns, semiautomatic guns,
3. ammunition,
4. BB guns, pellet guns, air rifles, or paint ball guns,
5. replica firearms or swords (including decorative or inoperable),
6. martial arts weapons,
7. bombs (or other explosive materials and components),
8. switchblades and knives (other than an ordinary small pocketknife carried in a closed position, with a blade of three inches or less; or knives designed for cooking and eating) including any handcrafted bladed weapon,
9. tasers and mace,
10. billy clubs, nunchakus, blackjacks, bludgeons, metal knuckles, slingshots, razors, straight razors, or ice picks,
11. illegal or potentially dangerous chemicals, fireworks, and
12. instruments, which by their nature or circumstances may be reasonably perceived or construed as weapons.

III. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY

- A. Sworn peace officers employed by public agencies who are authorized to wear, carry, or transport a weapon as part of their official equipment are authorized to carry their authorized weapon on campus, but are required to report their presence to the Goucher College Office of Campus Safety.

- B. Other law enforcement officers whose official duties require them to be on Goucher's campus or at other locations owned, rented, occupied, or used by and under the control of Goucher College may carry guns, firearms, ammunition, and other weapons consistent with their law enforcement responsibilities and in compliance with the rules and regulation of their employing agencies/entities.
- C. **In situations where the safety of patrons, students, staff, or faculty is a concern, the Director of Campus Safety may approve carrying of firearms for private security organizations, in cases where specific concerns warrant additional protection.**
- D. Individuals may carry OC (oleoresin capsicum) spray for self-defense purposes.
- E. Approved hazardous chemicals used for legitimate college purposes, including in the science laboratories and the Facilities Maintenance Services department.
- F. Groups using prop weapons in theatrical productions should report that information to the Goucher College Office of Campus Safety and establish that the prop weapon has no ability to contain or shoot ammunition.
- G. The use of weapons in programs college sanctioned or sponsored by student clubs (e.g., fencing club), is permitted when the express written permission of the college administration has been obtained in advance, where such items are maintained, stored, and monitored by a college staff member, and are used in a controlled, monitored environment.
- H. The use of properly marked toy guns during authorized games, such as Humans vs. Zombies.

IV. POLICY VIOLATIONS

Violations of this policy by employees will result in discipline, up to and including termination of employment. Violations by students will be referred for adjudication under the Student Code of Conduct.

Violations of this policy should be reported immediately to the Goucher College Director of Campus Safety or, in the Director's absence or unavailability, to anyone in the Campus Safety Department.

All persons in violation of this policy may be barred from the college campus. In addition, individuals believed to be in violation of state, federal or local law relating to weapons will be subjected to federal state, and/or local laws, referred to appropriate law enforcement authorities, and may be prosecuted.

V. CONTACT

Questions about this policy can be directed to the [Office of Campus Safety](#), 410-337-6111.

VI. HISTORY

Last updated September 2019; October 2023.