



OP 91.120: POSSESSION OF WEAPONS INCLUDING FIREARMS

PURPOSE

To provide regulations regarding the possession of weapons, including firearms, in compliance with Institutions of Higher Learning policies and state law.

Definitions

Authorized Employees – employees who have been authorized by their Department Head, Dean, Vice President, and President to possess a weapon or firearm on or in University Controlled Property

Authorized Persons – those individuals, other than employees and students, who have in their possession a valid, unexpired state firearms permit with the “Instructor Certified” (IC) sticker on the back or the equivalent permit issued by a state with a reciprocity agreement with Mississippi.

Non-Public Locations – Academic buildings; Administrative offices and buildings; Athletic facilities including, but not limited to, Dudy Noble Field, Humphrey Coliseum and Davis Wade Stadium; Residence Halls; Fraternity & Sorority Housing; Sanderson Recreation Center including outdoor recreational space/fields (RecPlex); the Longest Student Health Center, the College of Veterinary Medicine Animal Health Center and other medical or mental health facilities operated by the university; Child Development Center; University Television Center; Ticketed Events; and any research centers/laboratories.

University Controlled Property – this shall include (1) all campuses, (2) all University buildings, offices, and grounds, regardless of whether the University owns, leases, or otherwise controls the space, and (3) University-owned vehicles.

Weapon – any gun, rifle, pistol, or other firearm of any kind, or any dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine, or powerful explosive

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

The University permits duly authorized law enforcement officials and Authorized Persons to carry firearms and other weapons on or in University Controlled Property. Authorized Persons may not possess a firearm in Non-Public Locations.

UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES AND STUDENTS

No University student or employee, unless a duly authorized law enforcement official or authorized in accordance with the following procedure, may possess a weapon or firearm on or in University Controlled Property regardless of the possession of any kind of firearms permit.

Authorization Process for University Employees:

The following two categories of employees may submit a request to possess a weapon or firearm on or in University Controlled Property, including Non-Public Locations, by completing a Weapons Authorization Request Form. This Weapons Authorization Request Form must have the approval/signature of each required person prior to the employee possessing a weapon or on in University Controlled Property. The Weapons Authorization Request Form shall specify the type of weapon, the locations that the employee may have the weapon, the transportation plan for the weapon, the storage location of the weapon, and the purposes for which the possession of the weapon is authorized. A list of granted authorizations shall be maintained by the University Police Department.

- University employees residing in faculty/staff housing (except those located in residence halls) who possess a valid, unexpired state firearms permit with the IC sticker on the back, or the equivalent permit issued by a state with a reciprocity agreement with Mississippi.
- Employees who, in the discretion of the President or his designee, have a legitimate, job duty related need to possess a weapon or firearm as part of their employment.

DEPARTMENTAL USE

Certain departments are required to possess firearms and/or other weapons in order to carry out their research, teaching, or other related duties. These departments may need to have multiple employees obtain authorization in accordance with the process above to handle weapons and may need to purchase weapons, store weapons, and/or transport weapons. Any such department shall develop a written protocol which shall be submitted to the Chief of Police for review and approval. If approval is obtained, then the department shall adhere to the approved protocol at all times.

ENFORCEMENT

Any individual who violates this policy will be required to remove the weapon from campus immediately and may face appropriate criminal charges.

In addition to the above, a student violating this policy may be suspended immediately pending a disciplinary hearing and subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion. An employee violating this policy may be suspended immediately pending a review by Human Resources Management and subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

REVIEW

The Vice President for Student Affairs and the Provost & Executive Vice President are responsible for the review of this operating policy every four years or as needed.

REVIEWED BY:

/s/ Regina Hyatt
Vice President, Student Affairs

05/11/2026
Date

/s/ David Shaw
Provost and Executive Vice President

05/11/2026
Date

/s/ Tracey N. Baham
Associate Vice President, Institutional Strategy & Effectiveness

05/11/2026
Date

/s/ Joan Lucas
General Counsel

05/11/2026
Date

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Mark E. Keenum
President

06/22/2026
Date