

Weapons, Firearms, Fireworks and Projectiles Policy

Policy/Procedure

I. Policy Statement

Dickinson College is committed to maintaining a safe and secure educational environment for all students, faculty, employees and visitors. This policy is one step towards reducing the risk of injury or death associated with intentional or accidental use of weapons.

II. Policy

The possession, manufacture, transfer, sale, or use of weapons, ammunition, and dangerous projectiles by anyone on the premises of the College or in any building under college control or at any college-sponsored event, without the explicit authorization of the Chief of Dickinson Public Safety (or their designee) is expressly prohibited. This prohibition exists whether or not a federal or state license to possess the weapon has been issued to the possessor.

The only exceptions to this policy are as follows:

1. Authorized law enforcement officers to the extent they are legally permitted to possess weapons in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Carlisle Borough;
2. Persons in the military in performance of their official duties to the extent they are legally permitted to possess weapons in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Carlisle Borough;

Anyone possessing, manufacturing, transferring, selling, or using a weapon without authorization other than those in the exception categories will be asked to immediately cease and desist, to remove them from the campus or event immediately, and may be subject to disciplinary action and/or criminal proceedings.

No student, employee, or visitor may possess, manufacture, or use fireworks on campus without written authorization from both the Chief of Dickinson Public Safety and the Director of Enterprise Risk Management. Possession or use of fireworks without such authorization may result in corrective or disciplinary action. Possession, use, and sales of fireworks may also be subject to federal, state and local laws.

Replica or realistic-looking toy firearms and weapons should not be brought on Dickinson College Property, unless authorized in writing by the Chief of Dickinson Public Safety. The use of any prop or blank-firing weapons on Dickinson College Property without such authorization is prohibited. This helps to keep our community safe by ensuring that law enforcement is aware of the use of any replica-weapons, so that they are not mistakenly identified as a threat to campus safety.

The manufacture of any weapon on Dickinson College Property is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of Dickinson College Equipment – whether on or outside of Dickinson College Property – to manufacture a weapon. This prohibition extends to the individual parts of a weapon,

regardless of whether all parts are manufactured.

III. Corrective Action and Intervention by Law Enforcement

A. Employees and Visitors

Employees violating this policy may be subject to corrective action, up to and including termination of employment. Employees and visitors may also be subject to arrest by appropriate law enforcement for violations of any applicable law and may be subject to additional penalties if they do not remove the weapons from Dickinson College property or from a Dickinson College event after a request from Dickinson Public Safety. Failure to comply with a request from Dickinson Public Safety to remove a weapon from college property is a violation of this policy and may be grounds for disciplinary action, in addition to any criminal process, even if the person in possession of the weapons is licensed by a state or federal agency to possess, manufacture, transfer, sell, or use the weapon. Additionally, possession of unlicensed firearms or weapons may lead to criminal prosecution by the appropriate jurisdiction, in addition to disciplinary action.

B. Students

Students violating this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including involuntary withdrawal from the college. Students may also be subject to arrest by appropriate law enforcement if they do not remove the weapons from Dickinson College property or from a Dickinson College event after a request from Dickinson Public Safety, or if appropriate law enforcement identifies a violation of any other applicable law. These actions may be taken even if the person in possession of the weapons is licensed by a state or federal agency to possess, manufacture, transfer, sell, or use the weapon. Additionally, possession of unlicensed firearms or weapons may lead to criminal prosecution by the appropriate jurisdiction.

IV. Obligation to Report

Any member of the Dickinson College community who observes an individual possessing, manufacturing, transferring, selling, or using a weapon and who reasonably believes the individual is doing so without the consent of the college as set forth in this policy, should immediately report this to Dickinson Public Safety by calling 717-245-1111. Any member of the college community who observes unattended items they reasonably believe to be weapons should also immediately report to Dickinson Public Safety the description and location of these items.

V. Requests for Exceptions to this Policy

Only under the most unusual circumstances will an exception to this policy be granted. Requests for an exception may be made in writing to the Chief of Dickinson Public Safety or their designee. The Chief will review the request in consultation with appropriate members of the college administration and will respond to the requester in writing with a decision.

VI. State and Local Ordinances

State and local ordinances regarding firearms also govern all members of the Dickinson community. Community members are responsible for compliance with state and local laws concerning weapons as well as with Dickinson College policy, which is more restrictive.

VII. Definitions

- A. Dickinson College Property: All Dickinson property, whether owned, leased, or controlled by Dickinson College, including but not limited to buildings, grounds, parking lots, garages, and vehicles.
- B. Dickinson Event: Any event that is sponsored or co-sponsored by Dickinson College whether or not such event takes place on Dickinson property. This includes events sponsored or co-sponsored by officially recognized college organizations.
- C. Firearm: Any device that shoots a bullet, pellet, BB, flare, tranquilizer, spear dart, paintball or other projectile, whether loaded or unloaded, including those powered by CO2. This includes, but is not limited to, guns, air guns, dart guns, pistols, revolvers, rifles, cannons, etc, and any ammunition for any such device. While certain regulations may offer exemptions for firearms manufactured before 1898, college policy does not recognize this distinction and will treat all firearms as such.
- D. Explosives: Any chemical compound or mechanical mixture that contains any oxidizing and combustible units, or other ingredients, in such proportion, quantities or packing that an ignition by fire, friction, concussion, percussion, or detonator, or any part of the compound or mixture, may cause a sudden generation of highly heated gases that results in gaseous pressures capable of producing destructive efforts on contiguous objects or of destroying life or limb. This includes, but is not limited to, firecrackers, black powder, dynamite, etc. as well as detonating devices such as detonators, blasting caps, timers, incendiary wire and the like.
- E. Weapon: Any device that is designed to or traditionally used to inflict harm. This includes, but is not limited to: 1) All firearms (as described above), ammunition, gunpowder, fireworks, explosives (as described above), incendiary devices, slingshots, switchblades, daggers, blackjacks, brass (or non-brass) knuckles, bows and arrows, swords, spears, hand grenades, various kinds of knives (other than cooking utensils or pocket knives with a blade length less than 3”), tasers, and various martial-arts devices capable of being used as weapons (nun-chucks, throwing stars, etc.); 2) any object that could be reasonably construed as a weapon; or 3) any object legally controlled, treated, or defined as a under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. For the purposes of this policy, weapons need not be fully assembled to be considered a weapon. In cases where individual parts of a weapon are identified, the Chief of Dickinson Public Safety (or their designee), shall have authority to determine whether a sufficient number of parts exist to establish a violation of this policy.

Related Information

Carlisle Borough Code: [Borough of Carlisle, PA Firearms \(ecode360.com\)](#), [Borough of Carlisle, PA Explosives \(ecode360.com\)](#), [Borough of Carlisle, PA Fireworks \(ecode360.com\)](#)

History/Revision Information

Responsible Office/Division:

Public Safety/General Counsel

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07/03/2024

Also Found In:

Community Standards, DPS website