

House Bill 280 (2017-2018 Regular Session), 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. This guide is intended to help students understand the law.



What is the definition of “concealed”?

For the purposes of the “campus carry law,” concealed is defined as a handgun carried in such a way 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 is eligible to carry a concealed handgun?

The concealed carrier must:

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



Where may concealed handguns be carried?

Concealed handguns may be carried in any building and on land owned or leased by CGTC, unless specifically prohibited. Prohibited areas where concealed handguns may NOT be carried include:

- Any buildings or property when in use for athletic sporting events
- Student housing
- Preschool or childcare spaces
- College and career academies
- Classes with high school students
- Faculty, staff, or administrative offices
- Rooms where disciplinary hearings are conducted



What are the responsibilities of a carry license holder?

The carry license holder must:

- 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.



What are the penalties for breaking the law?

- 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.



Your safety is always our top priority

Central Georgia Technical College remains committed to the safety of our students, employees, and visitors, while respecting the rights of individuals who are legally licensed to carry a handgun as permitted by Georgia state law.

Frequently asked questions

Is CGTC a “weapons free zone”?

CGTC’s campuses and centers are NOT “weapons free zones.” Campuses and centers are considered School Safety Zones, where weapons are restricted pursuant to O.C.G.A. 16-11-127.1.

Where can I keep my handgun when not carried on campus?

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

How am I supposed to know if a class has high school students in it?

It is the responsibility of the licensed carrier to determine when these conditions exist and not violate the law. Students may ask their fellow classmates if anyone is a high school student; however, fellow students are not required to identify themselves as such. CGTC will not designate areas or classrooms as high school areas. When in doubt, 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 a carry license.

Can anyone, other than law enforcement, ask a student if they are a carry license holder or ask a student to show a weapons carry license?

No.

Can my teacher ask for the identity of students carrying a weapon in classroom?

No.

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 high school 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 more questions?

For questions, concerns, or clarification, please contact the CGTC Police Department at (478) 988-6993.



Published 06/07/17



www.centralgatech.edu