



POLICY

Category	Approval		
Series 1000: Students	Effective	Administration	Board
	2/22/10	12/4/09	2/22/10
	Revised		For Review
	8/26/2025		2026

WEAPONS POSSESSION

MTC 1033

Students and nonstudents (including visitors and staff) are not permitted to carry, possess, use, store, distribute, transfer or transport a weapon in or on any school property, vehicle, or premises, or in any other building or property being used for school purposes or functions, **except** as explicitly stated in the provisions of [MTC Policy 119](#) and [SDCL 13-39A-43](#). A “weapon” includes any controlled, dangerous or deadly item, destructive device or explosive, ballistic knife, stun gun, mace, pepper spray, other chemical irritant, firearm or air gun, including those intended primarily for imitative or noise-making purposes. MTC reserves the right to inspect any person, carrying bag, and/or vehicle on campus when a violation of this policy is suspected.

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

1. “Controlled weapons” shall include a firearm silencer, machine gun or short shotgun. A firearm silencer is any instrument, attachment, weapon or appliance for causing the firing of any gun, revolver, pistol or other firearm to be silent or intended to lessen or muffle the noise of the firing of any such weapon. A machine gun is any firearm of whatever size and design that automatically discharges two or more cartridges by a single function of the firing device. A short shotgun is a shotgun with a barrel less than 18 inches long or with an overall length of less than 26 inches.
2. “Dangerous or deadly weapon” is 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 which can be used or misused in a manner to cause death or serious bodily harm.
3. “Destructive device” is any bomb, grenade, explosive missile or similar device or any launching device therefore, or any breakable container which contains a flammable liquid with a flashpoint of 150 degrees Fahrenheit or less and has a wick or similar device capable of being ignited.
4. “Explosive” is any substance or combination of substances that is used for the purpose of detonation and which, upon exposure to any external or internal force or condition, is capable of a relatively instantaneous release of gas and heat.
5. “Ballistic knife” is a knife encased in a tubular metal sheath which when removed, uncovers a detachable blade that can be propelled by a spring mechanism operated at the push of a button.

6. "Stun gun" is any battery-powered, pulsed electrical device of high voltage and low or no amperage that can disrupt the central nervous system can cause temporary loss of voluntary muscle control of a person.
7. "Firearm" includes any weapon which is designed to expel a projectile by action of an explosive, or any other means, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, a muffler or silencer for a weapon, or any explosive, including any poison gas. This shall include BB guns, paint ball guns, and air guns.

If a student violates this policy, the College may apply sanctions in accordance to MTC's *Non-academic Probation, Suspension, and Expulsion* policy (Policy MTC 1036).

Staff who violate this policy shall be subject to personal discipline procedures and South Dakota Codified Law governing employment dismissal.

Exceptions

Exceptions allowed under this policy include the following:

- Any starting gun while in use at an athletic event;
- The ceremonial presence of any unloaded weapon at a color guard ceremony;
- Any weapon under the control of military or law enforcement personnel while carrying out official duties; and
- Weapons carried by security personnel on campus for special events or other duties as assigned by the President of the College.

Compliance Procedures

Any employee or student who becomes aware of a violation of this policy should immediately notify the Vice President for Academic Affairs, a member of administration, or an immediate supervisor.

Procedures for Exceptions

1. If a weapon is necessary for academic purposes or for a special visiting group, a request must be provided in writing to the Vice President for Academic Affairs two weeks in advance.
2. If event/activity is approved, the supervisor of the person having the weapon on campus must follow the activities of the event/activity from start to finish.
3. Any other exemption to this policy must be in writing from the President of the College and reported to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

6/22/15 – Policy amended to include language reserving right for inspection of students and personal property upon suspicion of weapons violation. Provisions were added to allow weapons on campus under explicitly stated conditions.

6/25/18 – Removed provision for storage of weapons by the institution. Changed responsible personnel to Vice President.

5/9/22 – Responsible personnel updated to align with MTC's organizational structure.

8/25/25 – Provision added for lawful carrying, possession, storage, and transportation of weapons in accordance with SDCL 13-39A-43 and MTC Policy 119. Mace, pepper spray, and other chemical irritants added to the list of weapons. Responsible personnel updated.