

Biomedical Waste Policy

Policy Name: Biomedical Waste Policy

Approval Authority: Cabinet

Interpreting and Implementing Authority: Dean of Students

Effective: September 2023

Last Revised: February 2020

Next Review Date: January 2028

Policy Statement

It is the Policy of Wesleyan College to comply with the mandatory medical waste disposal guidelines, as set forth by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which regulates medical devices such as sharps containers which are designed to safely contain used needles, scalpels or other sharps used for medical purposes.

Entities Affected by the Policy

All persons handling biomedical waste disposal.

Policy Details

Biomedical waste, also known as medical waste or infectious waste, is generally defined as any solid waste that is generated in the diagnosis, treatment, research, production or testing of biologicals for humans. Examples include, but are not limited to: soiled or blood-soaked bandages, discarded surgical gloves or instruments, sharps or needles used to give shots or draw blood, cultures or swabs used to obtain samples, and lancets used to obtain blood.

It is our policy that all biomedical waste should be: placed in a container separate from other wastes; stored in containers so as to prevent leakage, punctures, and ripping during storage, handling and transportation; containers shall be red or orange in color OR clearly marked with the universal biohazard symbol OR clearly marked with the word "biohazard."

When a clearly labeled sharps containers is three-quarters full it should be disposed of in a manner consistent with FDA guidelines. The FDA recommends disposing of the containers at approved facilities (such as local hospitals or health departments), or through an FDA-approved mail-back program.

Responsibilities

Health Services will provide the required FDA approved biohazard containers in the Health Services department, as well in the bathroom on the bottom floor of the OSP building.

The Nursing, and Science & Math Department will utilize the required biohazard containers for biomedical waste generated. These containers are wall mounted and appropriately disposed of using a disposal service.

The Science & Math Department will utilize biohazard bags to collect all biohazardous waste, then dispose of it properly.

All Students will sign a form when picking up a biohazard container that indicates their agreement to abide by policies.

Violations of the Policy

Remediation to ensure compliance with policy.

Interpreting and Implementing Authority

Dean of Students will oversee the policy and ensure compliance.