

Frequently Asked Questions Fall 2019 UI Weapons Policy Updates

Q: What does the new weapons policy allow?

In May of 2019, [legislation allowing non-projectile stun guns on college campuses governed by Board of Regents, State of Iowa](#) was signed into law.

Specifically, the legislation prohibits public colleges and universities from adopting or enforcing rules that would prohibit individuals from carrying, transporting, or possessing stun guns and other **non-projectile** high-voltage pulse weapons. Projectile high-voltage pulse weapons, such as tasers, continue to be prohibited by the university's weapon policy.

Consistent with the new law, high-voltage pulse weapons, whether projectile (tasers) or non-projectile (stun guns), will remain banned in university stadiums and venues where bags are checked, as well as in the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

More information pertaining to the policies may be found in the [Code of Student Life](#), specifically sections B4 and D15, and the [University of Iowa Operations Manual, Section II, Chapter 9](#).

Q: What is the difference between a stun gun and a taser?

A stun gun is a small, non-projectile device with prongs that must make direct contact with an attacker to deliver a high-voltage electrical current, impulse, wave, or beam designed to immobilize a person. Stun guns are typically used for self-defense in close proximity to an attacker.

A taser is typically a gun-shaped projectile device that shoots prongs at an attacker from several feet away to deliver a high-voltage electrical current, impulse, wave, or beam designed to immobilize a person. Tasers are typically used for self-defense at a distance from an attacker.

Q: Who should I contact if I witness or am party to a disturbance involving a stun gun?

Apply the same protocol you would use if there was an assault, or any scenario requiring assistance from law enforcement. Move to a safe location where you are not at risk of harm from an attacker and call 9-1-1. The UI Department of Public Safety will respond to investigate. UI DPS will also send medical assistance if necessary.

Q: Does someone who has been stunned need immediate medical attention?

Stun guns use electricity to cause muscle spasms that temporarily disable an attacker. Though muscle soreness is expected, someone who has been stunned and is having trouble breathing, passes out, or loses consciousness may need medical attention. Move to a safe location where you are not at risk of harm from an attacker and call 9-1-1.

Q: What is considered appropriate use of a stun gun?

The only appropriate use of a stun gun would be for self-defense. If a stun gun is used improperly (for example, not for self-defense), it could be considered an assault.

Q: Where can I go to learn more about my options when it comes to preserving my personal safety?

We want you to feel empowered to play an active role in campus safety by taking advantage of the safety tools, services, and training programs we offer. To learn more about steps you can take to be #HawkeyeSafe, visit: <https://police.uiowa.edu/be-hawkeyesafe>