



## Weapons

Athens Technical College and the Technical College System of Georgia are committed to providing all employees, students, volunteers, visitors, vendors, and contractors a safe and secure workplace and academic setting by expressly prohibiting the possession of a firearm, weapon, or explosive compound or material on any campus and center or within the designated school safety zone, which is defined as being in, on, or within 1,000 feet of any technical college campus or center or other designated worksites. This policy extends to any college-sanctioned function.

Unless otherwise provided by law, it is unlawful for individuals to carry, possess, or have under their control any firearm, weapon, or unlawful explosive compound while within a school safety zone, a technical college building, on technical college property, at a college-sanctioned function, or on a bus or other transportation furnished by the college. Such buildings include any public-owned, public-leased, or public-operated building that houses any governmental or educational function.

The following are applicable exemptions to the weapons restrictions:

- Participants in organized sport shooting events or firearm training courses;
- Persons participating in military training programs conducted by the armed forces of the United States or the Georgia Department of Defense;
- Persons participating in law enforcement training conducted by a certified police academy;
- Peace officers, law enforcement officers, prosecuting attorneys, campus police or security officers, and medical examiners employed by the state when acting in the performance of their official duties or en route to or from their official duties;
- A weapon that is in a locked compartment of a motor vehicle or a locked firearms rack which is on a motor vehicle when that vehicle is being used by an adult over 21 **who is not a student attending the college** in order to bring or pick up a student at the college;

- Teachers and other school personnel who are otherwise authorized to possess or carry weapons provided the weapon is in a locked compartment of a motor vehicle or in a located container or a locked firearms rack which is on a motor vehicle.
- Unless otherwise provided by law, it is an express violation of college policy for any individuals to use, possess, manufacture, distribute, maintain, transport, or receive any of the following on any technical college campus, on technical college property, at a college-sanctioned function, or on a bus or other transportation furnished by the college:
  - Any firearm whether operable or inoperable as defined in O.C.G.A. §16-11-127.1 or any facsimile thereof including, but not limited to, paintball guns, BB guns, potato guns, air soft guns, or any device that propels a projectile of any kind;
  - A dangerous weapon, machine gun, sawed-off shotgun or rifle, shotgun, or silencer as defined on O.C.G.A. §16-11-121;
  - A weapon whether operable or inoperable as defined in O.C.G.A. §16-11-127.1 or any facsimile thereof including, but not limited to, any knife with a blade that is two or more inches in length (e.g., switchblade, ballistic knife, straight-edge razor or razor blade, any bludgeon-type instrument (e.g., blackjack, bat, or club), any flailing instrument (e.g., nun chuck or fighting chain), stun gun or taser, or weapon designed to be thrown (e.g., throwing star or oriental dart);
  - Any bacteriological weapon, biological weapon, destructive device, detonator, explosive, incendiary, over-pressure device, or poison gas as defined in O.C.G.A. §16-7-80;
  - Any explosive compound or material as defined in O.C.G.A. §16-7-81; or
  - Any hoax device, replica of a destructive device or configuration or explosive materials with the appearance of a destructive device including, but not limited to, fake bombs and packages containing substances with the appearance of chemical explosives or toxic materials.

Any employee or student who violates the provisions of this weapons policy shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. From a legal perspective, any person who violates this restriction shall be guilty of a felony and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or imprisonment for between two and ten years. Vendors or contractors who violate the provisions of this policy shall be subject to the termination of their business relationship with the college.