

**Bergen Community College**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**Section: GADM**

**Policy #: GADM 010-002.2024**

**Effective Date: May 7, 2024**

**Responsible Officials:**  
**Vice President of Human Resources**  
**and Organizational Development**  
**Associate Vice President of Safety**  
**and Security**

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**Weapons on Campus**

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**Policy Statement:**

Bergen Community College ("BCC" or "College") is committed to the safety and security of the College Community, as well as guests and visitors to the campus. Pursuant to that commitment, the College prohibits the use, possession, sale, transfer, transport or storage of any Explosives, Firearms, Knives, or Other Weapons or Accessories on campus other than with the limited exceptions set forth in this Policy. This Policy applies to all areas of campus and all property owned, leased, or controlled by BCC. This includes items stored or kept in vehicles parked on College-owned, leased, or controlled property ("College Property").

**Reason for Policy:**

To prohibit weapons on campus, as part of the College's commitment to the safety and security of the College community, including guests and visitors to the campus.

**Who Should Read This Policy:**

This Policy applies to all members of the College Community (defined below) who visit any College Property. This prohibition exists whether or not an individual possesses a federal or state license or possession of a State of New Jersey concealed carry handgun permit to possess or carry a weapon.

## Definitions:

- A. **College Community** includes the following persons associated with BCC at all three (3) campuses to include Paramus, Hackensack, and Lyndhurst New Jersey:
- (1) the Board of Trustees;
  - (2) faculty, including adjunct professors and visiting faculty;
  - (3) staff including temporary employees;
  - (4) researchers, including persons conducting research at or under the auspices of the College;
  - (5) volunteers;
  - (6) students;
  - (7) visitors; and
  - (8) others who are performing activities or providing services at or under the auspices of BCC, including consultants, vendors, and contractors.
- B. **Weapon(s)** means anything readily capable of lethal use or of inflicting serious bodily injury (New Jersey Statute Title 2C:39-1r), and for the purposes of this policy, more specifically identified as follows:
- 1) **Explosive** means any chemical compound or mixture combined in such a way that ignition or detonation may cause sudden generation of highly heated gasses or particles capable of producing a destructive effect. This includes, but is not limited to firecrackers/fireworks, black powder, dynamite, plastic explosive, Nitroglycerin, or any improvised compound or device with the same properties, and any detonating device.
  - 2) **Firearm** means any handgun, rifle, shotgun, machine gun, automatic or semi-automatic rifle, or any gun, device or instrument in the nature of a weapon from which may be fired or ejected any solid projectable ball, slug, pellet, missile or
  - 3) **Knife** means an instrument consisting of a thin blade with a sharp edge and/or point. Knife includes, but is not limited to, daggers, stilettos, hunting knives, machetes, switchblades, swords, spears, throwing knives or stars, hatchets, arrows, and axes, regardless of whether the item is considered decorative. Knife, for the purposes of this Policy, does not include pocket knives or multi-tools if such objects have a blade or cutting surface that is three (3) inches in length or less.
  - 4) **Other Weapon or Accessory** means any other objects or substances brought to BCC with the intent to injure, alarm, incapacitate, or cause illness to another, or put another in fear for their life, including, but not limited to tasers, stun guns, cattle prods, martial arts weapons, paintball guns, air guns, bows and

crossbows, blackjacks, nunchucks, Billy clubs, brass knuckles, sling shots, dangerous materials and chemicals or biological or toxic weapons such as mace, bear spray, anthrax, tear-gas; imitation firearms, ammunition, and accessories such as holsters and magazines.

