

OBERLIN

COLLEGE & CONSERVATORY

Oberlin College Firearms and Weapons on Campus Policy

Adopted 10-28-2020

Policy Statement

The possession of firearms, weapons, dangerous ordnance, and explosives as they are defined by ORC 2923.11¹, is strictly prohibited on property owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by Oberlin College, even if a person has a concealed weapon (“CCW”) permit. A licensed CCW holder is permitted to exit their vehicle with their firearm visible in order to immediately properly secure their weapon in the vehicle for the duration of their visit to campus.

Exceptions to Oberlin College’s Firearms Policy on Campus

The following individuals may carry a firearm or weapon on campus; however, such individuals should notify Oberlin College’s Campus Safety prior to their arrival on campus.

- Peace officers carrying validating identification who are certified in the State of Ohio and authorized to carry weapons and firearms both on and off duty, in uniform or in plain clothes.
- All other sworn law enforcement officers, deputies, or agents carrying validating identification of established federal or state law enforcement agencies authorized to carry weapons and firearms both on and off duty, in uniform or in plain clothes, in the State of Ohio.
- Certified On-Duty Security Officers servicing Bank ATM machines or managing currency from an armored vehicle providing service on campus.

¹ ORC 2923.11 provides a holistic definition of “weapon” that the College adopts for the purpose of this Policy. For illustrative purposes, ORC 2923.11(K) defines “dangerous ordnance” as the following:

- (1) Any automatic or sawed-off firearm, zip-gun, or ballistic knife;
- (2) Any explosive device or incendiary device;
- (3) Nitroglycerin, nitrocellulose, nitrostarch, PETN, cyclonite, TNT, picric acid, and other high explosives; amatol, tritonal, tetrytol, pentolite, pecretol, cyclotol, and other high explosive compositions; plastic explosives; dynamite, blasting gelatin, gelatin dynamite, sensitized ammonium nitrate, liquid-oxygen blasting explosives, blasting powder, and other blasting agents; and any other explosive substance having sufficient brisance or power to be particularly suitable for use as a military explosive, or for use in mining, quarrying, excavating, or demolitions;
- (4) Any firearm, rocket launcher, mortar, artillery piece, grenade, mine, bomb, torpedo, or similar weapon, designed and manufactured for military purposes, and the ammunition for that weapon;
- (5) Any firearm muffler or suppressor;
- (6) Any combination of parts that is intended by the owner for use in converting any firearm or other device into a dangerous ordnance.

ORC 2923.11(L) creates exceptions for weapons to not be classified as an ordnance; however, this Policy nevertheless prohibits those exceptions on campus as weapons.

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The Director of Campus Safety is authorized to provide prior written authorization for non-peace officers or sworn law enforcement officers to possess a weapon or firearm on campus in the following limited circumstances:

- When possession of a weapon is necessary for the performance of official job duties (e.g., security detail for VIP guest); or
- When the weapon is worn as part of a military or fraternal uniform in connection with a public ceremony, parade, or theatrical performance; or
- When someone possesses or uses such a weapon in connection with a regularly scheduled educational, recreational, or training program authorized by Oberlin College.

Student Conduct

In addition to this Policy, students are required to also comply with the Oberlin Student Conduct and Community Standards and the Residential Education Policies that prohibit weapons and other contraband from residence halls.