

## 2.19 Weapons on College Property

**Last Revised:** December 2024

**Policy:** Piedmont Community College (PCC) prohibits any unauthorized person from possessing or carrying, whether openly or concealed, any firearm, explosive, knife or other weapon on educational property used by the College.

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### **Purpose/Definitions:**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to specify what is and is not permitted with respect to weapons on PCC properties.

#### **Definitions**

**Educational property**—any school building or bus, school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used, or operated by any board of education or school board of trustees, or directors for the administration of any school.

**Firearms and weapons**—include, but are not limited to, the following:

- firearms of any type and ammunition
- air guns including BB, stun gun, pellet and paintball guns or “guns” that resemble actual guns
- bows and arrows, and crossbows
- any bowie knife, dirk, dagger, or knife with a blade over four (4) inches including swords, hunting and fishing knives and switchblades capable of being opened by throwing, explosive, or spring action
- metallic knuckles
- fireworks
- any other item used as a weapon of like kind

**Ordinary pocket-knife**—a small knife, designed for carrying in a pocket or purse, that has its cutting edge and point entirely enclosed by its handle, and that may not be opened by a throwing, explosive, or spring action.

**School**—a public or private school, community college, college, or university.

**School zone**—the area within a distance of 1,000 feet from the grounds of a public, parochial, or private school.

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**Approval Authority/Monitoring Authority:** Piedmont Community College’s Board of Trustees has approval authority for this policy. The Vice President, Administrative Services/CFO has monitoring authority for this policy.

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**Procedure:**

Section 1: General Provisions

- 1.1. This policy applies to all employees, students, and visitors to PCC educational property.
  - 1.1.1. The College will cooperate with law enforcement in prosecuting any violations of local, state, and/or federal laws.
    - 1.1.1.1. Federal law will be followed in instances in which laws contradict each other.
- 1.2. Generally, it is unlawful for any individual to knowingly possess a firearm within a school zone.
- 1.3. Firearms and other weapons prohibited on campus may not be stored or transported in college-owned or rented vehicles.

Section 2: Concealed Carry Guidelines

- 2.1. Per N.C.G.S. 14-269.2(k), it is permissible for an individual to bring a firearm onto campus under the following limited circumstances:
  - 2.1.1. The firearm is a handgun; AND
  - 2.1.2. The individual has a valid concealed handgun permit or is exempt from the law requiring a permit; AND
  - 2.1.3. The handgun remains in either: a closed compartment or container within the permit holder’s locked vehicle; or a locked container securely affixed to the permit holder’s locked vehicle; AND
  - 2.1.4. The vehicle is unlocked only when the permit holder is entering or exiting the vehicle; AND

- 2.1.5. The handgun remains in the closed compartment or container at all times; OR
- 2.1.6. The handgun is being transported by an authorized law enforcement officer in that officer's approved agencies holster or by an authorized student in a closed case (e.g., if carried by a student in a concealed carry or other pertinent class offered by the College).

Section 3: Exceptions

- 3.1. a law enforcement officer carrying a weapon while on duty in accordance with their employing agency
- 3.2. a retired law enforcement officer carrying a firearm in compliance with the Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act (LEOSA)
- 3.3. a member of the armed forces of the United States including the National Guard while acting in official capacity
- 3.4. a student in the Gunsmithing program or other programs such as Continuing Education offering a gun safety class or concealed handgun permit class. (See Sections 2, 4, and 5.)
- 3.5. an ordinary pocket-knife carried in a closed position
- 3.6. a weapon used solely for educational or college-sanctioned ceremonial purposes, or used in a college-approved program conducted under the supervision of a college administrator

Section 4: Gunsmithing Program

- 4.1. The College's Gunsmithing Program has special admissions requirements related to the possession of a firearm on educational property.
  - 4.1.1. The Gunsmithing Program Guide is available on the PCC website.

4.2.

Section 5: PCC Firing Range

- 5.1. A firing range has been provided for testing of firearms.
  - 5.1.1. Refer to the "Gunsmithing Handbook" on the PCC website for additional information regarding firing range use procedures.

Section 6: Consequences of Violations

6.1. Students and employees who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with PCC Policy 7.5 Code of Conduct and PCC Policy 5.19 Employee Disciplinary Policy.

6.1.1. Students and employees may also be subject to applicable criminal charges.

6.2. Visitors with weapons on educational property will be asked-by authorized personnel to leave.

6.2.1. Visitors may also be subject to applicable criminal charges.

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**Legal Citation:** [N.C.G.S. 14-269](#); [N.C.G.S. 14-269.2](#); [ATF P 5310.1](#); [1D SBCCC 400.2](#)

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**History:** Effective October 1995; Revised January 2011, April 2014; November 2021, December 2024

Cross-references PCC Policy 7.5 Code of Conduct and Policy 5.19 Employee Disciplinary Policy