

CONCEALED CARRY - UNIVERSITY POLICY

The Illinois General Assembly has passed the Illinois FIREARMS ACT "conceal and carry." The Act authorizes public and private universities to promulgate policy regulating the use of weapons on campuses. The President is proposing the adoption of a University Conceal and Carry Policy and an amendment to the current Workplace Violence Prevention Policy. The policy is attached for Board of Trustees discussion and action.

Concealed Carry - University Policy
Under 430 ILCS 66 – Illinois Firearm Concealed Carry Act

I. Statement of Purpose

Northern Illinois University (hereafter referred to as "NIU" or "University") hereby establishes the NIU Concealed Carry Policy (hereafter referred to as "Policy") pursuant to the 2013 Illinois Firearm Concealed Carry Act (430 ILCS 66) and its enabling regulations, and the authority granted by the Northern Illinois University Law (10 ILCS 685). NIU is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for the NIU community and its guests. In support of this commitment, NIU establishes restrictions on the ability to carry firearms or weapons on the NIU campus in accordance with the Board of Trustees' authority to promulgate rules and regulations and the 2013 Illinois Firearm Concealed Carry Act.

II. Persons Covered by this Policy

This Policy applies to all employees, students, persons conducting business, or individuals visiting the NIU campus, as "Campus" is defined in this Policy. Visitors include, but are not limited to, prospective students, former students and their respective families.

III. Prohibited Activities

A. Weapons or Firearms

NIU maintains a Weapons and Firearms-Free Campus. "Campus" includes, but is not limited to, the NIU campus in DeKalb; regional campuses in Hoffman Estates, Naperville and Rockford; the Lorado Taft Field campus outside Oregon, Illinois; and sites, whether owned, leased or controlled by NIU, where NIU programs, activities and classes are held. No person covered by this policy, unless authorized by law or specifically exempted by federal or state law or NIU regulation, is authorized to possess a weapon or firearm while engaged in NIU-related business or activities.

It is the Policy of NIU to prohibit:

- (1) Any person covered by this Policy from possessing a weapon or firearm on property owned, leased or controlled by NIU, even if that person has a valid federal or state license to possess a weapon or firearm.
- (2) Any person covered by this Policy from displaying, brandishing, discharging or otherwise using any and all weapons or firearms, including concealed weapons or firearms.

B. Other Prohibited Activities

It is the Policy of NIU to prohibit all persons covered by this Policy from making threats, bullying, intimidating or engaging in acts of violence. Such behavior or actions will not be tolerated and may result in discipline, up to and including but not limited to, immediate discharge, expulsion, and/or banishment from Campus.

C. Exceptions

The provisions of this Policy do not apply to the possession of weapons or firearms in NIU vehicles, NIU buildings, on NIU grounds, or at any NIU-sponsored activity if the possession of weapons or firearms is related to one of the following exceptions:

- a. The weapon or firearm is used in connection with a weapons safety course or weapons education course offered in the regular course of business or approved and authorized by NIU.
- b. The weapon or firearm is carried by a on duty law enforcement officer required to carry a weapon or firearm as a condition of his or her employment; the weapon or firearm is carried by an enforcement officer from an external agency conducting official business at

NIU; or any other exception is deemed necessary as determined by the NIU Chief of Police.

- c. The weapon or firearm is used in connection with sanctioned classes, athletics, or recreational sports practices, games, matches, tournaments or events on Campus when the activity requires the use of such weapons or firearms (e.g., fencing, starter pistols and archery).
- d. The use of simulated weapons or firearms in connection with NIU-related theatrical productions.

The exceptions to the prohibitions of concealed carry do not apply to off-duty law enforcement officers on Campus, including off duty law enforcement officers attending classes as students.

IV. Locations at Which Policy Applies

For purposes of this Policy, "property of NIU" includes any vehicle, building, classroom, laboratory, medical clinic, hospital, artistic venue, or entertainment venue whether owned, leased or operated by NIU, and any real property, including parking areas, sidewalks and common areas under the control of NIU.

