

GEORGIA PIEDMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

GUNS ON CAMPUS: FAQ

This document provides general information about OCGA statute 16-11-127.1, which permits carrying handguns on college campuses by students, faculty, staff, contractors and visitors. This law went into effect on July 1, 2017. This document is intended to serve as a general guide and is not a legally binding interpretation of the law. For further information see OCGA 16-11-127.1.

1. **ARE HANDGUNS THE ONLY TYPE OF FIREARM TO WHICH CAMPUS CARRY APPLIES?** Yes. This includes revolvers and pistols.
2. **WHERE CAN WEAPONS BE SECURED WHEN NOT BEING CARRIED ON CAMPUS BY A LAWFUL WEAPONS CARRIER?** The gun owner's vehicle. Georgia Piedmont will not provide weapons storage facilities.
3. **WHAT DOES "CONCEALED" MEAN?** By law, concealed is defined as *"carried in such a fashion it does not actively solicit the attention of others...is not openly and intentionally displayed. Substantially covered by an article of clothing or carried within a bag of nondescript nature."*
4. **HOW WILL ANYONE KNOW WHETHER A CLASS HAS DUAL ENROLLMENT OR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN IT?** It is incumbent upon the lawful weapons carrier to determine when these conditions exist and not violate the law. Students may ask their fellow classmates if anyone is a dual enrollment or high school student, however, fellow students are not required to identify themselves as dual enrollment or high school students in class.
5. **WHAT IS THE PENALTY FOR VIOLATION?** See OCGA 16-11-127.1. On first offense, the penalty is a misdemeanor and a \$25 fine.
6. **CAN LAW ENFORCEMENT ASK TO VERIFY LAWFUL WEAPONS CARRIER STATUS AT ANY TIME?** Law enforcement may not detain an individual for the sole purpose of asking if they are a lawful weapons carrier.

7. CAN FACULTY ASK A STUDENT TO PROVE THEY ARE A LAWFUL WEAPONS CARRER? No
8. CAN FACULTY ASK FOR IDENTITY OF ALL WHO ARE CARRYING WEAPONS IN CLASSROOM? No
9. CAN THE COLLEGE DESIGNATE ADDITIONAL "WEAPONS FREE" AREAS? No, only those areas designated under the law apply.
10. CAN MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS, SUPERVISORS, HEALTH CARE WORKERS, SCIENCE LAB MANAGERS (FLAMMABLE ITEMS IN USE OR STORAGE), OR ANY OTHERS DRAFT POLICY BANNING FIREARMS FROM THEIR AREA, OR HAVE THE RIGHT TO BAN FIREARMS IF THEY HAVE SPECIFIC CONCERNS ABOUT A STUDENT? No, but concerns should be reported to 404-297-9522, ext. 1700. For emergencies, call 9-1-1.
11. DOES IT APPLY TO ANY AREA WHERE A STUDENT CONDUCT HEARING MAY OCCUR OR HAS OCCURRED? It applies to any area where a student conduct hearing is occurring or will occur in the immediate future.
12. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN HIGH SCHOOL (OR YOUNGER) STUDENTS ARE ON TOURS OF THE CAMPUS OR IN HALLWAYS OR BREAK AREAS? Common areas where these students may be present are not covered. The law only applies to areas in current use for instruction of students who are dual enrollment or high school students.
13. WILL THE COLLEGE PROVIDE FIREARM SAFETY TRAINING? It is the responsibility of the gun owner to assure that they have completed safety training on proper loading, use and carry (including concealed carry) of a firearm.
14. WHAT SHOULD I DO IF SOMEONE TAKES A HANDGUN OUT OF A BACKPACK OR BRIEFCASE? Students, staff members, faculty members, contractors and visitors may not display a handgun on the campus, unless they are members of law enforcement. Handguns must be concealed at all times, barring life-threatening emergencies. If you observe someone displaying a handgun on campus, it should be reported to campus police or security. For emergencies, call 9-1-1.