

Policy Title:	Firearms
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Governing Body:	Southern Oregon University	Policy Number:	FAD.052
Policy Contact:	Chief of Staff to the President	Date Revised:	July 2016
Custodial Office:	Campus Public Safety	Date Approved:	July 2016
Approved By:	President	Next Review:	July 2019
Related Policy:			

Revision History

Revision Number:	Change:	Date:
-	Initial version	July 2015
1	Revision	July 2016

A. Purpose

Oregon Revised Statutes 352.107 grants public universities broad authority over its property. It states: “The State Board of Higher Education may [c]ontrol and provide for, subject to the conditions of this section, the custody and occupation of the grounds, buildings, books, papers and documents belonging to each and all the institutions, departments or activities under the control of the State Board of Higher Education [and may] [m]anage, control and apply all property of whatever nature given to or appropriated for the use, support or benefit of any or all of the institutions, departments or activities under the control of the State Board of Higher Education...” Additionally, Senate Bill 242 grants the State Board of Higher Education the “sole authority to govern, set policy, and otherwise manage the affairs of the public universities listed at ORS 352.002” and states the Board “shall exercise and carry out all of the powers, rights and duties that are expressly conferred upon the board or that are implied by law or incident to such powers, rights and duties.”

Pursuant to the authority to manage its affairs and control its property - and in recognition of its obligation to provide a safe environment to its students, employees, visitors, vendors, and patrons - Southern Oregon University (SOU) promulgates the following internal policy governing firearms.

B. Policy Statement

1. Authority/Cross-References

Oregon Revised Statutes, Chapters 351 and 352, with specific references to ORS 351.060, 352.107, SB 242 (2011) and SB 270 (2013).

2. Principles/Guidelines/Procedures

Control by SOU of its Premises Regarding Students, Employees, Contractors, Event Attendees, and Users of University-Owned or Controlled Property

Subject to the exceptions stated in paragraph (C) below, the following persons are prohibited, at all times, from possessing a firearm on university-owned or controlled property, whether or not that person possesses a concealed handgun license:

(1) Any person with student status, including, but not limited to full-time, part-time, non-admitted, or any person auditing a course at SOU;

(2) Any person employed by SOU;

(3) Any person, whether individually or as an agent of an entity, with whom SOU has a business relationship, including, but not limited to independent contractors or vendors under contract with SOU. SOU is encouraged to include a contractual clause identifying this obligation in all of its contracts, but this obligation is binding whether or not such a clause is included. Exceptions may be made when the possession of a firearm is required for the discharge of the duties under the contract or business relationship. Examples include, but are not limited to armored car service to ATMs within the campus boundary;

(4) Any person attending an event, including but not limited to athletic events, performances, lectures or speeches, which require a ticket for admission. SOU is encouraged to include a contractual clause identifying this obligation on all of its tickets, which function as licenses to attend an event on university-owned or controlled property, but this policy is effective regardless of the existence of such clauses; and

(5) Any person leasing, renting, or reserving university-owned or controlled property. SOU is encouraged to include a contractual clause identifying this obligation in all contracts with such persons, but this policy is effective regardless of the existence of such clauses.

B. Control by SOU of its Premises Regarding Others

Subject to the exceptions stated in paragraph C below, no person may possess a firearm on or in the following places on university-owned or controlled property, whether or not that person possesses a concealed handgun license:

(1) institution buildings or buildings owned or controlled by SOU; and

(2) SOU sports or performance venues or sports or performance venues owned or controlled by SOU; and

(3) institution work places or work places owned or controlled by SOU.

C. Exceptions

SOU authorizes the following exceptions to its Policy on Firearms:

(1) Possession by on-duty law enforcement officers licensed with the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training or equivalent state or federal authority authorized to license the possession of firearms by law enforcement officers;

(2) Possession by any person participating in an institutionally-recognized or sanctioned U.S. military program, including, but not limited to Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), provided that safety protocols established by such program for the possession and secure storage of firearms have been approved by such program and are followed;

(3) Possession by residents within a family housing dwelling or any other living arrangement governed by Oregon landlord-tenant law. Residence halls and other living arrangements not governed by Oregon landlord-tenant law are expressly excluded from this exception. Possession of firearms by such residents outside the dwelling is subject to the restrictions of this policy;

(4) Possession by persons in compliance with any institution policy that provides for the transportation and/or safe and secure storage of unloaded firearms in order for a student or employee to have access to a firearm for hunting or target shooting, or for academic research, so long as the policy:

(a) minimizes the presence of the firearms on university-owned or controlled property; and

(b) restricts the presence of firearms on university-owned or controlled property in such cases to those instances in which the person wishing to possess the firearm on university-owned or controlled property demonstrates a need, as reasonably required by the institution, to possess or transport the firearm on or across university-owned or controlled property for such hunting or target shooting or academic research; and

(c) requires that such firearms be unloaded except in connection with an institution-sanctioned target-shooting event.

(5) Possession by persons engaged in public safety or campus police training, where authorized.

The SOU president is authorized to make a temporary exception to this policy on the showing of good cause or necessity.

3. Review

This Board policy will be reviewed from time-to-time, but no less than once a biennium, for amendment or revision.

This policy may be revised at any time without notice. All revisions supersede prior policy and are effective immediately upon approval.

C. Policy Consultation

This policy was transferred to SOU by operation of law on July 1, 2015 from the State Board of Higher Education Board Policy Manual. Revisions to the text of the policy were posted for campus comment on June 21, 2016.

D. Other Information

This policy codifies and revises as Southern Oregon University Policy the rule previously adopted by the State Board of Higher Education concerning this topic and transferred to SOU by operation of law on July 1, 2015.

The Policy Contact, defined above, will write and maintain the procedures related to this policy and these procedures will be made available within the Custodial Office.