

7-5: Weapons Prohibited on Campus

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Legislative Declaration: The Board of Trustees for Fort Lewis College has general supervision of the College and plenary power to enact rules and regulations for the governance of the College. The Board of Trustees has delegated to the President of the College the power and duty to adopt such policies as are reasonable and necessary for the proper conduct of the operations and activities of the College, provided those policies are lawful and consistent with the bylaws, policies and procedures set forth in the Board's Manual of Policies and Procedures. The President of the College finds and determines that the free and unregulated possession of weapons on the Fort Lewis College campus would:

1. Create an unreasonable risk to the health, welfare and safety of students, employees and campus visitors and the preservation of property on the Fort Lewis College campus by careless or malicious use;
2. Create a climate of fear and intimidation that would distract and interfere with the reasoned discourse and cooperation required for productive learning and working environments on Fort Lewis College campus; and
3. Be inconsistent with the academic mission of Fort Lewis College.

The following policy is lawful and is not inconsistent with the bylaws, policies and procedures set forth in the Board's Manual of Policies and Procedures:

Statement of Policy: Except as expressly provided below, the possession of firearms, explosive or incendiary devices, or other weapons on the Fort Lewis College campus is prohibited. This prohibition shall extend to all grounds and buildings on the Fort Lewis College campus.

This policy shall apply to all students, employees and guests of Fort Lewis College and all other visitors to the Fort Lewis College campus.

Weapons include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Firearms of any size or type of construction and ammunition;
2. Gas or air guns, including BB, pellet and paint ball guns;
3. Bows and arrows, and cross-bows;
4. Blackjacks, bludgeons, batons, nunchaku, throwing stars, and metallic knuckles;
5. Swords, pikes, lances and spears;
6. Any knife with a blade over 3.5 inches in length, including hunting and fishing knives (CRS 18-12-105.5 & CRS 18-1-901(3)(e) & CRS 18-12-101(1)(f)).
7. Ballistic, gravity and switchblade knives, regardless of the length of the blade;
8. Fireworks, gunpowder, or explosive substances; and
9. Any harmless object designed to look convincingly like a firearm, explosive or incendiary device, or other weapon.

Exceptions. This policy shall not apply to:

1. A peace officer, as described in CRS 16-2.5-101, C.R.S., when carrying a weapon in conformance with the policy of his/her employing agency as provided in CRS 16-2.5-101(2).
2. A member of the armed forces of the United States or Colorado National Guard while acting in his/her official capacity and in conformance with general or specific military orders.
3. A law enforcement officer, agent or employee of the United States, when lawfully carrying a weapon in conformance with the policy of his/her employing agency.
4. A weapon that remains inside a locked motor vehicle while on the Fort Lewis College campus, provided that the weapon is unloaded and appropriately locked out of plain view as required by CRS 18-12-114.5. This exception shall not apply to explosive or incendiary devices or explosive substances.
5. A kitchen knife with a blade over 3.5 inches in length which is kept in campus apartments or kitchens for the purpose of food preparation. This exception shall not apply to residence halls.
6. A person who has possession of a weapon for use in an educational program approved by Fort Lewis College which is designed for the repair or maintenance of weapons and has obtained written permission from the appropriate campus office and from the Chief of the Fort Lewis College Campus Police Department or their designee (CRS 18-12-105.5(h)).
7. Someone with the purpose of presenting an authorized public demonstration or exhibition pursuant to instruction in conjunction with an organized school or class, or for the purpose of participation in an authorized extracurricular activity or athletic team (CRS 18-12-105.5(1)(a) & (a.5)).

Violations. All violations of this policy shall be reported to the Fort Lewis College Campus Police Department and the appropriate College office. Violators may be disciplined (in the case of students or employees of the College), banned from the Fort Lewis College campus, and criminally prosecuted in appropriate cases.

Procedures and Guidelines. The College vice presidents are authorized to promulgate such procedures and guidelines as may be reasonable and necessary to implement and carry out the intent of this policy in their respective areas of authority.

Effective July 1st, 2024, state law prohibits carrying firearms on a college/university campus, including all Fort Lewis College buildings and campus grounds, unless a limited exception applies. This ban applies to all students, employees, visitors, **AND INCLUDES THOSE WHO HOLD A VALID PERMIT FOR CONCEALED CARRY. Individuals who carry a firearm in accordance with a valid concealed carry permit may only carry firearms in parking areas (CRS 18-12-105.5).