

Subject: Weapons

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[State Board for Community College Weapons Regulation](#)

1. Purpose

This policy addresses the possession of weapons by students and employees on college property, and by any person in college buildings and at college-sponsored sporting, entertainment, and educational events. It is consistent with the Weapons Regulation adopted by the State Board for Community Colleges, the policy of the Virginia Community College System, and the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

2. Policy

Tidewater Community College (TCC) promotes a safe and secure environment in which to learn and work. The presence of weapons on college premises or at college-sponsored events is not conducive to maintaining such an environment. Thus, to the extent allowed by law, regulation, and VCCS policy, weapons are prohibited on college property and at college-sponsored events.

2.1. General

Possession or carrying of any weapon by any person, except a law-enforcement officer, is prohibited on college property in academic buildings, administrative office buildings, student centers, child care centers, dining facilities, and places of like kind where people congregate, or while attending any sporting, entertainment or educational events. Entry upon the aforementioned college property in violation of this prohibition is expressly forbidden.

Any individual in violation of this prohibition shall be directed to remove the weapon immediately. Failure to comply may result in a student conduct referral, employee disciplinary action, or arrest.

2.2. Students

Students are prohibited from possessing or carrying a weapon while on college property, in a college vehicle, or while attending or participating in a college-sponsored event.

Students violating this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the *Student Handbook* and other college policies, as appropriate.

2.3. Employees

Employees are prohibited from possessing or carrying a weapon while on college property, in a college vehicle, attending a college-sponsored event, or engaged in college business.

Employees violating this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination, and criminal prosecution using existing policies and procedures including [Section 3 of the VCCS Policy Manual](#) or [DHRM Policy 1.60, Standards of Conduct](#), and Virginia State Law.

2.4. Exceptions

2.4.1. Law-Enforcement Officers

These prohibitions shall not apply to current sworn and certified local, state, and federal law-enforcement officers with proper identification.

2.4.2. Students and Employees

These prohibitions shall not apply to possession of a lawfully owned handgun, rifle, or shotgun when stored securely inside the vehicle of a student or employee. If a student or employee desires to store a handgun in a vehicle, they must hold a current, valid concealed handgun permit. Any firearm stored in a vehicle under this exception shall be secured in a locked container, which may include the vehicle's glove compartment or trunk.

Any student or employee desiring to store a firearm in their vehicle shall provide written notice of such intent to the college official responsible for the location, and the Director of Public Safety. Failure to provide such notice of intent in advance of introducing a firearm onto college property shall be considered a violation of this policy.

For a student or employee storing a handgun in their vehicle while on college property, the authorization to do so expires coincident with the concealed handgun permit. Possessing the weapon on campus after the concealed handgun permit expires is a violation of this policy.

2.4.3. College-Approved Exceptions

TCC's Director of Public Safety, or their designee, may authorize in writing a person to possess, store, or use a weapon: (i) when used for educational or artistic instruction, display, parade, or ceremony sponsored or approved by the college (unloaded or disabled only and with other specified safeguards, if appropriate); or (ii) for any college-approved training, course, or class.

By virtue of its contract with the college, the armed guards of the armored transport company that services the college's business offices may carry their weapons on campus while in their vehicle and when transiting from that vehicle to the business office, or other specifically authorized locations for pick up or delivery, and back to the vehicle. Carrying their weapons anywhere else on campus is a violation of this policy.

2.5. Person Lawfully in Charge

Department of Public Safety staff, including security officers, and police officers acting pursuant to a mutual aid agreement or by concurrent jurisdiction shall be lawfully in charge for the purpose of forbidding entry upon or remaining upon college property while possessing or carrying weapons in violation of these prohibitions.

3. Responsibilities

The Director of Public Safety in consultation with the Vice President for Student Affairs, shall be responsible for developing and maintaining procedures that are consistent with this policy and that comply with applicable regulations, policies, and procedures of the Virginia Community College System and the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

4. Procedures

Procedures for this policy are located on the website.

5. Definitions

Semi-Automatic Firearm: any (i) semi-automatic centerfire rifle or pistol which expels single or multiple projectiles by action of an explosion of a combustible material and is equipped at the time of the offense with a magazine, or magazine tube. (ii) shotgun with a magazine, or magazine tube and fires rounds with explosion of a combustible material, there by chambering another around to be fired. [\[Code of Virginia § 18.2-308.7\]](#)

Brandish: to exhibit or expose in an ostentatious, shameless, or aggressive manner. [*Morris v. Commonwealth*, 269 Va. 127 (2005)]

College Grounds: any tract of land owned, leased, or controlled by the State Board for Community Colleges for a member college of the Virginia Community College System, or otherwise used by such member college.