This Policy also applies to all University-related organization property whether leased or owned by NIU, and all NIU-officially-recognized organization property whether leased or owned by NIU.

NIU's Division of Finance and Facilities, in consultation with NIU's Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management and NIU's Department of Police and Public Safety, shall determine placement of clearly and conspicuously posted signs at all building and restricted parking area entrances stating that concealed firearms are prohibited. Signs shall be in accordance with the design approved by the Illinois State Police.

The Division of Finance and Facilities, in consultation with other relevant divisions of NIU and executive management, shall be responsible for the placement and maintenance of signage at building and restricted parking area entrances where vehicles containing weapons or firearms are prohibited.

- **Parking**

A weapon or firearm may be transported into an unrestricted parking area within a vehicle if the weapon or firearm and its ammunition remain locked in a case out of plain view within the parked vehicle. Certain parking areas on Campus may be designated as areas where weapons and firearms are not permitted. "Case" is defined as a glove compartment or console that completely encases the weapon or firearm and its ammunition, the trunk of the vehicle, or a weapon or firearm carrying box, shipping box or other container. The weapon or firearm may only be removed for the limited purpose of storage or retrieval from within the trunk of the vehicle. A weapon or firearm must first be unloaded before removal from the vehicle.

- **Storage and Confiscation of Weapons or Firearms**

The primary place of storage for a weapon or firearm is within a locked case out of plain view within a parked vehicle in an unrestricted parking area. When storage of a weapon or firearm in a vehicle is not practical, the weapon or firearm may also be stored with the NIU Department of Police and Public Safety. Prior arrangements should be made with the Department of Police and Public Safety when using its storage services, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

All persons arriving on the NIU campus in DeKalb with a licensed weapon or firearm who cannot store their weapon or firearm in their vehicle must proceed immediately to the dispatch facility of the NIU Department of Police and Public Safety at 375 Wirtz Drive, DeKalb to temporarily secure their weapon or firearm. Individuals are required to present their valid concealed carry license, their valid state Firearm Owners Identification card, and their valid state-issued driver's license or state ID, in

order to check in and check out weapons or firearms. Weapons or firearms shall be checked out immediately prior to leaving the NIU campus in DeKalb.

All persons who seek storage of a licensed weapon or firearm at any other NIU location (including, but not limited to, the NIU campuses in Hoffman Estates, Naperville and Rockford and the Lorado Taft Field campus outside Oregon, Illinois) must make prior arrangements with the NIU Department of Police and Public Safety.

The Reserve Officers' Training Corp shall develop protocols for storage, maintenance and safety of weapons used as part of its program, as approved by the Provost or his/her designee.

V. Enforcement

Any individual visiting or conducting business on the property of NIU found to have carried a weapon or firearm onto the property of NIU knowingly, or under circumstances in which the person should have known that he or she was in possession of a weapon or firearm, may be banned from the NIU Campus.

Any student found to have carried a weapon or firearm onto the property of NIU knowingly, or found to be carrying a weapon under circumstances in which the student should have known that he or she was in possession of a weapon or firearm, may be subject to discipline up to and including, but not limited to, expulsion from NIU.

Any employee found to have carried a weapon or firearm onto the property of NIU knowingly, or found to be carrying a weapon or firearm under circumstances in which the employee should have known that he or she was in possession of a weapon or firearm, may be subject to discipline up to and including, but not limited to, immediate termination of employment, subject to such other employment rules or regulations in place.

Any individual found to have carried a weapon or firearm onto the property of NIU knowingly, or found to be carrying a weapon or firearm under circumstances in which the individual should have known that he or she was in possession of a weapon or firearm, may be subject to administrative action by NIU and possible arrest and prosecution. Violations of this Policy may result in referrals to external law enforcement agencies.

