

Weapons

Responsible Administrator: Director of Facilities

Southwest Tech is committed to providing a safe and healthy working environment for all those who work at or use its facilities. As part of that commitment, and subject to state and federal law, Southwest Tech has established a policy prohibiting all firearms or weapons of any type, concealed or unconcealed, in Southwest Tech owned or leased buildings. Even though Wisconsin has enacted a concealed carry law, the right to carry a concealed handgun or other weapon, even though legally obtained, does not apply to employees, visitors, or any persons in Southwest Tech buildings.

Southwest Tech employees are also prohibited from possessing or carrying weapons while in the course and scope of performing their jobs and, to the extent permissible by law, when they are performing their jobs while away from Southwest Tech property unless they fall under the exceptions.

Definition of a weapon:

- Weapons include any type of firearms (loaded or unloaded), switchblade, knife, metal knuckles, explosives, compressed gas-operated weapons, billy clubs, electric weapons as defined in state statutes, hunting archery equipment, knives which open by gravity thrust or movement, martial arts weapons, and any other device which based on the manner it is used or intended to be used, could cause death or great bodily harm.

Exceptions:

- Knives possessed, transported or used by staff and students in the normal course of an educational program or employment duties provided that such possession, transport or use is not intended or likely to produce bodily harm.
- Pepper spray, as allowed by state law, is not to be considered a prohibited weapon provided the spray is only used for personal defense.
- All certified police officers on Southwest Tech campus are allowed to carry firearms as well as any other persons as designated by HR218; either concealed or openly with proper police identification to include a photographic identification card issued by the governmental agency.
- Southwest Tech Criminal Justice faculty, which may include retired, formally certified officers, may be in possession of a weapon as part of their duties on campus.
- A weapon or potentially dangerous device may be used or possessed on the campus, grounds, facilities, or building by any person enrolled in a Southwest Tech sponsored law enforcement or Criminal Justice course(s) when such use or possession is authorized by the law enforcement training instructor and is necessary for training purposes.
- If a sanctioned course or event for the public, which involves weapons as part of the training or event, is pre-approved, such participants may, under the guidance of the instructor have weapons at the Public Safety Complex during course participation.

- Individuals and employees who are authorized in accordance with Wisconsin law may store a concealed weapon in their own vehicle which is driven or parked on Southwest Tech property and should be properly secured and not visible to passers-by.

Employees or students who have questions about whether an item is covered by this policy should contact the Director of Facilities. Employees are responsible for making sure that any item in their possession is not prohibited by this policy.

Enforcement:

- Law enforcement authorities will be immediately contacted if any employee, student, visitor or guest is found to have an unauthorized weapon and is in violation of this policy.
- In addition, any student or employee in violation of this policy will be subject to Southwest Tech's disciplinary procedures up to and including termination of employment or expulsion from the College.

Process for person(s) suspected of carrying a concealed weapon inside of a building owned or leased by Southwest Tech:

- As soon as safe and practical, call 911 and give them the name and location of the individual and notify your supervisor of the situation as soon as possible
- The College supports all students and staff who in good faith report a violation of this policy.

Approval Date: 11/30/11

Revision Date: