

West Liberty University Weapons Policy and Procedures

General Information

The possession and/or use of any dangerous weapons is strictly forbidden on university property. Weapons include but are not limited to the following: Firearms BB guns, pellet guns, paintball guns, blowguns, bows and/or arrows, dangerous knives, firecrackers, ammunition, and other explosive material, with the limited exception of concealed handguns as provided in this policy. Possession of the above will result in immediate suspension from the residence halls and may result in expulsion and possible legal action.

Handguns are permitted under West Virginia State Code §18B-4-5B by individuals with concealed carry licenses who adhere to this policy. The purpose of this policy is to describe how handguns may be carried, stored, and managed on the West Liberty University campus in the safest manner possible and in accordance with West Virginia State Code §18B-4-5B.

Geographic Applicability

This policy is applicable within the geographic limits of West Liberty University (WLU) campus, defined as any building or grounds property owned, leased, or operated by WLU.

Definitions

- Weapons
 - Any object or device which will, is designed to, or may be readily converted to expel a bullet, shot or shell by the action of an explosive or other propellant.
 - Any handgun, pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, or other firearm of any nature, including those that are concealed or carried openly.
 - Any BB gun, pellet gun, air/CO₂ gun, taser or similar electrical weapon that discharges a projectile, or blow gun.
 - Any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, bomb, mine, grenade, or rocket having a propellant, explosive or incendiary charge.
 - Any incendiary or explosive material, liquid, solid, or mixture equipped with a fuse, wick, or other detonating device.
 - Any tear gas bomb or smoke bomb.
 - Any knife, commonly referred to as a switch blade, which has a blade that opens automatically by hand pressure applied to a button, spring or other device in the handle of the knife, or any knife having a blade that opens or falls or is ejected into position by the force of gravity or by an outward, downward, or centrifugal thrust or movement.
 - Any straight-blade knife of four inches or more such as a dagger, dirk, dangerous knife or stiletto, except an ordinary pocketknife or a culinary knife designed for and used solely for the preparation or service of food.
 - Any martial arts weapons such as nun chucks, throwing stars, sword, saber, battle axe, or Kwan Dao.
 - Any longbow, crossbow, and arrows or other projectile that could cause serious harm to any person.
- Handgun

- A pistol or revolver which is designed to be fired using a single hand and which is designed to fire or capable of firing fixed cartridge ammunition.
- Any other weapon which will or is designed to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive and which is designed to be fired using a single hand.
- Firearm
 - Any handgun, rifle, shotgun, and other weapon which will or is designed to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive.
- Concealed handgun
 - A concealed handgun is kept completely hidden from view and does not reveal the weapon in any way, shape, or form.
- Full Restrictions
 - An individual placed on full restrictions is permitted on campus to attend classes only. The individual is not permitted to attend any campus events including but not limited to, athletic events and practices, campus activity events, intramural competitions, or other campus events.
- Residential Suspension
 - An individual placed on residential suspension is temporarily separated from the residential community. As part of this separation, the student will be banned from all University owned or operated residential facilities for the duration of the residential suspension.
- University Suspension
 - An individual placed on University suspension is temporarily separated from the University community. As part of this separation, the student will be banned from all University owned or operated facilities and property for the duration of the University suspension.

Restrictions to carrying a concealed handgun pursuant to West Virginia State Code §18B-4-5B

Open carry of firearms by any means is prohibited. The carrying of any rifle, shotgun, or other long gun by any means is prohibited. It is a violation of University policy to openly display any lawfully possess concealed carry handgun while on campus except when transferring to safe storage.

West Virginia State Code §18B-4-5B outlines the following policies and restrictions to the concealed carrying of a handgun. Failure to comply with the following policies restrictions is a violation of University policy and WV state law.

- The individual must possess a concealed carry permit from the state of West Virginia or a state with which WV shares reciprocity of the law.
- The individual must adhere to all local and [state handgun laws](#).

Carrying Safety Requirements

Any individual who is lawfully eligible to carry a concealed handgun is solely responsible for carrying, storing, and possessing that handgun in a safe manner in accordance with West Virginia State Code §18B-4-5B, University policy and all other state and federal laws.

Whether on their person or in a storage location, every handgun carried by an individual must be secured in a holster that completely covers the trigger and the entire trigger guard area and that secures an external hammer in an un-cocked position. The handgun must be secured in the holster with a strap or by other means of retention. The holster must have sufficient tension or grip on the handgun to retain it in the holster even when subjected to unexpected jostling. Handguns with external safety must be carried with the safety in the “on” position.

The handgun must be in the individual’s custody and control at all times with safety mechanisms engaged. Handguns must be carried securely carrier (backpack, purse, handbag, or other personal carrier designed and intended for the carrying of an individual’s person items). The carrier must remain in the exclusive and uninterrupted control of the individual. This includes wearing the carrier object with one or more straps consistent with the carrier’s design, carrying or holding the carrier object, or setting the carrier object next to or within immediate reach of the individual.

