POLICY: 6Hx28:10-04

Responsible Executive: Vice President, Student Affairs

Policy Contacts: Assistant Vice President, Campus Safety and Services

Specific Authority: 1001.64, F.S.
Law Implemented: 1001.64, F.S.; 790, F.S.

Effective Date: 05-25-2023

Date of Last Policy Review: 09-25-2026

Firearms and Weapons on College Property and at College Events

I. PURPOSE & INTENT

In order to maintain a safe academic and workplace environment, Valencia College ("College") provides this Policy for information and direction regarding the use, storage, and possession of firearms and weapons on College property and at College events.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

A. Applicability

1. This Policy is applicable to all members of the College community, including all students, faculty, staff, visitors, contractors, volunteers, interns, invitees and guests, on or at any College campus, facility, or event ("Individuals").

B. Compliance

1. In accordance with Sections 790.115 and 790.251, Florida Statutes, this Policy prohibits Individuals from possessing firearms, electric weapons or devices, destructive devices, or other weapons defined in Sec. 790.001(13), F.S. on or at any College campus, facility, or event except as otherwise provided by Florida law.

2. In addition to firearms, Chapter 790, Florida Statutes, regulates the possession of all other weapons on or at any College campus, facility, or event. This policy does not prohibit legitimate work tools required to complete official work on campus.

C. Exceptions

1. It is lawful and not a violation of this Policy for law enforcement officers of government agencies, whether on or off duty, who currently are authorized by the employing law enforcement government agency, to possess the firearm on or at any College campus, facility, or event.

2. It is lawful and not a violation of this Policy for a person eighteen (18) years of age or older to possess a concealed firearm or other weapon for self-defense or other lawful purpose within the interior of a private vehicle (conveyance), with or without a license, if the firearm or other weapon is securely encased or is otherwise not readily accessible for immediate use. In accordance with Section 790.25(5), F.S., this policy does not prohibit the carrying of a legal firearm other than a handgun anywhere in a private vehicle (conveyance) when such firearm is being carried for a lawful use. This exception shall not be construed to authorize the carrying of a concealed firearm or other weapon on the person.

3. It is lawful and not a violation of this Policy for the College's armored car vendor, when acting in the course and scope of their college duties, to possess a firearm on a College Campus, or in the event of any other possession of a firearm specifically authorized pursuant to the provisions of Section 790.115, Florida Statutes.

4. Should it be necessary or desirable for the use of firearms in any of the academic programs of the College, then permission for such use must be applied for and approved as follows:

    a. School of Public Safety ("SPS") Academic Programs: Permission for the use of firearms or other weapons, as appropriate, at any of the SPS Academic Programs must be approved by the Dean, School of Public Safety, Legal Studies & Education, or the Director of the Criminal Justice Institute, with advanced notification to Safety and Security Services.

    b. All other College academic programs: Permission for use of firearms or other weapons, as appropriate, at any other College academic program or course must be approved by either the:

        i. College President;

        ii. Assistant Vice President, Campus Safety and Services;

        iii. Senior Director, Safety and Services; or

        iv. Security Director, with advanced notification to Safety and Security Services.

Policy History:

Adopted 12-11-74; Amended 12-15-82; Amended 9-17-86; Amended 11-18-92; Amended 4-23-14; 5-25-23; Formerly 6Hx28:04-31

Procedures:

I. **Timely Reporting Obligations of Alleged Policy Violation(s)**

Timely reports of any sightings or information about the possession or threat of a firearm or other unauthorized weapons or other violations of this Policy must be made immediately to law enforcement (by calling 9-1-1) or College Safety and Security Services (see list in Appendix A) on their campus for a coordinated response. The College contact point that receives the initial reporting will coordinate with other appropriate College representatives for further evaluation of circumstances and action as deemed necessary:

A. Safety and Security Services;

B. Provost;

C. Assistant Vice President, Holistic Support at 407-582-5368; and/or

D. Organizational Development and Human Resources/Employee Relations Office at 407-299-4748 (HR4U) or HR4U@valenciacollege.edu.

II. Violation(s) of this policy by any individual is considered serious misconduct, may require further investigation and action based on the severity of circumstances by the appropriate authority(ies) on this matter, and may subject the violator to sanctions as appropriate, including, but not limited to:

A. Discipline up to and including dismissal from employment under this and any other applicable College policy or procedure;

B. Discipline up to and including academic expulsion from the College;

C. Issuance of a written directive from the Campus Safety and Security Services Office barring future access to or entry upon College property or at a College sponsored or supervised event; and/or

D. Notification to local law enforcement officials for response and action, as appropriate under local, state, or federal law.

III. Any individual who makes a report or provides information that is later found to have been intentionally false or made maliciously without regard for truth may be subject to sanctions as appropriately listed in Procedures II above.

IV. An individual who believes an adverse action has been taken for reporting a sighting or information about an unauthorized weapon or other violation of this Policy, should contact one of the following representatives for further review and action as deemed appropriate:

A. Students: Assistant Vice President, Holistic Support or designee for the campus on which the violation occurred.

B. Employees, Volunteers, or Interns: Organizational Development and Human Resources/Employee Relations Office at 407-299-4748 (HR4U) or

HR4U@valenciacollege.edu.

C. All others (e.g., contractors, vendors, visitors): Safety and Security Services (see list in Appendix A).

Related Statutes, Rules, and Policies:

College Policy 6Hx28: 3E-08 Disciplinary Action
College Policy: 6Hx28:8-03, Student Code of Conduct
790.001, F.S.; 790.115, F.S.; 790.25, F.S.; 790.251, F.S.

Procedure History:

Adopted 4-23-14; Amended 5-25-23; Amended 10-16-25; Amended 9-25-2026

Date of Last Procedure Review: 09-25-2026

Related Documents:

Appendix A: Safety and Security Services (Campus Security) Contact Numbers

Campus	Phone Number
Accelerated Skills Training – Advanced Manufacturing Training Center (contact Osceola Campus)	407-582-4000
Accelerated Skills Training – Downtown Center for Accelerated Training (contact West Campus)	407-582-1000
East Campus	407-582-2000
Lake Nona Campus	407-582-7000
Osceola Campus	407-582-4000
Poinciana Campus	407-582-6500
School of Public Safety	407-582-8000
School of Public Safety Satellite Training Locations (Fire Rescue Training Centers, Elevated Safety, Greater Orlando Aviation Authority)	407-582-8000 (during normal operating hours) 407-582-1000 (outside normal operating hours)
UCF/Downtown Campus (contact West Campus)	407-582-1000

Valencia College Heart of Florida United Way Center for Accelerated Learning – Northwest Orlando	407-582-3600
West Campus (24 hours per day/7 days per week)	407-582-1000
Winter Park Campus	407-582-6000