

## Overview

House Bill 280, also known as Georgia’s “campus carry law,” was signed into law with an effective date of July 1, 2017. This bill legalizes the concealed carry of handguns (revolvers and pistols) in some areas of public college and university campuses. The repercussions for violation of the law are as follows: If an individual has a valid carry license and violates the law, the penalty is a misdemeanor and a \$25 fine for the first offense. If the violator does not have a valid carry license, the charge is a felony. The information contained in this document is intended to provide guidance to CGTC’s employees regarding this law; please reference O.C.G.A. 16-11-127.1 for complete information.



## What is the Definition of “Concealed”?

For the purposes of the “campus carry law,” concealed is defined as a handgun carried in such a fashion that it does not actively solicit the attention of others, is not openly and intentionally displayed, and is substantially covered\* by an article of clothing or carried within a bag of nondescript nature.

*\*Example of substantially covered: A handgun is covered and not visible during routine movement; however, the weapon or holster becomes visible when the carrier bends over to pick something up. While the weapon was momentarily visible, it may still be considered substantially covered if there was no intent to display the weapon or solicit the attention of others.*



## Who and Where

### Who can carry a concealed weapon on campus?

- The concealed carrier must be 21 years of age or older, unless an active member of the United States Armed Forces.
- The concealed carrier must have a valid Georgia Weapons Carry License if the carrier is a resident of Georgia (or a weapons carry license/permit from a reciprocal state if the carrier is not a resident of Georgia)

### Where may concealed weapons be carried?

- Any building or real property (buildings and land owned or leased by the College, unless specifically prohibited (see *Where may concealed weapons NOT be carried?*))

### Where may concealed weapons NOT be carried?

- Any buildings or property when in use for athletic sporting events
- Student housing
- Preschool or childcare spaces
- College and career academies
- Classes with Move On When Ready (MOWR) and/or high school dual-enrollment students
- Faculty, staff, or administrative offices
- Rooms where disciplinary hearings are conducted



## Responsibilities

### Central Georgia Technical College

- Conduct regular active shooter training.
- Identify, via literature, orientations, and the college website, as having MOWR and/or dual-enrollment high school students at campuses/centers.

### Faculty and Staff

- Remind students and subordinate employees of the repercussions of violating the campus carry law.
- Be aware of any high school students in a classroom.
- Be aware that in an active shooter event, police will respond with the intent of locating and stopping the threat.

### Weapons Carry License Holders

- Know the law and follow it at all times.
- Carry a valid Georgia Weapons Carry license (or equivalent) on their person at all times.
- Receive gun safety training on proper loading, use, and carry (including concealed carry) of a firearm.
- Ensure that the weapon is concealed (see *What is the Definition of “Concealed?”*).
- Clearly identify themselves in the event of an active shooter situation and immediately obey all instructions given by law enforcement.
- Identify prohibited areas where handguns may NOT be carried and abide by the law.





## Other Important Information

- No one, other than the legislature, can make any policy, rule, or regulation concerning the possession or carrying of weapons.
- Faculty and staff may NOT require students to self-identify as carry license holders.
- Administrators may NOT require employees to self-identify as carry license holders.
- Administrators should refrain from asking individuals to voluntarily disclose if they are a carry license holder, as this could create the appearance of disparate treatment or creation of regulations concerning the possession of carrying of weapons.
- CGTC's campuses and centers are considered School Safety Zones, where weapons are restricted pursuant to O.C.G.A. 16-11-127.1. There should be no signage posted to the contrary, other than official signage approved and installed by the CGTC Facilities Department. Campuses and centers are NOT "weapons free zones" and no areas should be designated as "no weapons allowed."



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Where can weapons be secured when not being carried on campus by permit holder?**

Weapons should be safely stored out of sight in the gun owner's vehicle. CGTC will not provide weapons storage facilities.

### **How will anyone know whether a class has MOWR or dual enrollment high school students in it?**

It is incumbent upon the licensed carrier to determine when these conditions exist and not violate the law. Students may ask their fellow classmates if anyone is a dual-enrollment, MOWR, or high school student; however, fellow students are not required to identify themselves as such. CGTC will not designate areas or classrooms as MOWR or dual-enrollment areas. When in doubt, it is advisable to err on the side of caution to ensure that the law is not violated.

### **Can law enforcement ask to see a weapons carry license at any time?**

Law enforcement may not detain an individual for the sole purpose of asking if he/she has a carry license or requesting to view it.

### **Can anyone, other than law enforcement, ask a student to show a weapons carry license?**

No.

### **Can faculty ask for the identity of students carrying a weapon in classroom?**

No.

### **Can the college designate additional "weapons free" areas?**

No. Only those areas designated under the law apply.

### **Can anyone, for any reason, draft policy banning handguns from his/her area, even if he/she has hazardous materials and/or a concern about a specific student?**

No, but concerns should be reported to the appropriate college personnel (CGTC Police Department)

### **Does the "campus carry law" apply to any area where a student conduct hearing may or has occurred?**

It applies to any area where a student conduct hearing is occurring or will occur in the immediate future.

### **What if high school (or younger) students are on tours of the campus, in hallways, or in break areas?**

The law only applies to areas in current use for the instruction of MOWR or dual-enrollment students. Common areas where these students may be present are not covered.

### **Does CGTC provide gun safety training?**

CGTC, including its Department of Public Safety, will not provide firearms training to anyone other than employed sworn police officers.

### **What if I have additional questions?**

For questions, concerns, or clarification regarding the "campus carry law," please contact the CGTC Police Department.