

SIMMONS UNIVERSITY

POLICY ON WEAPONS

Issued: January 2019

Purpose and Scope

Simmons University is committed to maintaining a safe environment where all of its community members – students, faculty, staff, visitors and contractors – can live, work, and learn. Prohibitions on the possession and use of firearms and other dangerous weapons are not only essential to that goal, but are required by state law.

This policy applies to all faculty, staff, students, visitors and contractors who are on any property owned, leased, occupied or controlled by Simmons University, including but not limited to all buildings, grounds, and vehicles, or otherwise are engaged in any activity relating to Simmons or any Simmons-sponsored event regardless of location, with the sole exception of law enforcement personnel acting in the scope of their employment.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, a “**weapon**” is any instrument or instrumentality that has been designed, created, or used for purposes which include causing or threatening to cause bodily harm or death. Thus, for purposes of illustration and without limiting the generality of the foregoing sentence:

- A firearm constitutes a weapon under this policy because it has been designed for purposes which include causing bodily harm or death, regardless of whether the particular firearm at issue has been used for that purpose, is unloaded, is secured, or otherwise has been rendered inoperable.
- An ordinary table knife which is used only to prepare or consume food is not a weapon under this policy because it was not designed or created for the purpose of causing bodily harm or death and has not been used for any such purpose.
- An ordinary table knife which a person uses to assault, threaten, or intimidate another person is a weapon for purposes of this policy because even though it was not designed or created for such purposes it was used for such purposes.

The term “**weapon**” includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

- **Guns or other firearms**, which include but are not limited to any kind of pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, or other instrument from which a shot, bullet, or pellet can be discharged by whatever means, including BB guns, air guns, and paintball guns.
- **Ammunition** that can be used in any kind of gun, firearm or other dangerous weapon.
- **Explosive devices or substances** of any kind, including but not limited to fireworks.

- Anything that constitutes a “**dangerous weapon**” pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 269, section 10(b), including for example: stilettos, daggers, switchblades, ballistic knives, dirk knives, knives with a blade taller than 1½ inches, knives with double-edged blades, slingshots, blowguns, blackjacks, metallic knuckles, nunchaku, zoobow, klackers and throwing stars or other projectiles.
- **Electrical weapons** including but not limited to stun guns and Tasers. A stun gun is a dangerous weapon if it emits an electrical current, impulse, wave or beam which may be used to kill, injure or incapacitate another.
- **Chemical sprays** including chemical mace, pepper spray, or any other device or instrument which contains, propels or emits a liquid, gas, powder or other substance designed to incapacitate.

Note: Simmons students and employees who carry chemical sprays (pepper spray or mace, for example) solely to enhance their personal protection will not violate this policy against dangerous weapons so long as they secure their spray devices properly while on Simmons property and do not use them improperly.

Policy

Simmons University strictly prohibits the possession, distribution, use or threatened use of any weapon on any property owned, leased, occupied or controlled by Simmons, including but not limited to all buildings, grounds, and vehicles, or otherwise are engaged in any activity relating to Simmons or any Simmons-sponsored event regardless of location, with the sole exception of law enforcement personnel acting in the scope of their employment.

This prohibition applies regardless of whether a person is licensed to own or carry the weapon and regardless of whether the weapon is unloaded, secured, or otherwise inoperable.

A person is in “possession” of a weapon for purposes of this policy if it is on their person, otherwise under their control, on in a space (including but not limited to a room, container, or vehicle) that is under their control.

Enforcement

Simmons University will take immediate action for violations of this policy, which may include but not be limited to confiscation of the weapon, notification of law enforcement, criminal prosecution, immediate separation from campus, suspension, expulsion, or termination from employment.

Reporting

Any person who has reason to believe that a member of the Simmons community has violated this policy, or who otherwise is concerned about the presence or possible presence of a weapon, is strongly encouraged to call the Simmons University Police Department by dialing 617-521-1111 (emergency line) or 911. Such reports may be made anonymously.

You also may report your concern anonymously via the Simmons EthicsPoint hotline.
<https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/22114/index.html>.

Requests for exemptions or exceptions

Any person seeking an exception or exemption to this policy must contact the Simmons University Police Department's non-emergency line (617-521-1112). This action must take place before the item in question is brought onto any University property or to a University-sponsored event. Questions about this policy should be directed to the Simmons University General Counsel's Office or to the Simmons University Police Department.

Note: Simmons University reserves the right to update or modify this policy in whole or in part at any time in its sole discretion.