

Weapons and Explosives Policy

Revisions adopted by President's Cabinet 9/27/16

Adopted by President's Cabinet 7/30/14

East Georgia State College's mission is to provide a safe and secure environment for the entire campus community. This includes promoting safety on campus and enforcing Georgia's weapons on campus laws. This policy applies to faculty, staff, students and visitors.

The East Georgia State College campus is designated as a school safety zone by Georgia law. Georgia's Safe Carry Protection Act prohibits an individual from possessing, carrying, or having any weapons or explosive compound under his or her control on any property in a school safety zone. Limited exceptions exist to allow weapons on campus as defined below. In support of maintaining a safe and secure campus, EGSC prohibits the carrying, possession, or having under one's control, using, manufacturing, distributing, maintaining, transporting or receiving weapons and explosives in a residence hall, any location on college property or at any college sponsored event. The following definitions and examples apply:

- a. "Weapon" means and includes a pistol, revolver, or any weapon designed or intended to propel a missile of any kind, or 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, any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two point or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any weapon of like kind, and any stun gun or laser. Weapon includes any dangerous weapon, machine gun, sawed off rifle or gun, shotgun or silencer as defined by OCGA 16-11-121. Stun guns or lasers are "electroshock weapons" and are defined as any commercially available device that is powered by electrical charging units and designed exclusively to be capable of incapacitating a person by electrical charge, as defined in OCGA 16-11-106.
- b. "Explosives" includes any explosive materials, whether chemical, other substance or mechanical, intended for the purpose of producing an explosion capable of causing bodily injury or property damage, as defined by OCGA 16-7-80; any bacteriological weapon, biological weapon, destructive device, detonator, explosive, incendiary, or poison gas as defined by OCGA 16-7-80; and any hoax device, replica of a destructive device, or detonator, with the intent to cause another to believe that such hoax device or replica is a destructive device or detonator, as defined in OCGA 16-7-85.

Exceptions:

Certain limited exceptions exist for weapons possession on campus.

License holders - Individuals holding a valid weapons license may possess a weapon in their parked vehicle while on campus and while such individuals are in transit through campus. The license holders are strictly prohibited from removing the weapons from their personal vehicle while on campus grounds. License holders must have the license in his or her immediate possession at all times when carrying a weapon. If such person is exempt from having a weapons carry license, he or she shall have proof of the exemption in his or her immediate possession at all times when carrying a weapon.

Electroshock weapons - Persons who are 18 years or older or currently enrolled in classes on campus may carry, possess and have under his or her control an electroshock weapon while in or on any building or real property owned by or leased to EGSC. No license is required to carry, possess or use electroshock weapons. However, the use of the weapon by the person must be in defense of self or others.

Classroom instruction: Weapons may be used in classroom instruction by the instructor only with prior approval of the Director of Public Safety.

Duly authorized personnel - Campus police officers and any local, state or federal law enforcement officers on campus that are required to carry firearms in the commission of their duties are excepted from this prohibition.

Violation of this policy is also a violation of Georgia law and will result in appropriate action, including but not limited to, expulsion, termination, dismissal and/or referral for criminal prosecution.