- C. **Prop Weapons** include, but are not limited to, guns, knives, swords, daggers, spears, bows and arrows, crossbows, slingshots, nooses, handcuffs, shackles, restraints, and any other implements fashioned in a threatening manner, whether capable of inflicting actual bodily harm or not, that are non-firing, rubber and/or toy.
- D. **Theatrical Use** refers to use in a stage or film production sponsored and/or authorized by BCC, including during rehearsals.
- E. **Stage Combat** is any physical confrontation, in which bodily harm is represented, with or without actual physical contact. Slapping, wrestling, shoving, and simulated fighting can potentially cause injury and are considered to be stage combat. Depictions of self-injury or sexual assault are also considered to be stage combat.
- F. **Governing Officer** for the purpose of this Policy means the Associate Vice President of Public Safety and Security or their designee.
- G. **Possession** for this Policy shall be as enumerated under N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5e (1), N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5e (2), and N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5e (3). These statutes strictly prohibit the possession of firearms, any other weapon, or any imitation as such, on or in any part of campus grounds or buildings, "irrespective of whether he/she possesses a valid permit to carry a firearm or valid firearms purchaser identification card." Possession shall include on your person or stored within property including, but are not limited to, a vehicle, locker, backpack, handbag, or briefcase.

## The Policy:

### PROHIBITIONS

- A. The College Community is prohibited from the Possession of any Explosive, Firearm, Knife, or Other Weapon or Accessory by the College Community while on College-related premises.
- B. While representing the College during working hours, employees are prohibited from Possessing any Explosive, Firearm, Knife, or Other Weapon or Accessory while performing College services off the College premises.
- C. The College Community is prohibited from storing or transporting any Explosive, Firearm or live ammunition, Knife, or Other Weapon or Accessory in a vehicle parked on a BCC

campus this includes, but is not limited to, private vehicles, New Jersey Transit, the Bergen County Shuttle, and Access Link services.

- D. The College Community is prohibited from threatening to bring any Explosive, Firearm or live ammunition, Knife, or Other Weapon or Accessory to campus, to College-related premises, or to College-related events, including academic, athletic, and social events held away from campus.
- E. Theatrical Use or Film Crew rentals as Performed on BCC properties:
  - 1) The College prohibits any Prop Weapon or Staged Combat not approved by the designated Theater faculty member or an authorized theatrical production staff of BCC's Department of Performing Arts in conjunction with the Governing Officer.
    - a. Requests for the use of Prop Weapons and/or Staged Combat activity must be made at least six (6) weeks prior to the first rehearsal date. Both requests must be made in writing to the Governing Officer.
    - b. BCC Prop Weapons may not be taken off-campus without approval from BCC's Department of Performing Arts in conjunction with the Governing Officer. All transportation plans and storage plans while on campus shall be emailed to the Governing Officer at [publicsafety@bergen.edu](mailto:publicsafety@bergen.edu) at least 24 hours in advance. Proper documentation must be included within the transportation and storage plan using the Prop Weapon Chain of Custody Form and Check-In Log. These forms can be found with the Department of Performing Arts.
    - c. The rental, borrowing, or purchase of Prop Weapons from any source other than the College's Department of Performing Arts must be arranged in consultation with the designated Theater faculty member and the Governing Officer.
    - d. At least one designated employee of BCC, will be responsible for oversight of all Prop Weapons used in a production.
    - e. Prop weapons must be transported in a locked transport case provided by the designated Theater faculty member and must be secured in a locked cabinet or room when not in use. At no time may prop weapons be stored in a classroom or in a student's vehicle. Unsecured prop weapons may be eliminated or denied use from a production at the discretion of the designated Theater faculty member and the Governing Officer.
    - f. Arrangement for the use and secure storage of Prop Weapons in other campus venues must be made with BCC's Department of Performing Arts, the Governing Officer, and with the manager of the particular venue. This arrangement must be documented in writing or email and shared with the appropriate parties.

- 2) The College prohibits the use of any Prop Weapon or Staged Combat activity not previously approved by or obtained from the film production staff renting College property in conjunction with the Governing Officer or their designee.

