



# Division of Student Affairs

## Weapons and Firearms Policy

[www.umb.edu/life\\_on\\_campus/student\\_affairs](http://www.umb.edu/life_on_campus/student_affairs)

**Issuing Office:** Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

---

**Policy Name:** Weapons and Firearms Policy

**Original Date Issued:** Tuesday, August 21, 2018

**Applicable to:** All Campus Divisions and Students

### I. Purpose:

The University of Massachusetts Boston is committed to providing a safe and secure environment in which to study, research, live, work and visit. Prohibiting the use or possession of firearms and other dangerous weapons are essential to that goal and are required by law.

### II. Policy:

This policy is applicable to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, visitors (invited or uninvited), contractors, and guests and is effect on all property owned, leased and/or controlled by University of Massachusetts Boston or at any university sponsored event. including but not limited to:

- Academic buildings,
- Residence Halls
- Grounds
- Parking lots/garages
- Roadways, and
- Motor vehicles,

The University of Massachusetts Boston further regulates firearms and other weapons. Except as expressly authorized within this policy, no individual may manufacture, transfer, sell, possess, carry, store, use, or have in his or her custody and/or under his or her control, a firearm or other weapon defined within this policy.

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Law (MGL), **persons authorized to possess a License to carry concealed weapon permit are still prohibited to carry a firearm on the University property.**

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to create regulation that is less restrictive than any applicable code, statute, law, regulation, or ordinance. When a conflict arises, determination of an object or article as a

weapon is subject to the sole discretion of the University of Massachusetts Boston Police Department (UMBPD) Chief or his/her designee.

### **III. Definitions:**

For purposes of this policy,

#### **Massachusetts State law to possess a firearm on school grounds, MGL. 269 Sc. 10j.**

A person who is not a law enforcement officer, may not carry a loaded or unloaded firearm or any other dangerous weapons on an elementary, secondary or college campus without written authorization.

#### **“Firearm”:**

a pistol, revolver or other weapons of any description, loaded or unloaded, from which a shot or bullet can be discharged and of which the length of the barrel or barrels is less than 16 inches or 18 inches in the case of a shotgun as originally manufactured; provided, however, that the term firearm shall not include any weapon that is: constructed in a shape that does not resemble a handgun, short-barreled rifle or short-barreled shotgun including, but not limited to, covert weapons that resemble key-chains, pens, cigarette-lighters or cigarette-packages; or not detectable as a weapon or potential weapon by x-ray machines commonly used at airports or walk-through metal detectors.

#### **“Large capacity weapon”:**

any firearm, rifle or shotgun: that is semiautomatic with a fixed large capacity feeding device that is semiautomatic and capable of accepting, or readily modifiable to accept, any detachable large capacity feeding device; that employs a rotating cylinder capable of accepting more than ten rounds of ammunition in a rifle or firearm and more than five shotgun shells in the case of a shotgun or firearm; or that is an assault weapon. The term "large capacity weapon" shall be a secondary designation and shall apply to a weapon in addition to its primary designation as a firearm.

#### **“Rifle”:**

a weapon having a rifled bore with a barrel length equal to or greater than 16 inches and capable of discharging a shot or bullet for each pull of the trigger.

#### **“Shotgun”:**

a weapon having a smooth bore with a barrel length equal to or greater than 18 inches with an overall length equal to or greater than 26 inches, and capable of discharging a shot or bullet for each pull of the trigger.

#### **Dangerous Weapon:**

means those items which are, by their nature, capable of causing serious injury or death, including but not limited to firearms, knives, stilettos, daggers, switch knives, double edge knives, ballistic knives, knives with a detachable blade capable of being propelled, metallic knuckles, black jacks, blowguns, sling shots, nunchaku, zoo bow, kung -fu sticks, throwing stars, leather armbands or other clothing that has metallic spikes, points, or studs, explosives, explosive agents of any kind, chemical sprays, mace, oleoresin

capsicum (pepper spray), tear gas, or other dangerous weapons or articles. Any item, including innocent items, when used in a dangerous fashion such as an assault and battery, may be considered a dangerous weapon.

