



Dangerous Weapons Administrative Procedure

This administrative procedure establishes the guidelines for the safety and protection of all members of the campus community relating to dangerous weapons on College property.

The term “dangerous weapon” includes, but is not limited to, firearms; knives other than folding pocketknives with blades three- and one-half inches long or less or those used for food preparation; bladed weapons such as swords, razors or arrows; ammunition; explosives or explosive devices; nun chucks; tasers or stun guns; and throwing devices with sharp or pointed edges.

With regard to firearms, the Campus Self-Defense Act (“the Act”), enacted in 2023 and effective as of July 1, 2024, permits any individual with a valid concealed carry license to carry a concealed weapon (pistol or revolver) on campus and in buildings of a state institution of higher education (IHE). Under the Act, however, higher education institutions are permitted to regulate the possession of a concealed pistol or revolver in specific areas. Accordingly, Mountwest Community & Technical College (MCTC) restricts concealed carrying of firearms in the following areas, as authorized by WV Code §18B-4-5b:

1. In an on-campus room or rooms where a previously announced student or employee disciplinary proceeding is held, or mental health services are being offered.
2. In specifically designated areas in which mental health counseling is being provided.
3. In a sole occupancy office on the campus and the buildings of the College, which you are not the assigned occupant. "Sole occupancy office" means a room with at least one door and walls that extend to the ceiling that is assigned to a single person as his or her workspace. However, unless prohibited in this procedure elsewhere, faculty and staff members who hold a current and valid concealed carry license are permitted to carry a concealed pistol or revolver in their own assigned office.
4. Laboratories as specified by signage or as listed within this procedure.
5. At a primary or secondary education school-sponsored function held in a specific location on the College property.
6. At a private function held in a specific location on the property of the College that is rented, leased, or under the exclusive use of an entity that is not affiliated with the College for the actual period of time the function is occurring. MCTC will allow the lessee or event organizer to determine if it permits concealed carry by its attendees.

Individuals with a valid concealed carry permit who want to enter areas of the College where firearms are restricted must first secure their weapon in their privately owned vehicle in accordance with the provisions of §61-7-14. The Business Liability Protection Act (§61-7-14) permits employees, students, and visitors to keep a gun securely “locked inside” or “locked to” a privately owned vehicle in a manner that is “out of view,” while the vehicle is otherwise lawfully on MCTC campus and parked in a College parking lot.

It is unlawful for the College, or any of its employees or agents, to communicate with any person to learn whether they are acting properly under the Business Liability Protection Act. It is unlawful to, in any manner, discourage a person from exercising their right to have a weapon lawfully secured in their vehicle. If a College employee does either, their actions constitute employee misconduct.

College employees, while on College property or elsewhere, acting in the capacity of a College employee, are not to engage with any person to try to ascertain if that person holds a valid concealed carry license, is carrying a concealed firearm, or is otherwise exercising their right provided for in the Campus Self-Defense Act.

The Campus Self-Defense Act and the Business Liability Protection Act do not allow for weapons to be carried openly, stored in a vehicle in a visible or unlocked manner, or intentionally brandished. If you think a person is carrying or storing a firearm in a manner that is outside the protection of the law, but you do not believe yourself or others to be in danger, you should not call 911. Instead, contact the Department of Public Safety (304-710-3499) and describe the concern to them. For your safety, do not confront or communicate with the individual you suspect of carrying or storing a firearm in a non-compliant manner.

If you see someone besides a member of the Department of Public Safety or other authorized law-enforcement official openly carrying or intentionally brandishing a weapon, or if you feel in danger at any time, call 911 or the Department of Public Safety at 304-710-3499.