University Weapons Policy

General

The University prohibits weapons of any kind on University property (excluding commercial and residential leaseholds), except weapons carried by an officer of the Sewanee Police Department while on duty, and except as described below. For the purposes of this policy, weapons include not only firearms but also commonly identified weapons such as brass knuckles, crossbows, knives over two inches in length, swords, and so on.

Employees and students who bring weapons onto such University property will be subject to sanctions which may include discharge or expulsion. Furthermore, employees, students, contractors, and others who bring weapons onto University campus property are subject to arrest. Weapons brought onto campus property in violation of this policy will be confiscated.

Handguns

The University prohibits the carrying or possession of handguns on and in all University property except as described below.

Under Tennessee law, employees who have valid handgun carry permits are allowed to bring a weapon covered by that permit onto University parking lots during their scheduled work hours, provided that the permitted weapon is kept in a locked vehicle owned by the employee, and so long as the weapon is not visible and is locked in the trunk, glove box, or gun safe. The weapon may never be removed from the employee’s vehicle while it is on University property.

Any employee who intends to have a permitted weapon in his or her vehicle while on a University parking lot must complete a disclosure form, available at the Sewanee Police Department, and provide proof that the employee has a valid handgun carry permit and owns the vehicle in which it will be stored. Employees who fail to abide by these carry permit rules will be subject to discipline, up to and including discharge.

Storage and Additional Regulations for Students

The Sewanee Police Department provides undergraduate and graduate students a lawful means of storage on campus for long guns they plan to use for legal recreational activities. One long gun per student may be stored by the Sewanee Police Department for any semester or summer term in which the student is enrolled and has completed a safekeeping agreement. Normally, students must remove their stored weapons from campus at the end of each semester or term. Stored weapons will be released only after ownership is verified and background checks have been successfully completed.

Students found in possession of a firearm, whether loaded or not, while on University property, except for the premises of the Sewanee Police Department, as above, will be subject to disciplinary action including a minimum of a $200 fine, and may be charged criminally. Students in possession of commonly identifiable weapons, or in possession of an “air soft” pistol or other similar object, can be similarly disciplined.

Students who use or threaten to use a firearm or other weapon will be suspended and, as appropriate, referred to local authorities. “Other weapons” may include objects that, while not designed as a weapon, are in the moment used as one (e.g., a student who strikes another with a baseball bat has used the bat as a weapon).

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