Campus Gun Free or Gun Restricted Locations

- In specific locations, no individual will be permitted to carry a concealed handgun. These locations will be designated by signs stating “Pursuant to West Virginia State Code §18B-4-5B , concealed weapons are prohibited in this area. Violations of this are subject to university judicial process and prosecution under the law.”
 - Any organized event which takes place at a stadium or arena with a capacity of more than 1,000 spectators. At WLU this will include any and all events at the ASRC Arena and West Family Stadium (football stadium).
 - The WLU Campus Police Office, located in Shaw Hall room # 015.
 - The Counseling Services Office, located in College Union room # S14 (second floor).
 - The Student Health Services Office, located in Shaw Hall room # 019.
 - The Dental Hygiene Clinic, located in Campbell Hall (first floor).
 - The Speech Pathology & Audiology Clinic, located in Campbell Hall (third floor).
 - The Behavioral Science Clinic, located in Campbell Hall (fourth floor).
 - The campus mailroom, located in the College Union Office of the College Union.
 - Any room that stores hazardous materials or serves as an animal laboratory. These rooms include multiple locations in Arnett Hall, Campbell Hall first floor, and Main Hall basement.
 - In all residence halls, except common areas such as lounges, dining areas, and study areas.
 - In sole occupancy offices such as faculty, staff, and administrative offices of individual employees located in all facilities on WLU property.
 - In any vehicle owned or leased by the University.
 - In any area of WLU property where possession of the firearm is prohibited by state or federal law.
- In specific locations, depending on circumstances and events at the location, individuals may be restricted from carrying a concealed handgun during a specified period of time. During those times, these locations will be designated by signs stating “Pursuant to West Virginia State Code §18B-4-5B , concealed weapons are temporarily prohibited in this area. Violations of this are subject to university judicial process and prosecution under the law.”

- In any on-campus room or rooms in which a student or employee disciplinary proceeding is being held. These areas include, but are not limited to, the Housing & Residence Life Office during student conduct administrative hearings, Student Life Office during Title IX administrative hearings, Human Resources Office and President's Office during employee disciplinary meetings, and conference rooms in the College Union, Shaw Hall, or the Elbin Library where hearings administered by the aforementioned offices may be held.
- At a location where a primary or secondary education school-sponsored function is being held in a specific location on the WLU property. This may include many areas on campus during summer conference events and other campus events hosting students from primary and secondary education students. WLU will work to send notices to campus when these locations are restricted in advance, in addition to the signage placed at the facilities.
- At a private function that is being held in a specific location on the WLU property. This may include many areas on campus during summer conference events and other campus events hosting private parties from off campus. WLU will work to send notices to campus when these locations are restricted in advance, in addition to the signage placed at the facilities.

Handgun Storage

Handgun storage will be offered, at the expense to the individual owner, at specified locations throughout campus including residential, administrative, and academic facilities.

- The individual must store their handgun in a safe within a secure location provided by the institution. Only students with concealed carry licenses will be permitted in the weapons storage area. Violators of this are subject to university judicial process and may be prosecuted for trespassing and removed from campus. WLU is providing these storage areas for the convenience of its residents and assumes no liability for weapons stored in these facilities.
- Secure storage lockers for handguns will be located in one residential facility, as well as select administrative and academic buildings.
- Guests, commuter students and event attendees must store their handguns in their privately owned or leased motor vehicle when the vehicle is locked and the handgun is secured in a location within the vehicle that is not visible from outside the vehicle.
- In specified non-residence hall residential facilities (apartments and houses), where common area storage spaces are not available, individual storage lockers may be required and provided by the University to the student to be kept in their individual room within the apartment or house.

Storage locations will be provided in the following locations:

- Krise Hall (residential facility)
- Shaw Hall basement (beside WLU Police Office)
- College Union basement (near the College Union Office)

Violations of Policy

All suspected weapons policy violations will be reported to the WLU Police Department. Initial investigations will be conducted by WLU Police to determine if policy has been violated. If the investigation determines a crime has been committed, a separate criminal investigation will be conducted, unrelated to policy. WLU Police have the authority to disarm and/or temporarily confiscate a handgun or other weapon and issue a restriction to not carry a concealed handgun on campus pending results of the investigation. Any individual who violates state or federal law may be detained, arrested, or otherwise subjected to lawful processes appropriate to the alleged violation.

When the alleged violation involves an employee of the University it will be referred to the Human Resources Office to run a coordinated but independent investigation and disciplinary process along with the WLU Police investigation.

When the alleged violation involves a registered student of the University it will be referred to the Student Conduct to run a coordinated but independent investigation and disciplinary process along with the WLU Police investigation. Interim measures may be placed on the individual pending the investigation and finalized conduct processes. These interim measures may include full restrictions, residential suspension or University suspension depending on the severity of the alleged violation.

When the alleged violation involves a guest (non-student and non-employee) of the University, they will be banned from all University owned and operated properties and any off campus WLU sponsored events.

Incidents involving violations of this Weapons Policy will be referred to the Behavioral Intervention Team and/or Critical Incident Response Team as deemed appropriate by WLU Police, Human Resources administrators, and/or Student Conduct officers.