 <p>Ringling College of Art + Design</p> <p>STAFF HANDBOOK</p>	<p>Index: 721</p> <p>Page: 1 of 3</p> <p>Subject: Weapons Policy</p> <p>Revised: November 1, 2023</p>
---	---

PREAMBLE

Ringling College of Art and Design (the “College”) desires to maintain a safe environment for its students, faculty and staff members, contractors, and visitors. This policy seeks to reduce the risk of injury or death associated with the intentional or accidental use of weapons.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all individuals who come onto property owned or controlled by Ringling College of Art and Design or who attend events sponsored or hosted by the College, with exceptions as noted in the Procedures section below.


POLICY STATEMENT

Ringling College of Art and Design prohibits the possession, use, or storage of weapons on property owned or controlled by the College, including in a College vehicle, on one’s person, or in one’s office or residence hall. Additionally, the College prohibits the possession, use, or storage of weapons at events sponsored or hosted by the College, except as outlined in this Policy.

DEFINITIONS

Firearm. Any weapon (including a starter gun) which will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or silencer; any destructive device; or any machine gun. In addition, any device that shoots a bullet, pellet, flare, tranquilizer, spear dart, paintball, or other projectile, whether loaded or unloaded, including those powered by CO2, which includes, but not limited to guns, air guns, dart guns, pistols, revolvers, rifles, cannons, and any ammunition for any such device.

Weapon. A thing designed or intended, or which may reasonably be used for inflicting bodily harm. The term “weapon” includes firearms, facsimile firearms, ammunition, firearms accessories, empty magazines, electronic defense weapons, martial arts weapons, brass knuckles, sling shots, hand grenades, bows and arrows, chemical devices, dangerous materials and chemicals such as tear gas, swords, knives (except common pocket with a blade of four inches or less or cooking knives), incendiary devices, chemical devices, or missiles. The term “weapon” includes any object legally controlled as a weapon or treated as a weapon under the laws of the jurisdiction in which the College owned or controlled property is located.

 <p>Ringling College of Art + Design</p> <p>STAFF HANDBOOK</p>	<p>Index: 721</p> <p>Page: 2 of 3</p> <p>Subject: Weapons Policy</p> <p>Revised: November 1, 2023</p>
---	---

Explosives. Under this policy, explosives shall be considered to be weapons. Explosives are defined to include, without limitation, any chemical compound or mechanical mixture that contains any oxidizing and combustible units, or other ingredients, in such proportion, quantities, or packing that an ignition by fire, friction, concussion, percussion, or detonator, or any part of the compound mixture, may cause as sudden generation of highly heated gases that results in gaseous pressures capable of producing destructive efforts on contiguous objects or of destroying life or limb. Further, explosives are also defined to include, but are not limited to, fireworks, firecrackers, black powder, dynamite as well as detonating devices such as detonators, blasting caps, timers, incendiary wires, and the like.


GENERAL

All individuals who come onto property owned or controlled by the College or who attend events sponsored or hosted by the College are prohibited from possessing, using, or storing weapons at such property or events without the explicit authorization of the College, whether or not a federal or state license to possess the same has been issued to the possessor.

EXCEPTIONS

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Ringling College of Art and Design permits the following:

1. **Law Enforcement.** A sworn local or state law enforcement officer or members of other agencies, including Federal agencies such as FBI, DEA, ATF, in compliance with their professional designation who are actively employed by a law enforcement agency, may carry onto College property or into College events those weapons that his or her law enforcement agency requires to be carried. All Law Enforcement Officers falling within this exception must also carry their departmental identification card as well as their department badge/shield.
2. **Tools and Uniformed Contractors.** Not prohibited under this policy are legitimate tools appropriately used in authorized work on campus or at College events. In addition, uniformed persons authorized by their employer, and duly licensed and legally permitted under the laws of Florida to possess weapons – such as employees of armored car services that collect or transport cash, checks, valuables, etc., – may do so on College property in the performance of those duties for which the weapon is authorized by their employer.
3. **Instructional, Educational, or Theatrical Use.** Subject to prior written approval as set forth in this paragraph, non-functioning antique or simulated weapons (excluding firearms) may be used for instructional, educational, or theatrical purposes.

 <p>Ringling College of Art + Design</p> <p>STAFF HANDBOOK</p>	<p>Index: 721</p> <p>Page: 3 of 3</p> <p>Subject: Weapons Policy</p> <p>Revised: November 1, 2023</p>
---	---

To qualify for this exception, the appropriate Vice President shall seek the prior written approval of the College President or the Executive Vice President. If approved, notice of the exception should be sent to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Director of Public Safety, and the General Counsel.

Any other exceptions to this policy must be approved in writing by either the President or the Executive Vice President, with notice to the Director of Public Safety and the General Counsel.

Enforcement. College employees or students found in violation of this Policy will be subject to disciplinary action under the disciplinary procedures applicable to them. Visitors or contractors found in violation of this policy will be asked to remove the weapon from the property or to leave the property and may be trespassed from the College depending upon the circumstances.