

Piedmont Virginia Community College

Section XII - Safety & Security Policies

XII – 4.0 Firearms and Dangerous Weapons

Effective Date: August 2007

Last Revised: Month Year March 2026

Responsible Dept.: Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to promote safe learning and working environments for all Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) locations by minimizing the risk of violence by using a weapon.

2. Policy Statement

This policy provides rules and procedures for the possession of weapons on campus grounds, in campus buildings, and at campus events. It is consistent with the Regulation of Weapons (Appendix A) adopted by the State Board for Community Colleges, Policy 3.14.6, Workplace Violence Prevention and Threat Assessment Policy Guidelines of the Virginia Community College System, PVCC Policy XII-2.0 Violence Prevention and Threat Assessment Policy, and the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

3. Definitions

Police Officer: Police officers are law-enforcement officials 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.

College Property: This refers to any property owned, leased, or controlled by PVCC.

Weapon: A weapon is defined as:

- a) any pistol, revolver, or other weapon designed or intended to propel a missile of any

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- kind by the action of an explosion of any combustible material;
- b) any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, machete, razor, slingshot, spring stick, metal knucks, or blackjack.
 - c) 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 chachka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain;
 - d) 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
 - e) any weapon of like kind, to include but not limited to, tasers. "Weapon" does not mean knives or razors used for domestic purposes, pen or folding knives with blades less than three inches in length, or knives of some kind carried for use in accordance with the purpose intended by the original seller.

4. Applicability

This policy applies to all faculty, staff, students, contractors, and visitors entering campus buildings or attending college-sponsored events.

5. Responsibilities

The State Board for Community Colleges is authorized by Virginia Code §§ 23-215 and 23-217(g) to promulgate regulations for carrying out its responsibilities. The State Board for Community Colleges Regulation 8VAC95-10-10 et seq. (Appendix A) sets out prohibitions for weapons possession on all college campuses within the VCCS, which includes PVCC.

Campus police officers or security, and other police officers acting pursuant to a mutual aid agreement or by concurrent jurisdiction, are lawfully in charge for the purposes of forbidding entry upon or remaining upon college property while possessing or carrying weapons in violation of this policy.

6. Procedures for Implementation

6.1 Possession

Possession or carrying of any weapon by any person, except a police officer, is prohibited on college property in academic buildings, administrative office buildings, student centers, childcare centers, dining facilities, and places of like kind where people congregate, or while attending any college-sponsored sporting, entertainment or educational events. Entry upon the college above property in violation of this prohibition is expressly forbidden. Faculty, staff, and students may not possess or carry any weapon anywhere on college

property except as outlined in Section 6 of this policy.

6.2 Exceptions

Current sworn and certified local, state, and federal law enforcement officers with proper identification may possess or carry a weapon on college property, inside all campus buildings, and at all campus events.

Faculty, staff, and students may secure handguns, rifles, and shotguns in a secure compartment inside their parked and secured vehicle. The compartment or container may be a trunk or other storage area. At no time shall a weapon be visible in plain view while inside a vehicle.

Visitors and contractors may secure handguns, rifles, and shotguns in parked vehicles. Visitors and contractors are encouraged to secure weapons in the trunk of vehicles or otherwise out of sight of passersby. If visitors and contractors store handguns in a parked vehicle, the handgun must be secured in a compartment or container inside the vehicle.

Pursuant to 8 Va. Admin. Code 95-10-30, the head of the security department 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. Authorization for the above purposes shall be considered in accordance with the following guidelines:

PVCC will require a prior written request for authorization. In addition to the logistical information for the event (date, time, place, etc.), PVCC will require the written request to contain the following information: (1) the written authorization from the college president or designee approving the course or event; (2) name and affiliation with college; (3) number and type(s) of weapon(s); and (4) purpose of the event, activity, course, etc.

6.3 Procedures

In cases involving an immediate threat of violence, members of the campus community are encouraged to call 911 immediately. If a violation of this policy is observed, campus security will be notified and will direct the individual to leave the campus building or event immediately. The individual may secure the weapon inside their vehicle and return. In the event the individual fails to comply, campus security will take appropriate action, including contacting local police.

In cases involving an immediate threat of violence, members of the campus community are encouraged to call 911 immediately. Campus security will take appropriate action, including contacting local police.

If campus security observes or receives a report of a violation of this policy by an individual or individuals on the grounds of campus (buildings, streets, sidewalks, and other open

areas on college property), security will direct such individual(s) to leave the campus building or event immediately, pursuant to regulation (Appendix A). The individual(s) may secure the weapon inside their vehicle and return. In the event the individual fails to comply, campus security will take appropriate action, including contacting local police.

7. Sanctions for Violation of Policy

Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action under the student code of conduct up to and including dismissal.

Employees who violate this policy will be subject to possible criminal charges and disciplinary action up to and including termination, using existing policies and procedures, including Section 3 of the VCCS Policy Manual or DHRM Policy 1.60, Standards of Conduct.

Pursuant to the Regulation of Weapons (Appendix A), visitors and contractors in violation of the prohibitions on the possession of weapons are subject to arrest and may be barred from the campus.

8. Other General Information

N/A