

MEMORANDUM

TO: UGA Faculty, Staff, and Students

FROM: Jimmy Williamson, Chief of Police

RE: Possession of Weapons on Campus

In regards to weapons on campus, the University of Georgia has a Firearms, Weapons, and Explosives policy. The policy conforms to Georgia statutes which address the possession of weapons on University property. The policy follows in its entirety:

University of Georgia Firearms, Weapons, and Explosives Policy

The University has deemed the following actions to be prohibited by state law and/or University policy. Violation of this policy will result in appropriate action, including but not limited to termination, dismissal and/or criminal prosecution, if it finds that a student, employee or visitor to campus engages in any of the following:

Using, possessing, manufacturing, distributing, maintaining, transporting or receiving, in a residence hall, any location on University property or at any University sponsored event, any of the following:

- (a) firearm or weapon whether operable or inoperable as defined in Georgia Code Section 16-11-127.1 or any object of like character, including but not limited to paintball guns, BB guns, potato guns, air soft guns or any device which propels a projectile of any kind;
- (b) any dangerous weapon, machine gun, sawed-off shotgun or rifle, shotgun or silencer as defined in Georgia Code Section 16-11-121;
- (c) any bacteriological weapon, biological weapon, destructive device, detonator, explosive, incendiary, over-pressure device or poison gas as defined in Georgia Code Section 16-7-80;
- (d) any explosive materials as defined in Georgia Code Section 16-7-81; or
- (e) any hoax device, replica of a destructive device or configuration of explosive materials with the appearance of a destructive device, including but not limited to, fake bombs, packages containing substances with the appearance of chemical explosives or toxic materials.

These provisions do not prohibit the possession of weapons or devices which are legal to possess within a motor vehicle. Formerly, only visitors, faculty and staff were permitted to possess firearms in their vehicles. The law now extends this right to students. Regardless of the individual's affiliation with the institution, firearms are strictly prohibited from being removed from a vehicle while on school grounds. Anyone who possesses a firearm in their vehicle must also have a valid firearms permit pursuant to Code Section 16-11-129 or 43-38-10.

Under Georgia Code Section 16-11-127.1(c)(5)(E), campus police officers are not prohibited from carrying weapons on the University of Georgia campus.

For further information, see Georgia Code Section 16-11-127.1, or contact the University Police Department. You may also visit our website at:

<http://www.police.uga.edu/weapons.html>