

HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY  
WEAPONS AND FIREARMS POLICY

**Policy**

Hofstra University is committed to maintaining a safe and secure environment in which to conduct educational and research activities. In furtherance of this goal, and in order to reduce the risk of injury or death associated with intentional or accidental use of weapons, Hofstra University prohibits the possession of shotguns, rifles, firearms and other weapons or dangerous instruments (“Weapons”), as defined below, on University property or in the course of any University activity. This policy is intended to confirm and set forth in writing the University’s longstanding procedures with regard to weapons.

**Definitions**

**Weapons** prohibited by this policy include:

- a) firearms and ammunition of any type (rifles, pistols, air guns, pellet guns, bb guns, stun guns, Tasers, etc.)
- b) knives, razors, and cutting instruments, other than Kirpans<sup>1</sup> and folding pocket knives having a blade of less than two and a half inches;
- c) illegal spray devices;
- d) any other instrument which is adapted, designed or intended to cause harm, or which could reasonably intimidate or cause fear of injury or harm;
- e) any object that is visually indistinguishable from a weapon; and
- f) any item that may be deemed a weapon under applicable law.

Weapons do not include objects that are authorized, designated and used in accordance with departmental policies for operational, academic and/or recreational purposes (e.g., cutlery used to prepare food, fencing equipment used in athletics, props used in a dramatic production (see “Simulated Weapons,” below), unless used in a way that is intended to harm another person or property. The university at its sole discretion will grant or deny the authorization and use of such objects.

**Simulated Weapons** are a facsimile of any category of Weapons, as defined above, that resembles the actual Weapon but is not capable of use as a weapon. This includes, but is not limited to, Simulated Weapons used as props in plays and other student activities.

Any Simulated Weapons on campus must be reported to and approved by Public Safety prior to being used in any activity, so that arrangements can be made for the safe handling, storage, transportation, and use of the Simulated Weapons.

## **Scope**

This policy applies to all members of the University community, and every person present on University property at any time, including by way of example only: students, faculty, staff, administrators, licensees, visitors, members of affiliate organizations, vendors, contractors and their employees.

The only exceptions are the following:

1. Law enforcement or other individuals in governmental service who are performing official duties on campus.
2. Persons in the military in performance of their official duties.
3. Persons authorized by their employer and duly licensed to collect or transport cash, checks and other valuables, and who are performing legitimate business responsibilities with authorized University employees or affiliates.
4. Persons authorized in writing by the Director of Public Safety.

## ***Additional Provisions***

Individuals who lawfully possess Weapons off-campus may make a written request to store such Weapons in secured spaces at the Public Safety Information Center while on-campus. Requests shall be granted or denied at the discretion of the Director of Public Safety. Individuals who have been authorized to store Weapons may carry and transport these Weapons to and from the Public Safety Information Center.

Weapons may not be stored in vehicles parked on campus.

Failure to comply with any provisions of this policy may result in disciplinary action or other sanctions. Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with all applicable collective bargaining agreements.

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<sup>i</sup> A Kirpan is an article of faith in the Sikh religion.