

# Christopher Newport University

## Policy: Weapons Policy

### Policy Number: 1085

Executive Oversight: Chief of Staff  
Contact Office: University Police  
Frequency of Review: Biennially  
Date of Last Review: June 2024

#### A. PURPOSE

Christopher Newport University is committed to the safety and well-being of all members of the university community. The purpose of the policy is to support a secure environment by reasonably regulating weapons so students, employees, and visitors/guests can live, learn, work, and visit safely.

This policy applies to students, employees, and visitors to Christopher Newport University, with the exception of sworn law enforcement officers who are engaged in the performance of their duties while at Christopher Newport University.

#### B. POLICY STATEMENT

The unauthorized possession, storage, use, or control of weapons, firearms, or ammunition on any property owned, leased, rented, or otherwise controlled by Christopher Newport University at any time is prohibited.

#### C. DEFINITIONS

- Unauthorized: Without expressed written permission or documented authorization from Christopher Newport University's Chief of Police and/or their designee.
- Weapons:
  - Any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, butterfly knife, retractable blade, sword, machete, or other bladed weapon longer than 4 inches in length that is not used to prepare or cook food within campus apartments with kitchens or for authorized university purposes through dining services.
  - Any nun chahka, nunchuck, nunchaku, fighting chain, or any flailing instrument with two parts joined together loosely.

- Any disc having at least two points or blades that is designed to be thrown or propelled.
- Any conducted energy device used to incapacitate or temporarily disable an individual, such as a taser or stun gun.
- Firearms: any pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, air pistol, paintball gun, or any instrument intended to propel ammunition or other missile of any kind.
- Ammunition: any projectile designed to be propelled by a weapon, including bullets, shells, rockets, cartridges, or shots.
- Law Enforcement Officer: a sworn law-enforcement officer or agent who is engaged in the performance of their duties to enforce the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and any federal law-enforcement officer or agent who is on duty or providing services to the University.
- University Property: any land, buildings, vehicles, or property owned, leased, rented, or otherwise controlled by Christopher Newport University.
- University Activities: Activities and events initiated, planned, presented, or sponsored by Christopher Newport University, its Academic Departments and Offices, or other University offices (for example, University Housing, Business, Financial Aid, Advancement, Career Planning, Student Affairs, Athletics) or student anchor organizations, including, but not limited to, classes, graduation, athletic events and practices, scheduled performances, career days, and invited speakers.
- Visitors: any person not currently employed by the University or enrolled in courses. This includes prospective students and families, contractors, vendors, volunteers, speakers, guests of current students or employees, and anyone attending University-sponsored events or third-party events taking place at or on University Property pursuant to University Policy 7001.
- Students: individuals who are attending or are registered to attend classes or programs at Christopher Newport University and whose educational records are maintained by the University.
- Employee(s): any individual employed by the University in Classified, Administrative/Professional, Instructional Faculty, Hourly/Wage, or Student employee position.

## D. PROCEDURES

- Exemptions: Christopher Newport University's Chief of Police or their designee, may authorize a person to possess, store, use or control weapons, firearms, or ammunition. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following circumstances:

- Parade, display, performance, or ceremony sponsored by the University (subject to appropriate safety requirements).
- Official military, police, or Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) activity, training, course, or class when acting in accordance with their duties or when authorized or invited by the Chief of Police for training or related purposes.
- Any university-sponsored course that would reasonably need access to weapons to deliver academic content material.

Requests should be submitted as far in advance as possible to the Christopher Newport University Chief of Police and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Only in the rarest of circumstances is the University able to evaluate a request received less than 24 hours in advance of the intended need.

- **Penalties:** Any student, employee, guest, or visitor who possesses, stores, or uses any weapon, firearm, or ammunition on any University property, without express written permission may be subject to discipline as provided by the Student Code of Conduct, University Handbook, or other employee conduct policies such as the [Department of Human Resource Management Policy 2.35 \(Civility in the Workplace\)](#) and [University Policy 5020 \(Employee Civility and Workplace Violence\)](#) and/or may be required to leave University property and prohibited from returning.
- **Resources:**
  - [Christopher Newport University Police Department](#)
  - Office of Human Resources
  - Student Affairs
    - Center for Honor Enrichment and Community Standards
    - Office of Residence Life

## E. REPORTING

### 1. Identifying and Reporting Conduct Involving the Possession of Weapons

Employees and students of Christopher Newport must report any storage, possession, or use of any weapon, firearm, or ammunition in violation of this policy.

Reports should be made to the Christopher Newport University Police Department by calling 757-594-7777. Reports may also be made through the confidential silent witness program at <https://cnu.edu/police/silentwitness/>.

In any instance in which a reporting party believes or observes that a threat of violent physical behavior or action may be occurring or will occur imminently, it should be reported immediately to the Christopher Newport Police Department by calling (757) 594- 7777. When in doubt, report.

**F. REFERENCES**

[Campus Violence Prevention Policy 1055](#)

[Department of Human Resource Management Policy 2.35](#)

[Employee Civility and Workplace Violence Policy 5020](#)

[Student Handbook Handbook](#) Section III, Part I, D –  
Weapons/Explosives/Fireworks/Hazardous Chemicals policy

[Residence Life Handbook](#), *Prohibited Items, Weapons & Firearms*

**G. APPROVAL AND REVISIONS:**

**Approved By:** Policy Committee, May 23, 2024

**H. NEXT REVIEW DATE:** Summer 2026