College Property: any property owned, leased, or controlled by a member college of the Virginia Community College System and the administrative office of the Virginia Community College System; also includes property leased by third parties on college property, such as dining establishments, bookstores, etc.

Congregate: to collect into a group or crowd; to come together, usually for a specific purpose. (“Therefore, ‘congregate’ may not be construed to be any place where people might be present. Generally, if a building is a learning, working, or dining area, it is covered by the regulation. Events covered are diverse and include lectures, debates, concerts, games, film festivals, and exhibitions.) [VCCS Counsel memorandum, “Regulation on Workplace Safety,” January 25, 2013]

Employee: any person holding full- or part-time employment with a member college of the Virginia Community College System or the administrative office of the Virginia Community College System, employees of contractors or vendors assigned to perform work at Tidewater Community College, any volunteer performing service for Tidewater Community College, and Veterans Affairs work-study students who are working at but not enrolled in courses at Tidewater Community College.

Law-Enforcement Officer: any official appointed pursuant to Article 3 (§ 15.2-1609 et seq.) of Chapter 16 and Chapter 17 (§ 15.2-1700 et seq.) of Title 15.2, Chapter 17 (§ 23-232 et seq.) of Title 23, Chapter 2 (§ 29.1-200 et seq.) of Title 29.1, or Chapter 1 (§ 52-1 et seq.) of Title 52 of the Code of Virginia or sworn federal law-enforcement officers.

Student: any person who is enrolled at a member college of the Virginia Community College System or member institution of the Virginia Tidewater Consortium for Higher Education or any other entity which conducts academic activity on college property; any person who has been admitted to a member college of the Virginia Community College System who is on college property to conduct student-related activity associated with enrollment, including, but not limited to, attending orientation, consulting with academic advisors or counselors, taking placement tests, paying tuition and fees.

Visitor: any individual who is not a student or employee, such as relatives, acquaintances, or strangers.

Weapon: (i) any pistol, revolver, or other weapon designed or intended to propel a missile of any kind by action of an explosion of any combustible material; (ii) any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, machete, razor, slingshot, spring stick, metal knuckles, or blackjack; (iii) any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain; (iv) any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart; or (v) any weapon of like kind to include, but not limited to, tasers. “Weapon” does not mean knives used for domestic purposes, pen or folding knives

with blades less than three inches in length, or knives of like kind carried for use in accordance with the purpose intended by the original seller. [\[Code of Virginia § 18.2-308\]](#)

6. References

[State Board for Community Colleges Weapons Regulation](#)

[VCCS Policy Manual Section 3](#)

[Virginia DHRM Policy 2.35 Civility in the Workplace](#)

[Notice of Intent to Store Firearm Form](#)

7. Review Periodicity and Responsibility

The Executive Vice President shall review this policy annually on the anniversary of its approval and, if necessary, recommend revisions.

8. Effective Date and Approval

This revision of the policy is effective upon its approval by the College President on August 8, 2022

Policy Approved:

Procedure Developed:

Marcia Conston, Ph.D.
President

Karen Campbell, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs

9. Review and Revision History

The initial version of this policy was approved September 4, 2007.

- Revision 1 is a complete re-write of the policy to be consistent with VCCS Policy 3.14.6, Workplace Violence Prevention and Threat Assessment Policy Guidelines.

Approved January 13, 2012 by President Deborah M. DiCroce.

- Revision 2 is a complete re-write of the policy to be consistent with the Regulation of Weapons adopted by the State Board for Community College on January 17, 2013.

Approved January 31, 2013 by President Edna V. Baehre-Kolovani.

- Revision 3
 - Modifies the provision requiring students and employees desiring to store handguns in their vehicles on college property to provide a copy of their concealed handgun permit;
 - Provides that the armed guards of the college's contracted armored transport company may carry their weapons on campus in their vehicle and while transiting to and from the campus business office; and

- Clarifies that the host entity's rules apply in locations where TCC offers classes in facilities owned/controlled by other entities.

Approved July 25, 2013 by President Edna V. Baehre-Kolovani.

- Revision 4

- Updates titles, procedures, and provides addition for allowance of contracted armored car couriers in the course of their duties to be armed at "other specifically authorized locations" for pick up or delivery.

Approved August 8, 2022 by President Marcia Conston.