

Context: This information is being provided because a student has come to the AS VP for Student Life asking that the board discuss writing a resolution in support of gun control. The AS VP for Student Life wanted to give the rest of the board a chance to have a firm understanding of the policies around weapons for Western and for Washington State. That information is below. No action is required, this is just some background information to have an informed discussion. Further research might include 'have other universities done anything similar to a gun control resolution?'

Western Washington University Department of Public Safety: University Police: Selected Policies

<http://www.wvu.edu/ps/police/policies.shtml>

Firearms and Dangerous Weapons

WAC 516-52-020

1. Only such persons who are authorized to carry firearms or other weapons as duly appointed and commissioned law enforcement officers in the state of Washington, commissioned by agencies of the United States government, or authorized by contract with the university, shall possess firearms or other weapons issued for their possession by their respective law enforcement agencies or employers while on the campus or other university-controlled property, including, but not limited to, residence halls. No one may possess explosives unless licensed to do so for the purpose of conducting university-authorized activities relating to building construction or demolition.
2. Other than the law enforcement officers or other individuals referenced in subsection (1) of this section, members of the campus community and visitors who bring firearms or other weapons to campus must immediately place the firearms or weapons in the university-provided storage facility. The storage facility is located at the Public Safety Department and is accessible twenty-four hours per day.
3. If any member of the campus community or visitor wishes to bring a weapon to the campus for display or demonstration purposes directly related to a class, seminar, or other educational activity, permission for such possession may be applied for at the university public safety department, which shall review any such proposal and establish the conditions of the possession on campus.

Washington State Constitution

ARTICLE I

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

<http://leg.wa.gov/LawsAndAgencyRules/Pages/constitution.aspx>

SECTION 24 RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS. The right of the individual citizen to bear arms in defense of himself, or the state, shall not be impaired, but nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing individuals or corporations to organize, maintain or employ an armed body of men.

Concealed Carry Weapon Laws and College Campuses

In the wake of several campus shootings, the most deadly being the 2007 shooting at Virginia Tech University, states are considering legislation about whether or not to permit guns on college campuses. For some, these events point to a need to ease existing firearm regulations and allow concealed weapons on campuses. Others see the solution in tightening restrictions to keep guns off campuses.

In 2017, two states passed legislation to allow students and faculty to carry guns on college campuses, [Arkansas](#) and [Georgia](#). Over the last five years, campus safety legislation has been a hot issue across the country. In 2013, at least 19 states introduced legislation to allow concealed carry on campus in some regard and in the 2014 legislative session, at least 14 states introduced similar legislation. Tennessee passed a [bill](#) in 2016, which permits higher education faculty to carry handguns after notifying local law enforcement. In 2015, Texas became the eighth state to allow concealed carry weapons on college campuses. In December 2016, Governor Kasich of Ohio signed into law [SB 199](#), which lifts the ban on firearms on college campuses and leaves the decision to individual institutions.

On the other hand, recent shootings also have encouraged some legislators to strengthen existing firearm regulations. In 2014, five states introduced legislation to prohibit concealed carry weapons on campus. None of these bills passed.

All 50 states allow citizens to carry concealed weapons if they meet certain state requirements.

Currently, there are 16 states that ban carrying a concealed weapon on a college campus:

California, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina and Wyoming.

In 23 states the decision to ban or allow concealed carry weapons on campuses is made by each college or university individually: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia.

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/education/auns-on-camDus-overview.asDx>