

SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MINES & TECHNOLOGY

Policy Manual

SUBJECT: Campus Weapons Policy

NUMBER: Policy 7-8 (formerly Policy VII-A-12 and VII-08)

REVISION DATE: August 2025

Unauthorized possession of firearms and other items defined as dangerous weapons as referred to in BOR Policy 1.4.5 Section C.3 on institutional premises is strictly prohibited, except as authorized in this policy.

Definitions:

1. **Dangerous Weapons:** As defined by SDCL 22-1-2(10), "Dangerous weapon" or "deadly weapon," any firearm, knife or device, instrument, material or substance, whether animate or inanimate, which is calculated or designed to inflict death or serious bodily harm, or by the manner in which it is used is likely to inflict death or serious bodily harm.
2. **Firearm:** As defined by SDCL 22-1-2(16), "Firearm," any weapon from which a projectile or projectiles may be discharged by gunpowder. As used in this subdivision, the word "gunpowder" includes any propellant that upon oxidization emits heat and light and is commonly used in firearms cartridges.
3. **Weapons (BOR Policy 3.4.1):** Firearms, stun guns, tasers, BB guns, switchblade knives, fixed blade knives with a length of five (5) inches or greater, or any item designed or used to injure or harm another person, fireworks, explosives, or dangerous chemicals on Institutional Premises or at Institutional events, except as explicitly permitted by Board Policy or Institutional Policy.
4. **Concealed pistol:** For purposes of this policy, concealed pistol is defined by SDCL 22-1-2(6) as "any firearm that is totally hidden from view. If any part of the firearm is capable of being seen, it is not concealed."
5. **Stun gun:** For purposes of this policy, stun gun is defined by SDCL 22-1-2(50) as "any battery-powered, pulsed electrical device of high voltage and low or no amperage that can disrupt the central nervous system and cause temporary loss of voluntary muscle control of a person."

Permissible Use, Transport, and Storage:

Items listed below are permissible when possessed or used in accordance with the relevant university, BOR, city, state, and federal policies and laws:

- The following are allowed on campus except for in clearly designated spaces per BOR 1.4.5 and SDCL 13-53-1-3:
 1. A concealed pistol, as defined in § 22-1-2, and compatible ammunition, by any individual holding an enhanced permit, a restricted enhanced permit, or a reciprocal permit in accordance with chapter 23-7, within the boundaries of the institution, or while in any building or structure owned or leased by the board or the institution;
 2. A stun gun, as defined in § 22-1-2, by any individual within the boundaries of the institution, or while in any building or structure owned or leased by the board or the institution; or
 3. Mace, pepper spray, or other chemical irritant by any individual within the

boundaries of the institution, or while in any building or structure owned or leased by the board or the institution.

- Any firearm or air gun at a firing range, a gun show, or supervised school or session for training in the use of firearms;
- Any starting gun while in use at an athletic event;
- Any weapon under control of any certified law enforcement officer; Any weapon under the control of military personnel while in use during the performance of their duties; or the ceremonial presence of any unloaded weapon at a color guard ceremony.
- Any weapon under the control of authorized personnel while held in a storage facility operated by South Dakota Mines or while being transported to or from such a storage facility; Any weapon under the control of the owner while stored inside a locked personal motor vehicle
- Chemicals used for academic or research purposes purchased in accordance of university policies;
- Any fixed blade kitchen knives used in the preparation of food in a kitchen and secured/stored when not in use; Any knife or device created under the supervision of a recognized student group or for academic or research purposes.

Use of South Dakota Mines Weapons Storage Facilities:

- Concealed pistols, stun guns, and self-defense sprays must be stored in a locked case or safe when not carried or in possession. These items may also be secured in a locked personal vehicle or surrendered to Public Safety for storage. South Dakota Mines does not provide storage cases or safes. Non-concealed pistols, such as long rifles or hunting rifles, must be stored in a locked vehicle or surrendered to Public Safety for secure storage upon entering campus. If the weapon is surrendered to Public Safety, the individual will then be required to sign and abide by the Weapons Storage Agreement provided to them by Public Safety.
- When removed from storage, the weapon must be locked in the individual's vehicle and must never be taken to residence hall rooms or campus buildings unless permissible by this policy.
- Public Safety may inform the community of planned activities involving weapons.

Requesting Permission for Exceptions for Use, Transport, and Storage:

- If it is necessary to bring a weapon not listed in this policy on campus, approval from Public Safety or their designee must be obtained prior.
- If approved, the supervisor or designee must monitor the activities from start to finish. Public Safety or their designee will provide the information and plan for storage/use to the Senior Student Development Official and Senior Operations Official for informational purposes only.

Reporting and Addressing Alleged Violations:

- Any person who becomes aware of an alleged violation of this policy must immediately notify Public Safety. Public Safety will report to Senior Student Development Official or Human Resources, as applicable. Statutory or ordinance violations may be reported to the applicable law enforcement unit for review and/or prosecution. Employees who are bound legally not to release such information are excluded from the notification policy.
- Violation of this policy will be addressed in accordance with BOR Policies 3.4.1, 1.4.5, 1.4.7, and 1.4.8 dependent upon the violator. Consequences may include immediate termination of employment, expulsion, or removal from campus.

Revision History: Facilities & Risk Management Office, Revised November 2016, May 2024, August 2025 – Supersedes all previous versions

BOR Policy/Committee References: BOR Policy 1.4.5 Section C.1

[**BOR Policy 3.4.1**](#) – Student Code of Conduct

[**BOR Policy 1.4.5**](#) – Violence in the Workplace and Education Settings

[**BOR Policy 1.4.7**](#) – Threat Assessment

[**BOR Policy 1.4.8**](#) – Exclusion of Members of the Public for Disruption of Institutional Activities or for Misconduct