

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

University Policy: NO WEAPONS POLICY

Policy Category: Administrative

Subject: No Weapons Policy

Office Responsible for Review of this Policy: Entire University Community

I. SCOPE

Tuskegee University is a **weapons-free campus**. All persons on university property including faculty, staff, students, contractors, volunteers, and visitors are **prohibited** from using, possessing, carrying, displaying, or distributing any weapon.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

The purpose of this policy is to provide a safe environment for the students, faculty, staff, and visitors of Tuskegee University. Except as otherwise stated in this policy or as otherwise allowed by law, Tuskegee University prohibits any person from using, possessing, carrying, displaying, or distributing any weapon on university property. Violations of this policy will not be tolerated.

III. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to clearly explain the university's commitment to maintaining a safe and secure environment to conduct educational and research activities. This policy is a proactive step towards reducing/eliminating the risks associated with intentional or accidental use of weapons.

IV. TO WHOM THIS POLICY APPLIES

This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, contractors, volunteers, and visitors on Tuskegee University campus

V. EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy was revised on August 25, 2014.

VI. SIGNATURE, DATE, AND APPROVAL

Approved:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Brian L. Johnson', written over a horizontal line.

Brian L. Johnson, PhD
President

Date Approved:

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

NO WEAPONS POLICY

Applies to: Students, faculty, staff, contractors, vendors, volunteers, and visitors

I. PURPOSE

Tuskegee University is a **weapons-free campus**. The University has a long-standing commitment to provide a campus that is safe and secure for students, their families, and the greater Tuskegee community. Possession of any weapon on campus, or at university functions, by any person not specifically authorized, as explained below, is strictly prohibited and will result in serious action by the University.

II. DEFINITIONS

"Campus" means all property owned, leased or controlled by the University and any affiliated foundation or health care entity, including buildings and outdoor premises, such as parking lots and other outdoor property.

"Dangerous weapon" is defined to include:

- ❖ Any device that shoots or delivers a bullet, BB, pellet, arrow, dart, flare, electrical charge, or other projectile, whether loaded or unloaded, including those devices powered by CO2.
- ❖ Any explosive device, including fireworks.
- ❖ Any instruments/devices that are designed or may be used as a weapon to injure or threaten another individual, including non-culinary knives with a blade greater than four (4) inches.
- ❖ A firearm, as defined herein, is not included in this definition of dangerous weapon.

"Firearm" means a pistol, handgun, rifle, or shotgun and any ammunition.

III. GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT THAT PROHIBITS WEAPONS ON CAMPUS

Except as otherwise stated in this policy or as otherwise allowed by law, Tuskegee University prohibits any person from using, possessing, carrying, displaying, or distributing any weapon on university property. This policy applies to all persons on campus, including faculty, staff, students, contractors, volunteers, and visitors. Any instrument that has been designed or can be used to cause harm to another individual, either offensively or defensively, will be considered a weapon.

Dangerous weapons are not allowed on campus at any time. Any dangerous weapons may be confiscated.

Faculty and staff may not possess firearms on campus or while otherwise engaged in duties associated with their employment, except for a firearm properly maintained in a personal vehicle in a manner consistent with Alabama law.

Consistent with Alabama law, all persons (including concealed carry permittees) are strictly prohibited from possessing firearms (1) at facilities that provide inpatient or custodial care of patients with psychiatric, mental or emotional disorders; and (2) at locations where guards and other security features are employed, such as athletic events.

This policy will be published in staff, faculty, and student handbooks, and supersedes any contrary provisions.

IV. EXCEPTIONS

This policy does not prohibit use or possession of dangerous weapons or firearms by (1) certified law enforcement officers acting within the scope of their employment; (2) private security, who with express prior permission of Tuskegee University Police Department ("TUPD"), possess firearms or dangerous weapons while in the employ of the University or for a permitted event; and (3) members, coaches, and authorized staff of a recognized team or course who are acting within the scope of activities that TUPD has pre-approved (e.g. ROTC members). This Policy also does not apply to TUPD officers who are attending classes as students. If, however, TUPD officers are not in uniform during class, they must keep their weapons concealed. Any other use or possession of dangerous weapons or firearms on campus must be authorized by TUPD.

TUPD may, solely at their discretion, secure weapons for non-students seeking to enter University premises, provided those individuals notify campus police before they enter University premises. University police also have the option to secure weapons for students who declare them.

V. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF THE WEAPONS POLICY

Persons on campus and in violation of University policy are trespassers and may be dealt with accordingly, including, but not limited

to, being removed from campus and receiving a written directive to remain off campus. Contractors and vendors are expected to comply with policy and contract terms. Violations of Alabama law may be dealt with by appropriate law enforcement.

Student violations may be addressed in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct as well as other applicable policies and may include sanctions, up to and including expulsion. Employee violations may be resolved in accordance with employer policies, up to and including termination.

VI. REPORTING OF WEAPONS

Tuskegee University will take seriously all reports of weapons on campus. All members of the Tuskegee community have the responsibility to report the presence of weapons. If there is an immediate threat of violence, call 911 right away and call the TUPD 24 hour/7 day hotline at 334-724-4911, or call the TU Chief of Police directly at 334-421-3538 (cell) to report such weapons sightings and other emergencies.

Retaliation against any member of the Tuskegee University community who reports the presence of weapons on campus is a violation of this policy. Any individual who engages in retaliation will be subject to penalties similar to those imposed for possession of a weapon. For students, those penalties may include suspension and/or expulsion.

Revised August 25, 2014