

Policy Prohibiting Weapons within the College of Dentistry

Policy 1.2.1

POLICY GROUP	1	Administration & Finance
POLICY SUB GROUP	1	Administration
DATE ADOPTED		April 18, 2024
DATE OF LAST REVIEW		n/a
REVIEW FREQUENCY		Every Three Years
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW		April 18, 2027
RESPONSIBLE COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/OFFICE		Quality Assurance & Compliance
RESPONSIBLE MANAGER/TITLE		Susan Sheldon, Director of Patient Relations and Kim Graziano, Director of Compliance

Background: Creating and maintaining a safe environment within the OU College of Dentistry (OUCOD) for all faculty, staff, residents, students, patients, visitors and vendors is of paramount importance.

To this end, the *HSC Faculty Handbook* and *Regents' Policy Manual* state that "firearms and munitions of all types, as well as other weapons identified in 21 O.S. § 1277, are prohibited on all property owned, leased, or occupied by the Board of Regents at all times except as specifically authorized by law and/or University policy." (A reference to 21 O.S. § 1277 also appears in the *OUHSC Student Handbook*; however, there is no mention of it within the current *OUHSC Staff Handbook*.)

In terms of "other weapons," 21 O.S. § 1277 prohibits individuals from carrying or being in possession of a machete, blackjack, loaded cane, hand chain or metal knuckles into or upon any college, university or technology center school. However, this provision of state law does *not* specifically address knives.

The OUHSC Police Department has also been unable to identify any state law that specifically prohibits or otherwise restricts individuals from openly carrying knives on campus. In fact, the possession or carrying of a knife is generally unrestricted in Oklahoma, which essentially leaves Higher Education facilities in this state on their own to address this potential safety threat.

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to enhance safety by expanding on the existing University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) firearms policy in order to a) specifically prohibit open carrying of knives with blades that exceed 4" in length in the College of Dentistry building in addition to firearms, munitions and other weapons identified in 21 O.S. § 1277, b) outline the actions OUCOD personnel should take should a weapon be observed on the person of anyone who is in the College of Dentistry building, and c) specify disciplinary actions that may be imposed in instances of non-compliance.

Policy Statement: College policies may not conflict with OUHSC policies; however, they may be more restrictive. Prohibiting the open carrying of weapons, including knives with blades that exceed 4" in length, within the College of Dentistry building is regarded as an extension of the safety-minded firearms policies that appear in the *Regents' Policy Manual*, *HSC Faculty Handbook* and *HSC Student Handbook*. It also merits mention that the prohibition of knives with blades that exceed 4" in length is consistent with the University of Oklahoma (i.e., "Norman Campus") *Interim Student Rights and Responsibilities Code*, Updated June 14, 2023.

Scope and Applicability: This policy applies to all College of Dentistry faculty, staff, residents and students as well as all College of Dentistry patients, visitors and vendors.

Internal policies that apply to the operation of individual departments, divisions or business units may not conflict with OUCOD-wide policy, but they may be more restrictive.

Definitions:

Policy: A governing principle (i.e., a statement of management philosophy and direction) that embraces general goals and mandates or constrains actions, which is established to provide guidance and assistance to the COD community in the conduct of College affairs. By definition, policies should have broad application, change relatively infrequently, help ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and mitigate against institutional risk.

Professional Concerns Report (PCR): The *Professionalism Concerns Report* is prepared when a student exhibits behavior not consistent with the OUHSC Student Professional Behavior in an Academic Program Policy. It is intended to assist the student in meeting professionalism expectations in academic, professional or administrative settings by making improvements in the areas of professionalism that are inherent in being a dentist or dental hygienist: Integrity & Honesty; Patient-Centered Care & Patient Safety; Respect; Service & Working within the Team; Responsibility; and Responsiveness, Adaptability, & Self-Improvement.

Weapons: In the context of this policy and its associated procedure, "weapons" are defined as firearms and munitions of all types, other weapons identified in 21 § O.S. 1277, as well as knives with blades longer than 4" in length.

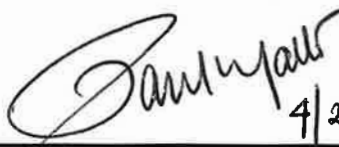
Policy Approval: This policy was reviewed by the Dean's Advisory Council on April 17, 2024 and signed by the Dean on April 18, 2024. It will go into effect on the date it is formally communicated across the College, and it will be reviewed every three years.

X

 4/17/2024

Submitted by: Michael Ferguson, CPA, CGMA
Sr. Assoc. Dean for Administration & Finance

X

 4/23/24

Approved by: Paul M. Mullasseril, DDS, MS
Dean, OU College of Dentistry

Corresponding Procedures

- 1.2.1(a) Weapons Removal and Disciplinary Actions

Relevant State Statutes

- [21 OS Stat §1272 \(OSCN 2024\) Unlawful carry](#)
- [21 OS Stat § 1277 \(OCSN 2024\) Unlawful carry in certain places](#)
- [21 OS § 1280.1 \(OSCN 2024\). Possession of firearm on school property](#)

Related OUHSC Policies

- [Regents' Policy Manual for the University of Oklahoma, Section 3.1.11, Firearms Policy](#)
- [OUHSC Faculty Handbook, Section 5.14, University of Oklahoma Firearms Policy](#)
- [OUHSC 2023-2024 Student Handbook, Section 2.11, Firearms Policy](#)

Related OU-Norman Policies

- [Students Rights and Responsibilities Code, Updated June 14, 2023](#)

Related OUCOD Policies

- None

Revision History

Revision Date	Revision Details
4/17/2024	Replaced COD logo with current version; Updated policy approval dates; <i>and</i> , Reviewed and updated links to relevant state statutes plus related OUHSC and OU-Norman Policies.

Adopted January 11, 2021
Amended April 17, 2024