

Firearms, Weapons and Explosives Policy

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.

East Georgia State College 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 explosive compound or weapon under his or her control, on any property in a school safety zone. The school safety zone covers property owned or used by East Georgia State College, including residence halls and college owned vehicles. In support of maintaining a safe and secure campus, this policy prohibits the following actions as violation of state law and /or college policy:

The carrying, possession, or having under one's control, using, manufacturing, distributing, maintaining, transporting or receiving in a residence hall, any location on college property, at any college sponsored event, any of the following:

- a. Firearm or weapon, or any object of like character, whether operable or inoperable, as defined by OCGA 16-11-127.1 including, any device which propels a projectile of any kind such as potato guns, paint ball guns, BB guns, air soft guns); knife with a blade of two or more inches, straight edge razor or razor blade; spring stick, bat, club or other bludgeon device; throwing star, nun chanka, nun chuc; stun gun or taser;
- b. Any dangerous weapon, machine gun, sawed off rifle or gun, shotgun or silencer as defined by OCGA 16-11-121;
- c. 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 16-7-81;
- d. Any bacteriological weapon, biological weapon, destructive device, detonator, explosive, incendiary, or poison gas as defined by OCGA 16-7-80;
- e. Any hoax device, replica of a destructive device, configuration of explosive materials with the appearance of a destructive device, including fake bombs, packages containing substances with the appearance of chemical explosives or toxic materials, etc. as defined in OCGA 16-7-85.

Exceptions:

Certain limited exceptions exist for weapons possession on campus. Individuals holding a valid weapons carry license may possess a weapon in a vehicle when transporting a student to/from campus and may have a weapon in a vehicle that is in transit through or parked within a school safety zone. However, weapons are strictly prohibited from being removed from a personal vehicle while on campus grounds. Weapons carry 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. Weapons may be used in classroom instruction by the instructor and only with prior approval of the Chief of Public Safety. Campus public safety 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.