



VIII. Policy Title

Weapons on Campus

IX. Policy Purpose and Statement

Fort Valley State University (FVSU) is committed to providing a safe environment for students, employees, and visitors. The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe and orderly environment while honoring the rights of individuals to lawfully possess weapons, within designated areas as articulated herein, on campus.

X. Policy Application and Effective Date

- a. This policy applies to every employee, students, guest and visitors while in any building or on any real property owned or leased by FVSU unless excluded by state law.
- b. This policy is effective **July 17, 2017**.

XI. Definitions

- a. **Concealed:** Carried in such a fashion that does not actively solicit the attention of others and is not prominently, openly, and intentionally displayed except for purposes of defense of self or others.
- b. **Preschool or Childcare Space:** means any room or continuous collection of rooms or any enclosed outdoor facilities which are separated from other spaces by an electronic mechanism or human-staffed point of controlled access and designated for the provision of preschool or childcare services, including, but not limited to, preschool or childcare services licensed or regulated under Article 1 of Chapter 1A of Title 20.
- c. **Licensee:** Individual (21 years and older) properly licensed to carry in the State of Georgia pursuant to subsection of Code Section 16-11-126 and pursuant to code section 16-11-129: and on apply to caring of handguns which are concealed.
- d. **Weapon:** Any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or 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, or 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.
- e. **"Handgun":** Handgun means a firearm of any description, loaded or unloaded, from which any shot, bullet, or other missile can be discharged by an action of an explosive where the length of the barrel, not including any revolving, detachable, or magazine breech, does not exceed 12 inches; provided, however, that the term "handgun" shall not include a gun which discharges a single shot of .46 centimeters or less in diameter.
- f. **Electroshock Weapons:** As used in this paragraph, the term 'electroshock weapon' means any commercially available device that is powered by electrical charging units and designed exclusively to be capable of incapacitating a person by electrical charge, including, but not limited to, a stun gun or taser as defined in subsection (a) of Code 26 Section § 16-11-106." Any person who is 18 years of age or older or currently enrolled in classes on the campus and carry, possess, or have an electroshock weapon while in or on any building or real property owned by or leased by the institution; provided, however, that, if such person use the electroshock weapon, such use shall be in defense of self or others.

XII. Policy

The possession, transportation and use of weapons on campus is prohibited except as otherwise stated in this policy or as otherwise provided by Georgia law.

Concealed handguns may be possessed on campus but only in accordance with Georgia law. In accordance with state law, it is the right of a licensee to carry a concealed handgun while on the property leased or owned by FVSU in the State of Georgia. This policy will not allow any other type of gun to be carried on campus property not owned or leased by a FVSU with exception as indicated by state law.

XIII. Process/Procedures

Georgia law regarding the possession of concealed handguns on campus including places where concealed handguns may not be possessed can be found at <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display/20172018/HB/280>.

In accordance with state law, there are a number of exceptions that limit the areas on campus where handguns may be carried.

Locations Where Guns are Disallowed:

Regardless of whether or not you are a license-holder, you shall not carry a handgun into the following locations on university-owned or leased property:

- Buildings and property used for athletic sporting events. This exception includes, but is not necessarily limited to, Wildcat Stadiums, Woodward Gymnasium, HPE, and similar facilities in which intercollegiate games are staged.
- Student housing facilities including residence halls and similar buildings where students live such as fraternity and sorority houses. (Note that any housing that is not on property owned or leased by a FVSU is not covered by this exemption).
- The Health, Counseling & Wellness Center (Infirmary). While handguns are allowed in the lobby area, they are disallowed in the counseling and examination offices utilized by the professional staff.
- Spaces – including any room, continuous collection of rooms or outdoor facility – that are used for preschool or childcare. In order to qualify, preschool and childcare spaces must have controlled access (meaning access via personnel stationed at the door or an electronic mechanism) limited to authorized people.
- Rooms and other spaces during the times when they are being used for classes in which high school students are enrolled, whether through dual enrollment and programs such as Move on When Ready or through college and career academies or other specialized programs such as Early College. Licensee should be aware that high school students are normally enrolled in 1000 or 2000 level courses. Licensee should be aware dual enrollment students can enroll in courses up to the drop/add period; therefore, the licensee must be vigilant of the various enrollment periods. Licensee who want to carry handguns to class will need to visit the institution's registrar or other designated employee, who after verifying their enrollment status will tell them which of their classes, if any, have high school students enrolled. Institutions shall not, however, keep any listing of those who inquire. (Note also that the names of enrolled high school students may not be revealed in accordance with applicable privacy laws.) It is the responsibility of license-holders to seek out this information and make themselves aware of which classrooms fall within this exception.
- Faculty, staff and administrative offices. This exception includes offices and office suites occupied by faculty, staff and administrators but does not include more general public common spaces outside of those areas.
- Rooms during the times when they are being used for disciplinary proceedings of any kind, including those regarding students, faculty or staff. These would include any meetings or hearings that are part of the University System's or the institution's sexual misconduct, student conduct, dispute resolution, grievance, appeals or similar processes.
- It is a misdemeanor crime for a license-holder to carry a handgun "in a manner or in a building, property, room, or space in violation of the exemptions listed above. Doing so also will be a violation of the institution's student code of conduct and personnel rules. It is a felony for non-license person to carry a gun on campus.

- It will be the responsibility of those licensee who choose to carry handguns on campus to know the law and to understand where they can go while carrying.
- Institutions will not provide gun storage facilities or erect signs outside restricted areas.

Enforcement of Policy/Law:

- FVSU will not attempt to interfere with the ability of license-holders to lawfully carry concealed handguns on campus. However, FVSU Police will investigate and enforce any party that is suspected of or is in violation of possessing, using or transporting dangerous weapons as it relates this policy, university/USG policies and/or State law.
- Only law enforcement personnel will be responsible for enforcement.
- Violation of this policy may result in criminal penalties based on the police investigation and may constitute violation of the Student Code of Conduct and personnel policies. It is a felony for non-license person(s) to carry a gun on campus.

VII. Forms

NONE

XIV. Appendices

NONE

XV. Related Resources

State of Georgia House Bill 280: <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display/20172018/HB/280>

University System of Georgia: <http://www.usg.edu/hb280>

Frequently Asked Questions: http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information

XVI. Responsible Party

Questions regarding this policy should be directed to:

Job Title: Chief of Police

Department: Public Safety

Phone: 478-825-6280

Email: morgank@fvsu.edu

Fax: 478-825-6701