



Weapons on Campus

Southeast Technical College Policy STC 504

1. Purpose

Subject to this policy, Deadly Weapons are prohibited on Southeast Technical College (STC) campus. Subject to some limitations, persons on the STC campus may possess Self Defense Weapons. This policy is to regulate the possession and use of Self-Defense Weapons on STC campus in compliance with South Dakota Codified Law 13-39A-43 and 13-39A-44 while prioritizing the safety and educational mission of STC.

2. General Statement of Policy

- A. **General Rule: No Deadly Weapons.** Except for Self Defense Weapons possessed under this policy, all Deadly Weapons are prohibited on all areas of any STC campus.
- B. **Exceptions to General Rule:**
 - a. **Self Defense Weapons.** Subject to this policy, a person may carry, possess, store, or transport a concealed pistol and compatible ammunition (if such person has a Required Permit) and/or mace, pepper spray, or other chemical irritant.
 - b. **Law Enforcement.** Law enforcement officers acting in their official capacity.
 - c. **Ceremonial.** The ceremonial presence of any unloaded firearm at a color guard ceremony.
 - d. **Educational Programs.** Firearms, stun guns, or other deadly weapons used as part of any campus training program.
- C. **Prohibited Areas:** Although permitted above, Self Defense Weapons are always prohibited in the following areas:
 - a. Portions of a building or structure marked as "No Weapons - No Exceptions"
 - b. Rooms that are marked "No Weapons - No Exceptions"
 - c. In a building or structure during a special event marked "No Weapons - No Exceptions," provided that metal detectors and armed security personnel are present at every public entrance to restrict the possession of all Deadly Weapons.
- D. **Compliance: Prior** to closing any portion of the campus or event to Self Defense Weapons, STC shall ensure that:
 - a. **Compliance.** Any posting or closure of such room or event, building or event complies with the conditions of SDCL 13-39A-44.
 - b. **Prior notice.** STC shall use best efforts to notify students/attendees of any closure.

- c. **Marking.** All prohibited areas must be clearly marked at the entrance of such location.
- E. **Storage Requirements.** Any Self Defense Weapon not actively carried must be stored in a locked case or safe. The locked case and safe is at the cost and burden of the owner of the Self Defense Weapon.
- F. **Conduct Expectations:**
 - a. The goal of STC is to provide a safe learning environment, and the presence of Self Defense Weapons should enhance that environment but not detract from it.
 - b. Self Defense Weapon weapons must remain concealed and secured.
 - c. Displaying or brandishing a Self Defense Weapon, except in lawful self-defense, is prohibited and subject to disciplinary action.

Nothing in this policy modifies restrictions imposed by federal law (for example, gun free zones), or shall be construed as permitting a Deadly Weapon on STC (except for Self Defense Weapons identified above). Except as otherwise defined, definitions under South Dakota law shall apply to this policy.

3. Definitions

Campus: All property owned or controlled by STC, including buildings, grounds, and parking areas.

Deadly Weapons. Any dangerous Weapon, firearm, stun gun, knife, explosive or destructive device as defined by SDCL § 22-1-2.

Required Permit: A South Dakota enhanced permit, a restricted enhanced permit, or a reciprocal permit issued in accordance with SDCL § 23-7.

Self Defense Weapon: Any concealed pistol (as defined in SDCL § 22-1-2), and compatible ammunition, a stun gun (as defined in § 22-1-2) or mace, pepper spray, or other chemical irritant.

Weapon. Any Deadly Weapon and any Self Defense Weapon.

4. Reporting Procedures

- A. Suspected violations should be reported to Campus Security at 605-367-7847 or via See Something, Say Something - Concerning Behavior Report.
- B. Violations may result in disciplinary action, including suspension, expulsion, or termination, and referral to law enforcement.
- C. Campus Security officers are trained to enforce this policy and coordinate with other local law enforcement.
- D. Violations will be investigated promptly, with sanctions based on severity.
- E. No person may be penalized for possession of Self Defense Weapon unless the Prohibited Area was clearly marked.

- F. Holders of a Required Permit possessing a Self Defense Weapon must carry their permit at all times and present it to Campus Security upon request.

5. Dissemination of Policy and Training

This policy is located on STC's website under Consumer Information – Southeast Tech Policies

Legal References:

SDCL

13-39A-43 – Restrictions on lawful weapons prohibited.

13-39A-44 – Restrictions on lawful weapons prohibited--Exceptions--Weapon storage requirement--Applicability.

22-1-2 - Definitions

23-7 – Firearm Control

Board Approved:

Policy	Date	Board Action
adopted:	08-26-25	ST00940