Policy: **Possession of Firearms, Explosives, Munitions, Dangerous Chemicals, Weapons on Campus**	
Issuing Department**:** **Finance and Administration**	
Date last revised: **April 2006**	

PURPOSE

To comply with the Oregon University System OAR 580-022-0045, promote safety on campus, eliminate potential misuse and reduce the potential of incidents related to these areas, insurance and liability.

POLICY

Pursuant to OAR 580-022-0045, the Western Oregon University Campus Public Safety Department shall prohibit the possession of firearms, ammunition, explosives, dangerous chemicals, fireworks or related dangerous items on campus except where exclusively authorized by the president, or through contract, for instructional purposes, part of inter-collegiate sanctioned events, civic events sanctioned by the university, law, or in the course of work (e.g., police, law enforcement services).

DISCUSSION

This policy includes prohibiting weapons carried by individuals "licensed" to carry concealed weapons. ORS 166.370(2)(d) has been amended to permit a "broader" group of people to carry concealed weapons. However, the president of Western Oregon University has the authority to control, manage and regulate behavior on campus.

Weapons Definition - An instrument that is designed to cause bodily harm to another person, property or animal. Types of weapons include but are not limited to:

1. Firearms - Any weapon that expels ammunition that includes gun powder or compressed air.
2. Ammunition - Any projectile or ammunition that has the potential to penetrate.
3. Explosives - Devices intended to create an explosion that is of greater force than firearms.
4. Dangerous Chemicals - Intended to cause bodily harm or discomfort.
5. Fireworks - Device used to explode or become a projectile when igniting a fuse.
6. Knives - Having a blade that projects or swings into position by force of a spring or centrifugal force (ORS 166.240).

7. Bow/Arrows - Designed to be propelled through the air by applied human force.

PROCEDURES

1. When an officer observes, has reported, or is dispatched to a possession of weapons on campus, they are to provide the potential violator with the information stated in the authority section of this policy.
2. They are to inform the violators that removal must be immediate and the following "temporary" options are available:
    A. Immediate removal off campus
    B. The Campus Public Safety office may take possession and store in the property room for a period not to exceed 24 hours (property receipt provided).
3. After 24 hours, the individual must have transported the weapon(s) off campus or he/she will be asked to leave campus "temporarily" until the weapons are removed and compliance met.
4. If any property is temporarily taken by the Campus Public Safety office under this policy, a formal report shall be written indicating the purpose, issue and arrangements made. A property receipt shall be issued and a supervisor informed at their next regular shift. Property shall be under lock and key, secured at all times and handled pursuant to policy.
5. Weapons used in intercollegiate events such as archery may be used in areas designed for target practice.

CONCEALED WEAPONS PERMITS

Western Employees - State employees who obtain concealed weapon(s) permits may mistakenly think the permit authorizes them to carry their weapon(s) on the job. A permit to conceal a weapon does not create the authority to use or carry a weapon on the job, concealed or openly.

Citizens - Members of the public who have permits to conceal a weapon may mistakenly think the permit authorizes them to carry their weapon(s) into public buildings. A permit to conceal a weapon does not create the authority to carry a weapon openly or concealed into a public building.

It merely exempts the permittee from a strict liability statute (ORS 166.370) which would otherwise impose an "automatic" criminal penalty. Without a concealed weapons permit, ORS 166.370 makes it a crime for anyone except certain police or military officials to bring loaded or unloaded firearms into public buildings regardless of their intent.

A. If a person with a permit is encountered, they may be informed, if appropriate, that campus rules prohibit firearms on campus and in university buildings. They may be cooperatively requested to not bring the firearm when visiting in the future. However, after being informed,

violation “could" take place through a trespass or failure to comply with an order (OAR 580-022-0045).

This is not our preferred method and would be utilized only in a very unusual situation AFTER SUPERVISOR CONSULTATION. ORS 164.265 – Criminal Trespass while in possession of a firearm as stated in Definitions section of this policy.

B. NO FIREARMS, WEAPONS, MUNITIONS will be permitted in residence halls or housing even if a concealed weapons permit exists. (Campus Public Safety and university officials will deal with this on a case-by-case basis.) No weapons in vehicles or locked in trunk areas that are on campus.

Caution, courtesy and public relations are very important elements to consider at all times when moving forward on this policy. If questions are apparent or the situation is unusual...Consult!

AUTHORITY

1. OAR 580-022-0045, ORS 164.265
2. University Residence rules
3. Auxiliary Services Contract #40
4. Code of Student Responsibility (OAR 574-031)

RESPONSIBILITY

Vice President for Finance and Administration and Director of Campus Public Safety

Date of next review: **April 2011**

Alternate formats of this policy are available from the Office of Human Resources.