

WEAPONS RESTRICTED CAMPUS

I. Purpose

Western Dakota Technical College (WDTA) believes students, faculty, staff, visitors, and contractors must be able to learn and work in a safe environment. WDTA is committed to creating and maintaining an environment that is free from threatening and violent behavior.

II. General Statement of Policy

A. To accomplish this, WDTA prohibits the carrying, exhibition, or display of weapons, including firearms, explosives, dangerous weapons, or destructive devices on any College-controlled property or at any College-sponsored activity at any location with a few exceptions.

B. Exceptions to this policy include the following:

1. Law enforcement officers acting in their official capacity.
2. The ceremonial presence of any unloaded firearm at a color guard ceremony.
3. Weapons for the WDTA Law Enforcement program. Weapons for the WDTA Law Enforcement Program must be stored on campus and secured by or under the control of the program's instructors. These weapons are solely for training purposes, and any live fire exercises will be conducted off-campus at designated facilities.
4. Weapons as stated in the following list are not restricted on any College-controlled property unless in an area indicated as a "no weapons" or "weapons restricted" area.
 - a. A concealed pistol, as defined in [SDCL 22-1-2](#), and compatible ammunition, by any individual holding an enhanced permit, a restricted enhanced permit, or a reciprocal permit in accordance with [SDCL 23-7](#).
 - b. A stun gun, as defined in [SDCL 22-1-2](#).
 - c. Mace, pepper spray, or other chemical irritant.

Whenever an individual is not carrying or in possession of any item referenced in 4.a, 4.b., or 4.c, the individual is responsible to store the item in a locked case or safe.

C. For an area to be identified as "no weapons" or "weapons restricted", the area will be evaluated based on the parameters identified in [SDCL 13-39A](#) by the VP for Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success. Documentation of the request,

analysis, and approval or denial will be maintained until deemed no longer needed by the College President.

III. Definitions

- A. Concealed: Any firearm that is totally hidden from view. If any part of the firearm is capable of being seen, it is not concealed.
- B. Firearm: Any weapon from which a projectile or projectiles may be discharged by gunpowder. As used in this subdivision, the term, gunpowder, includes any propellant that upon oxidization emits heat and light and is commonly used in firearms cartridges.
- C. Explosive: Any substance, or combination of substances, that is used for the purpose of detonation and which, upon exposure to any external or internal force or condition, is capable of a relatively instantaneous release of gas and heat.
- D. Dangerous Weapon: Any firearm, stun gun, knife, or device, instrument, material, or substance, whether animate or inanimate, which is calculated or designed to inflict death or serious bodily harm, or by the manner in which it is used is likely to inflict death or serious bodily harm.
- E. Destructive Device:
 - 1. Any bomb, grenade, explosive missile, or similar device or any launching device therefor; or
 - 2. Any breakable container which contains a flammable liquid with a flashpoint of one hundred and fifty degrees Fahrenheit or less and has a wick or similar device capable of being ignited.
- D. Pistol: Any firearm with a barrel less than sixteen inches in length, designed to expel a projectile or projectiles by the action of an explosive.
- E. Stun Gun: Any battery-powered, pulsed electrical device of high voltage and low or no amperage that can disrupt the central nervous system and cause temporary loss of voluntary muscle control of a person.

IV. Reporting Procedures

Knowledge of or having received notification of a violation of this policy is to be immediately reported to the VP for Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success or the Compliance Officer.

V. Dissemination of Policy and Training

- A. This policy shall appear on the WDTC website on the policy webpage.

Legal References: SDCL [13-39A](#), [22-1-2](#), and [23-7](#)

Board Approved: 6/11/2025