

MFT Program Policy on Carrying Guns on Campus

This policy is available to the public via the link to [Program Handbook and Policies](#) on the [MFT website](#).

MFT Program Policy on Carrying Guns in FamilyWorks

Georgia House Bill 280, commonly known as “campus carry” legislation, took effect at all USG institutions on July 1, 2017. With some exceptions, House Bill 280 allows anyone with a valid Georgia Weapons Carry License to carry a handgun in a concealed manner on property owned or leased by public colleges and universities.

The MFT Program, in compliance with Georgia House Bill 280, allows guns in all areas of FamilyWorks (common areas such as the breezeway, halls, the waiting room, the classroom, therapy rooms, observation rooms, bathrooms, GA office, student workroom, file room, and the intake office). Guns may not be carried in faculty and staff offices.

OTHER EXCEPTIONS

Buildings and Property Used for Athletic Sporting Events

This includes stadiums, gymnasiums, and similar facilities in which intercollegiate games are staged. This DOES NOT include so-called “tailgating” areas where fans may congregate outside the gates of the sports facility or student recreation centers and similar facilities that are not used for intercollegiate games.

Student Housing Facilities

This includes residence halls and similar buildings where students live on property owned or leased by the University System of Georgia. House Bill 280 does not apply to student housing that is not on property owned or leased by the University System of Georgia.

Classes in Which High School Students Are Enrolled

Rooms and other spaces during the times when they are being used for **classes in which high school students are enrolled**, whether through programs such as Dual Enrollment, or through college and career academies or other specialized programs such as Early College.

Georgia Weapons Carry License holders who want to carry handguns to class will need to visit the Office of the Registrar with their VSU 1Card. After verifying their enrollment status, the Registrar official will tell them which of their classes, if any, have high school students enrolled.

Institutions may not, however, keep any listing of those who inquire. It is the responsibility of license-holders to seek out this information and make themselves aware of which classrooms fall within this exception. Students should be aware that until the Drop/Add period at the beginning of the term is complete, the class makeup may change.

This policy is scheduled for update whenever state law regarding guns on campus is amended.

This exception only applies to classrooms, not common areas like the library, dining hall, student union, and other public campus locations.

Faculty, Staff, and Administrative Offices and Office Suites

This does not include areas outside of these offices, including common areas, classrooms, labs, and other public campus locations.

Disciplinary Proceedings

Any rooms during times when they are being used for disciplinary proceedings of any kind, including those regarding students, faculty, or staff. These would include any meetings or hearings that are part of the University System of Georgia's or VSU's sexual misconduct, student conduct, dispute resolution, grievance, appeals, or other processes.

House Bill 280 does not apply to excursions or institution-sponsored events away from campus on property not owned or leased by a University System of Georgia institution.

More Information

The University System of Georgia has provided additional guidance for the VSU campus with a [video that can be accessed by clicking here](#).

More information can be found at the following links:

- www.valdosta.edu/campuscarry
- [University System of Georgia Guidance for Implementation](#)
- [Additional Information Regarding House Bill 280](#)
- [Full Text of House Bill 280](#)

Policy Update Information

This policy is scheduled for update as, if, and when state law is amended or abolished.