



On July 1, 2017, the Georgia Campus Carry law became effective. This law pertains to the possession and carrying of a handgun in and around the college campuses in the state of Georgia. We encourage you to read the laws of Georgia concerning firearms completely to be sure you fully understand not only campus carry but the other associated firearms laws. These can be found starting with O.C.G.A. 16-11-125.1 and continuing through the chapter relating to firearms and dangerous weapons.

For those who choose to carry a firearm, you are encouraged to do so safely and with respect for others. While not required by law, you are encouraged to take a safety course of instruction and fully understand how your firearm works.

To legally carry a handgun on campus a person must be 21 years of age, possess a weapons carry license (WCL) on them while carrying or fall into one of the exceptional classes as defined in the law. The weapon must be carried in a concealed fashion at all times so as not to draw attention of others. The weapon should be carried in such a manner to ensure it is protected and secured from others.

In brief, anyone meeting the requirements to carry a handgun may do so in any building or on real property (buildings or land) owned or leased by the college unless the area is specifically restricted by the law. The following are those restricted areas in which carrying a handgun is NOT allowed:

- Any buildings or property being used for athletic sporting events
- Preschool or childcare spaces
- Student housing
- College and Career Academies
- Classrooms being used for instruction of dual enrolled/Move On When Ready (MOWR) high school students
- Faculty, staff or administrative offices
- Any room designated for a disciplinary hearing of either a student or employee

All of our West Georgia Technical College campuses are open for dual enrolled/MOWR high school students to attend college classes. Students may contact the registrar or ask their

instructor if their class contains MOWR/dual enrolled students prior to carrying a weapon into the classroom.

Please be aware that the WGTC LaGrange Campus houses the ThINC Academy, a designated College and Career Academy. This particular area and related classrooms are all weapons-restricted areas.

The WGTC Douglas Campus houses a College and Career Academy called CCI in building D from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. This area is also weapons-restricted during these times. In Coweta County, the Central Educational Center is also deemed a College and Career Academy with similar weapons restrictions.

Please be aware that certain testing centers require testers to empty pockets of everything before entering this area to take exams. These centers do not provide storage space for weapons, so testers should plan accordingly.

West Georgia Technical College places certified police officers on duty during class time to provide for everyone's safety. They can assist you with questions, information and guidance. They will not store your weapon, provide firearm safety training or instruct you on loading or unloading a firearm. Please consult with them for any issues or questions you might have or email the Chief of Police for West Georgia Technical College at [james.perry@westgatech.edu](mailto:james.perry@westgatech.edu) for assistance.

Please add our campus police department dispatch number in your cell phone, 855-579-4357. As always, if you **see something, say something** immediately by calling this number and reporting it to us. This pertains to all crimes or related issues of concern.