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## PA State System of Higher Education Board of Governors

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Effective: TBD

Page 1 of 3

### **Policy 2013-03: *Prohibiting Deadly or Offensive Weapons***

See Also:

Adopted: TBD

Amended:

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#### **A. Purpose**

To establish a policy prohibiting deadly or offensive weapons in sensitive areas at all Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) facilities and property including the Office of the Chancellor; university, branch, and extension campuses; and leased space. Under Act 188 of 1982, PASSHE is responsible for providing a safe and secure educational environment and is authorized to establish policies governing the use of PASSHE facilities and property.

#### **B. Scope**

This policy applies to all persons who are enrolled, employed by, visiting, or providing services to any PASSHE location. The policy applies equally to those persons who have a government-issued license to carry a concealed firearm.

This policy does not apply to:

1. Commissioned officers of the university police department.
2. Duly authorized law enforcement officers and retired law enforcement officers pursuant to 18 U.S. Code Sections 926B and 926C.
3. Members of the United States Armed Forces when in uniform and conducting official business.
4. Security details assigned to armored vehicle couriers.
5. Bodyguards or security details for prominent persons when approved by the president or designee or by the chancellor or designee for facilities under the control of the Office of the Chancellor.

#### **C. Policy**

The possession or carrying of any deadly or offensive weapon by any person is prohibited in sensitive areas as defined below. Violation of this prohibition is expressly forbidden and will result in the individual being directed to leave or remove the weapon immediately. Failure to comply with such directive may result in sanctions, discipline, or other actions as appropriate.

The activities listed below frequently use weapons or weapon-like props and are permissible if used for official university-sanctioned events. However, persons responsible for the events must recognize risks associated with using weapons or weapon-like props and must exercise prudent safety measures to ensure they are properly used and stored. Persons responsible for the events must follow university reporting and notification procedures. The permitted activities include:

1. Official police, ROTC, or military exercises or demonstrations.
2. Military gun salutes and rifle volleys.
3. Approved student organization events, such as martial arts clubs and reenactment activities.
4. Class instruction and other university-sponsored educational activities under the direction of appropriately trained instructors.
5. Color guard and similar ceremonial activities.
6. Intercollegiate athletics.
7. Dramatic plays and similar artistic events.
8. Museum displays.

After consultation with and approval by the chancellor, universities may identify in a university policy consistent with this policy additional weapons limitations to sensitive areas specific to the university or exceptions necessary for storage of weapons on PASSHE property.

#### D. Definitions

**Deadly or offensive weapon**—Any device designed to produce death or serious bodily injury. Offensive weapons may be any devices so defined under the Pennsylvania Crimes Code Section 908(c), i.e., those which serve no common lawful purpose. For the purposes of this policy, deadly or offensive weapons may include, but are not limited to:

1. Firearms, loaded or unloaded.
2. Pellet, BB, flare, tranquilizer, stun, spear, or dart guns.
3. Knives with blades longer than three inches.
4. Any cutting instrument where the blade is exposed in an automatic way.
5. Daggers or swords.
6. Striking instruments, including clubs, truncheons, and blackjacks.
7. Martial arts weapons.
8. Bow and arrow combinations.
9. Explosive devices.
10. Ammunition or components to manufacture ammunition.

The definition of deadly or offensive weapons under this policy does not include devices sold commercially, such as aerosol dispensers or nonlethal chemical irritants with volume not greater than three fluid ounces, small pocketknives with blades less than three inches long, small personal stun devices, or general tools not designed as weapons and used for their lawful and intended purposes.

**Sensitive areas**—All PASSHE buildings or any sporting, entertainment, recreational, or educational event at PASSHE facilities or property or sponsored by a university. In addition to traditional classroom events, educational events include commencements, assemblies, outdoor class meetings, field trips, camps, and other similar activities. Also, other areas as prohibited by law including daycare centers and elementary and/or secondary schools and grounds. PASSHE buildings include: university academic, athletic, administrative, health care, or student residence buildings; dining facilities; and student union or recreation centers.

**E. Effective Date:** TBD.