VI. Reporting Requirements

NIU's Board of Trustees authorizes the President of NIU to promulgate protocols for the implementation of this Policy including, but not limited to, delegating required reporting responsibilities and protocols related to storage and confiscation of weapons or firearms.

VII. Distribution of Information Regarding Policy

NIU's Division of University Relations, in consultation with other relevant divisions of NIU and executive management, shall be responsible for the development and distribution of information regarding this Policy to the NIU campus community, NIU media outlets and external audiences.

VIII. Definitions

- A.** "Bullying" is defined as: Conduct by any person covered by this Policy that is intended or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm students by substantially interfering with educational opportunities, benefits, or programs of one or more students, faculty members or employees, or conduct that adversely affects the ability of a student, faculty members or employees, to participate in or benefit from NIU's educational programs or activities by placing the student, faculty member or employee in a reasonable person's fear of actual and substantial physical harm, mental harm or emotional distress.
- B.** A "firearm" is defined as: loaded or unloaded handgun. A "handgun" is defined as any device which is designed to expel a projectile or projectiles by the action of an explosion, expansion of gas, or escape of gas that is designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand.

- C. A “weapon” is defined as: Any device, whether loaded or unloaded, that shoots a bullet, pellet, flare or any other projectile including those powered by CO₂. This includes, but is not limited to, machine guns, rifles, shotguns, handguns or other firearm, BB/pellet gun, spring gun, paint ball gun, flare gun, stun gun, taser or dart gun and any ammunition for any such device. Any replica of the foregoing is also prohibited.

Any explosive device including, but not limited to, firecrackers and black powder.

Any device that is designed or traditionally used to inflict harm including, but not limited to, bows and arrows, any knife with a blade longer than three inches, hunting knife, fixed blade knife, throwing knives, dagger, razor or other cutting instrument the blade of which is exposed.

IX. NIU Department of Police and Public Safety

The Department of Police and Public Safety, in consultation with other relevant divisions of NIU and executive management, shall be responsible for the development and promulgation of procedures, protocols for storage and confiscation of weapons and the determination of restricted parking areas.

The NIU Chief of Police, in consultation with other relevant divisions of NIU and executive management, shall promulgate policies and procedures to be used in determining whether any exceptions to this Policy are necessary.

X. NIU Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

The Vice President of the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management shall be the designee of the President of NIU responsible for reporting to the Department of State Police any student or visitor who is determined to pose a clear and present danger.

XI. NIU Division of Finance and Facilities

NIU’s Division of Finance and Facilities, in consultation with NIU’s Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management and NIU’s Department of Police and Public Safety, shall determine placement of clearly and conspicuously posted signs at all building and restricted parking area entrances stating that concealed firearms are prohibited. Signs shall be in accordance with the design approved by the Illinois State Police.

The Division of Finance and Facilities, in consultation with other relevant divisions of NIU and executive management, shall be responsible for the placement and maintenance of signage at building and restricted parking area entrances where vehicles containing weapons or firearms are prohibited.

XII. NIU Division of University Relations

NIU’s Division of University Relations, in consultation with other relevant divisions of NIU and executive management, shall be responsible for the development and distribution of information regarding this Policy to the NIU campus community, NIU media outlets and external audiences.

XIII. NIU Division of Outreach, Engagement, and Information Technologies

The Division of Outreach, Engagement, and Information Technologies, in consultation with other relevant divisions of NIU and executive management, shall be responsible for the development and promulgation of policies and procedures that ensure compliance with this Policy in connection with the Division’s activities.

XIV. Delegation

NIU’s Board of Trustees hereby delegates to the President of NIU the authority to promulgate additional policies, regulations and procedures related to and consistent with this Policy, the 2013 Illinois Firearm Concealed Carry Act and other relevant laws and regulations.

The President of NIU shall from time to time, but not later than 30 days from the development of any additional policies, report to NIU's Board of Trustees of such additions, policies, regulations or procedures and the status of implementation of this Policy.