“CAMPUS CARRY” FAQs

WHAT IS WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY’S POSITION ON GUNS ON CAMPUS?

West Virginia University believes that our Board of Governors should continue to have authority to determine when guns should be on campus and therefore we oppose legislation that would limit the authority of our Board. We also have significant concerns about many areas of our campus that the proposed legislation would impact.

We strive to protect the rights of citizens while ensuring the safety and security of our campus students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

HAVE FACULTY AND STAFF LEADERSHIP TAKEN A POSITION?

Yes. The Faculty Senate and Staff Council have both stated as follows: “The possession of firearms on campus by non-emergency personnel (“Campus Carry”) may bring unintended negative consequences to the University community, including impacts on recruitment and retention as well as the one-time and annual budgetary costs for security compliance [and they requested that the Legislature] carefully consider the full impact of Campus Carry, including the costs of compliance and the potential loss in recruitment and retention of students, faculty and staff.”

DOES WVU PERMIT ANY GUNS ON CAMPUS AT THIS TIME?

Yes, West Virginia University permits guns as follows but always with the knowledge and control of the University Police Department: (current policy: adminfin.wvu.edu/policies/facilities-services).

• When they are essential to academic programs, such as Forensic and Investigative Science.

• When they are used in athletic programs, such as the Rifle Team.

• When the musket is used by the Mountaineer.

• When the University Police Department grants a waiver to carry a gun on campus due to unique circumstances, such as a known, specific and immediate death threat against an individual.

WHAT CONCERNS DOES WVU HAVE RELATING TO GUNS ON CAMPUS?

Allowing concealed guns will not make campus safer.

West Virginia University’s Police Department opposes “campus carry” and joins the position of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) that “conceal carry” initiatives do not make campuses safer, and there is no credible evidence to suggest that the presence of concealed weapons would reduce violence. Law enforcement officers, including WVU UPD officers, believe allowing guns on campus will make it much more difficult for them to protect the safety of others and will endanger the lives of law enforcement officers.

There will be increased costs associated with guns on campus.

Implementing and maintaining policies, infrastructure and sufficient personnel to campus carry legislation will result in increased costs for protecting many areas of our campus, including arenas, medical centers, lab facilities, office buildings, residence halls, classrooms and places where K-12 students attend programming.

This is an unfunded mandate by the State that flies in the face of local control.
“CAMPUS CARRY” FAQs

WVU WORKS HARD TO PROVIDE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT AT OUR CAMPUS.

Keeping our campus and community safe is a priority for WVU and our police department — and we dedicate significant time and investments toward our current ability to maintain a safe campus. This includes training, equipment, new technologies and constant vigilance. Some of the statistics that prove our current efforts are effective:

- The National Campus Safety Summit named WVU Police a top-ten unit for having increased the safety of their campus community in 2017.
- WVU is among the top 40 safest campuses in the U.S., according to the National Council for Home Safety and Security. WVU is ranked 34th among 2,000 colleges assessed. [wvutoday.wvu.edu/stories/2017/06/23/west-virginia-university-ranked-among-safest-college-campuses](http://wvutoday.wvu.edu/stories/2017/06/23/west-virginia-university-ranked-among-safest-college-campuses)
- WVU and greater Morgantown earned the “Safe Communities” accreditation from the National Safety Council. The Morgantown area is the 28th community in the U.S. to do so.
- WVU complies with the Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and maintains up-to-date information on the WVU Police and Office of Emergency Management website: [police.wvu.edu/clery-act](http://police.wvu.edu/clery-act).
- WVU offers free training for self-defense, de-escalation and active attacker. Our police force is also trained in all of these areas. Statistics demonstrate that a trained community bystander is THREE TIMES more likely to prevent a situation by using training to de-escalate the violence — rather than a bystander with a gun to end violence — after an attack has started.
- WVU takes self-defense and protection very seriously. We continually invest in advanced security measures to protect our community: digital locks, emergency responders and emergency response protocol, and a large well-trained staff of security officers.

GUNS ON CAMPUS INCREASE THE RISK OF SUICIDE AND HOMICIDE.

- WVU has approximately 32,000 students, most between the ages of 18-21.
- Young adults are still developing emotionally and often engage in dangerous conduct that will be made significantly more dangerous by concealed weapons.
- The combination of mental health issues on campus along with the right to carry concealed guns can result in suicide and homicide.
- Suicide is the second-leading cause of death for college-age young adults. (Accidental death, mostly from automobile accidents, is the first.)
- Workplaces allowing individuals to carry firearms are 5 to 7 times more likely to be the site of an on-the-job homicide compared to workplaces that ban firearms.

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS ARE COMMITTED TO BEING A PLACE FOR FREE SPEECH AND OPEN DISCUSSION OF ISSUES.

- Our campus community has passed resolutions and remains strongly opposed to this action. If this becomes law, our ability to recruit top faculty, staff and students will be compromised, as these individuals will choose to join universities and colleges where there are no guns permitted in classrooms and on campus.
- Community gatherings and demonstrations, classroom conduct, meetings in offices, grievance and misconduct hearings are all potential hot-spots for gun violence, the potential for which will be greatly increased by concealed weapons.

[wvu.edu](http://wvu.edu)
DEADLY WEAPONS/DESTRUCTIVE DEVICES POLICY

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS ARE SITES IN WHICH FACULTY, STUDENTS AND STAFF ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR PERFORMANCE.

Holding individuals accountable can lead to justified or unjustified feelings of anger and physical violence. The presence of concealed guns will transform what is now manageable for UPD to a potentially lethal encounter.

PURPOSE
The purpose of this Deadly Weapons/Destructive Devices policy is to impose the prohibition of and penalty for the possession or storage of deadly weapons, destructive devices or fireworks in any form on the West Virginia University campus or any University-leased facilities.

SCOPE
This policy applies to all University faculty, staff students and visitors, including those on the regional campuses. It shall also apply to private vehicles parked or operated on University-owned or leased property that openly display firearms. West Virginia University’s Chief of Police may grant exceptions to this policy in writing for the convenience of the University in achieving its mission.

The provisions of this policy shall not apply to the following persons, while acting in their official capacity:

- Law enforcement officers or law enforcement officials.
- West Virginia Department of Corrections employees.
- Members of the armed forces of the United States or the militia of West Virginia.
- Any circuit judge, prosecuting attorney, assistant prosecuting attorney or investigator duly appointed by a prosecuting attorney.

Individuals required to possess the items prohibited by this policy in order to participate in undertakings sanctioned by West Virginia University, which include academic/research programs, historical items and the farm management programs that are approved by the Department of Natural Resources.

POLICY
Possession or storage of a deadly weapon, destructive device or fireworks in any form (as defined by West Virginia State Code) is prohibited on the West Virginia University campuses, in University-leased facilities and in University vehicles.

Any University faculty member, staff member or student who has been found in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action for misconduct that may include termination or expulsion as well as criminal prosecution. Individuals not affiliated with the University shall be subject to criminal prosecution.

PROCEDURE
Procedure development rests with the University Police Department as prescribed in applicable West Virginia State Code.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION
The responsibility for implementation of this policy rests with the University Police Department. The University Police Department is available to answer questions or provide additional information regarding this policy at 304-293-2677.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERPRETATION
The responsibility for interpretation of this policy rests with the Chief of Police at West Virginia University.

Effective Date: September 10, 1998
Updated: June 1, 2016
Approved By: Narvel G. Weese, Jr., Vice President