## EXCEPTIONS

- A. Any active Municipal, County, or State law enforcement officer (as recognized by the New Jersey Police Training Commission), or Federal law enforcement officer may carry their duty firearm and weapons on any BCC campus. Any officer possessing a firearm must be easily identifiable as a Law Enforcement Officer; this can be either a Class A or Class B uniform. Identification can be accomplished when the law enforcement officer is either wearing a visible badge on his/her belt, and an outermost garment (shirt/jacket) that identifies them as a police officer and the law enforcement agency that they are employed by.
- B. "On-duty" or "Off-duty" law enforcement officers who are in plain clothes are permitted to carry firearms or weapons while on campus but are required to notify the Governing Officer in advance of their visit to campus. Upon arrival to campus, plain clothes officers must provide the Governing Officer or their designee their badge and or credentials and their department issued identification.
- C. Retired Law Enforcement Officers are permitted to possess firearms while on campus but are required to notify the Governing Officer in advance of their visit to campus. Upon arrival, retired officers must provide the Governing Officer or his designee their "retired law enforcement officer permit to carry a handgun" issued by the Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police.
- D. Permission is granted for the use of starting pistols at athletic events, weapons used for instruction during martial arts classes, College events where a ceremonial color guard is presented, and College events with licensed or permitted fireworks displays.
- E. The College has established agreements and/or contracts with Armored Service Companies that perform various functions on BCC campuses. Armored vehicles and armed personnel employed by authorized vendors may enter any BCC campus specifically for the purpose of fulfilling their responsibilities to the College.
- F. If an outside law enforcement agency is conducting an undercover operation on campus, they are required to notify the on-duty Bergen County Sheriff's Department personnel assigned to the College, and/or the Governing Officer.
- G. Any private non-law enforcement armed security officer (also known as "private security"), or private citizen with a New Jersey permit to concealed carry a handgun, must have authorization to possess a firearm on campus at the discretion of the

Governing Officer and the College President. If permission is granted, the private security officer must provide the required documentation and permit issued by the Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police authorizing him/her to carry a firearm.

- H. Knives that are utilized for educational purposes in classes and laboratories including, but not limited to, Culinary Arts, Health Professions, Science, or Veterinary Technology are permitted.
- I. This Policy may have inadvertently excluded extenuating unforeseen circumstances regarding the Possession of a Weapon on campus. If such a circumstance arises, the Governing Officer in conjunction with the President of the College retains the authority to review and determine the permission or prohibition on a case-by-case basis that is unique to the above cited exceptions.

## **REPORTING**

1. Any member of the College community or guest who observes an individual possessing or using items prohibited by this Policy, or who witnesses a threat or act of violence, should immediately call 9-1-1, and then report the activity to the Department of Public Safety at telephone number (201) 447-9200, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
2. If an individual is permitted to carry a weapon on campus, and that weapon is either lost or stolen, the owner of that weapon is required to notify the Department of Public Safety or the Bergen County Sheriff's Office immediately.
3. The Governing Officer will maintain a file containing the proper documentation for all members of the College Community who are permitted to carry firearms or weapons on campus. This file will be shared with the President of the College upon his/her request.
4. The Governing Officer will notify the Bergen County Sheriff's personnel assigned to BCC of each member of the College Community who are permitted to carry firearms or weapons on campus.

## **VIOLATIONS**

Any person(s) who knowingly has in their possession any Explosive, Firearm, Knife, or Other Weapon or Accessory in or upon any BCC owned, leased, or otherwise affiliated buildings or grounds without the written authorization of the College's Department of Public Safety may be charged with a crime and is subject to arrest, termination from employment, expulsion, and/or other disciplinary action from BCC. Violations also may subject the individual to civil liability.

The following New Jersey Statutes apply to this Policy:

2C:39-3 Prohibited Weapons and Devices

2C:39-4 Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose

2C:39-5 Unlawful Possession of a Weapon

2C:39-6 Exemptions

2C:39-7 Certain Persons Not to Have Weapons

2C:58-3 Permit to Purchase a Handgun

2C:58-7 Persons Possessing Explosives or Destructive Devices to Notify Police

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### **Related Documents/Policies:**

BCC Authorization Form

BCC Prop Weapons Chain of Custody Form

BCC Prop Weapon Chain of Custody Log

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### **Policy History: (adopted/amended)**

Adopted: May 7, 2024