



Policy: **Weapons on Campus**

Effective: 5/31/23

Campus Safety

Policy: Grace College and Seminary does not permit the possession and/or use of firearms, ammunition, explosives or weapons (hereafter referred to as “weapons”) on or in property owned or controlled by the institution. All members of the Grace community and all visitors are prohibited from possessing weapons on the premises regardless of whether a federal or state license to possess the same has been issued to the individual.

Purpose: Grace is committed to providing a safe and secure environment to conduct educational activities. Although Grace respects each individual’s right to bear arms, Grace does not believe that firearms or ammunition are appropriate in the workplace or on Grace’s property. This policy is one step toward reducing the risk of injury or death associated with intentional or accidental use of weapons.

Scope: This policy applies to the Winona Lake campus.

It is not intended to prohibit the possession of ordinary, small folding pocket knives, with a blade length of 3 inches or less, or a culinary knife designed for the preparation or service of food, or a supervisor-approved cutting object used within the scope of an employee’s employment. Using an item in a threatening or dangerous manner, however, may be construed as threatening behavior by use of a weapon and constitute a violation of this policy.

This policy does not include weapons properly registered and stored in the custody and control of Grace’s Campus Safety Department for secure storage.

Nothing in this policy shall be read to prohibit weapons on campus to the extent necessary to conduct College-approved academic or educational programs, activities, construction projects, or by sworn police officers.

Definitions:

“Weapons” include, but are not limited to the following:

1. 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 and has the propensity to pose a reasonable apprehension of fear to another when expelled;
2. Any handgun, pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun or other firearm of any nature and ammunition for any firearm of any nature but nothing herein shall prohibit a student from properly storing a legally owned firearm or ammunition with the campus safety department pursuant to other college policies and procedures;
3. Any BB gun, pellet gun, air/CO2 gun, stun gun, blow gun, paintball gun, air soft guns, potato guns, or similar guns;
4. Any explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, mine, grenade, rocket or missile;



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5. Any incendiary or explosive material, liquid, solid or mixture equipped with a fuse, wick or other detonating device, or capable of causing an explosion as the result of a chemical reaction;
6. Any tear gas bomb or smoke bomb; however, personal self-defense items containing mace or pepper spray shall not be deemed to be a weapon for the purposes of this policy;
7. 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;
8. Any straight-blade knife such as a dagger, dirk, poniard, ballistic or other dangerous knife, or stiletto;
9. Any martial arts weapon such as nunchucks or throwing stars, including those used for training;
10. Any longbow, crossbow and arrows or other projectile that could cause serious harm to any person;
11. Any other object designed to perform essentially the same function or reasonably appear to perform essentially the same function as any of the prohibited objects above, including decor items which, though intended for display only, could be considered potentially dangerous; or
12. Any weapon not described above that is considered illegal in the state of Indiana.

Procedure:

General Procedures

1. Students and employees are not permitted to have weapons or ammunition of any type on the Grace College and Seminary campus, including in locked and unlocked vehicles, whether they are kept in the trunk, glove compartment, or elsewhere in a vehicle; residence halls; or other locations on, owned, rented, or leased by Grace.
2. Students and employees may not carry a firearm or ammunition while on work-related business or travel for Grace College and Seminary.
3. Carrying firearms or ammunition in Grace-owned or leased vehicles is prohibited with the exception of the Grace Shooting Club (or other campus sanctioned club) traveling for events.
 - a. Weapons and ammunition used by Shooting Club or other campus-sanctioned club members and advisors (e.g., archery) are stored in secure locations off campus.
4. Students or employees in possession of a weapon or ammunition on campus must register these with the Campus Safety Department for storage, the only approved secure storage location on campus.



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- a. Secure storage in the campus safety office is limited to employees and students who work or live on the Winona Lake campus.
 - b. Upon registration, a receipt is provided to the owner and must be used to retrieve the weapon or ammunition.
 - c. Receipts are maintained in the campus safety office until the student or employee is no longer at the institution.
 - d. Campus Safety will make reasonable attempts to return unclaimed weapons and ammunition by contacting the registering party. If unsuccessful in doing so, Campus Safety will contact the Winona Lake Police Department for disposal at the end of the academic year.
5. Security staff hired by third parties for events on the Grace College campus are not permitted to carry weapons unless that security staff member is also a sworn law enforcement officer.

Violations:

1. Student violations of this policy may result in confiscation of the weapon(s) and/or ammunition, and the matter reported to the Student Affairs Office. The student may be subject to discipline up to and including suspension and expulsion from the college. The student in violation of this policy may also be prohibited from returning to the campus and/or referred to law enforcement for prosecution.
2. Employee violations of this policy may result in confiscation of the weapon(s) and/or ammunition, and the matter reported to the Human Resources Department. The employee may be subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment, and may also be referred to law enforcement for prosecution and/or prohibited from returning to campus.
3. Any other persons (excluding law enforcement personnel) found in violation of this policy are subject to prohibition from campus property and may also be referred to law enforcement for prosecution and/or prohibited from returning to campus.

Interpretations, Exemptions, and Revocations

The director of campus safety is authorized to interpret and consider requests for exemption to the application of these policies and will do so in collaboration with the appropriate senior administrator (including the dean of students and/or chief human resources officer), supervisor, dean, and/or legal counsel.

Revision History

Date	Description of Revision
12/1/21	Creation and cabinet approval of institutional policy. Prior statements were in the <i>Student Handbook</i> and <i>Employee Statement</i> .



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5/31/23	Added statement about third party event security staff not having weapons.
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