**BB guns:**

are a type of air guns designed to shoot shot projectiles called **BBs** — metal balls approximately the same size as the 0.180 inches (4.6 mm) "BB" lead birdshots. Modern BB guns usually have a barrel with a bore caliber of 4.5 mm (0.177 in) and are available in many varieties. These guns usually use steel BB shots, plated either with zinc or copper to resist corrosion, and measure 4.3 to 4.4 mm (0.171 to 0.173 in) in diameter and 0.33 to 0.35 g (5.1 to 5.4 gr) in weight. Some manufacturers still make the traditional lead balls around 0.48 to 0.50 g (7.4 to 7.7 gr) in weight and slightly larger in diameter, which is generally intended for use in rifled barrels.

## IV. Types of Danger Weapons Prohibited

Category:

**a. Firearms:**

- Shotguns,
- Rifles,
- Pistols and revolvers
- Paintball guns
- BB/pellet guns
- Flare guns
- Firearm replicas

**b. Ammunition**

Components of ammunition including:

- Bullets,
- Cartridges,
- Shell casings, Primers,
- Igniters,
- Gun Powder;

**c. Electrical weapons**

- Portable device or weapon from which an electrical current, impulse, wave or beam may be directed, which current, impulse, wave or beam is designed to incapacitate temporarily, injure or kill,
- Any dangerous chemicals

**d. Knives**

- Ballistic Knife; or any knife with a detachable blade capable of being propelled by any mechanism;
- Dirk Knife;
- A knife having a double-edged blade; or a switch knife; or any knife having an automatic spring release device by which the blade is released from the handle;
- Folding Knife having a blade of over three inches in length;
- Double-Edged Knives;
- Hunting (fixed-blade)-style knives of any length;
- Throwing Knives;
- Swords;
- Axes

**d. Marital arts-type weapons:**

- Nunchaku.
- Zoobow, also known as klackers or Kung Fu sticks; or any similar weapon consisting of two sticks of wood, plastic or metal connected at one end by a length of rope, chain, wire or leather.
- Shuriken or any similar pointed star-like object intended to injure a person when thrown
- armband, made with leather which has metallic spikes or points or any similar device made from any other substance.
- Cestus or similar material weighted with metal or other substance and worn on the hand;
- Manrikigusari or similar length of chain having weighted ends.
- Spears.
- Bows; crossbows.
- Arrows
- Slingshots.
- Blowguns
- Blackjacks
- Metallic knuckles or knuckles of any substance which could be put to the same use with the same or similar effect as metallic knuckles
- Stiletto dagger or a device or case which enables a knife with a locking blade to be drawn at a locked position;

**e. Explosives**

- Any explosives or any substance which could be put to the same use with the same or similar effect (explosives)
- Fireworks.

**V. Authorized Activities:**

Exceptions to this policy are:

Authorized law enforcement officers or military personnel, in the performance of their official duties, and to the extent that they are legally permitted to possess weapons in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Weapons on display as objects of artistic, decorative, historical, or cultural value, provided that such weapons are secured in such a way as to prevent access to the weapon or removal of the weapon by unauthorized persons, and in the case of mechanical, electronic, or chemical weapons, rendered inert and inoperable. The UMBPD Chief or his/her designee must approve such use in writing.

University-sanctioned employee groups or events where a weapon or replica of a weapon as a pre require activity, including dramatic performances, sanctioned athletic competitions such as fencing, and official military ceremonies. Such weapons must be inert replicas, working weapons rendered inert, or military ceremonial swords carried in conformance with applicable branch of service regulations. The UMBPD Chief or his/her designee, must approve such use at least two (2) weeks before the event is to take place, and authorization must be in writing from the Chief or his/her designee.

### **Requests for Exceptions**

Exceptions to this policy will be rare and granted only under extraordinary or unusual circumstances. Exception requests must be made in writing to the UMBPD Chief or his/her designee. The Chief or his/her designee will review the request in consultation with appropriate university officials and will respond with his/her decision.

Exceptions cannot be lawfully granted for those weapons described as dangerous weapons unlawfully carried under Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 269, Section 10.

### **Sanctions:**

**Dangerous weapons are not permitted on campus at any time.** Any violation of this policy, including violation of Massachusetts State law to possess a firearm on school grounds, [MGL. 269 Sc. 10j](#), will result in prosecution and will be subject to severe disciplinary action, up to, and including termination or expulsion.

**Questions about the applicability of this policy should be directed to UMBPD Chief or his/her designee.**

The University of Massachusetts Boston reserves the right to modify this policy completely or in part, at any time, at its sole discretion.