



Weapons, Explosives, and Fireworks

Policy Number: 12.1.2

Section: Section 12 – Public Safety and Health Policies

Adopted Date: 06/23/2026

Effective Date: 07/01/2026

Purpose

This policy prohibits the use and possession of weapons, explosives, and fireworks, and describes the required reporting of violations.

Scope

This policy applies to all Maricopa County Community College District (“MCCCD”) employees, students, visitors, and guests on all land and buildings owned, leased, or under the control of MCCCD or its affiliated or related entities; in all MCCCD vehicles; and at all MCCCD-sponsored events and activities, except as provided in Arizona Revised Statutes § 12–781.

Exceptions to this policy are as follows:

1. Peace officers certified by the State of Arizona and currently employed by an Arizona law enforcement agency performing his or her official duties;
2. Peace officers certified by the State of Arizona in an off-duty capacity and currently employed by an Arizona law enforcement agency;
3. Any law enforcement officer working under their color of authority;

4. Weapons used in authorized academic programs for which prior approval has been obtained from the MCCCDC Chief of Police or an authorized representative of the MCCCDC Police Department Administration;
 5. Any firearm that is lawfully stored and locked in a personally owned motor vehicle or compartment of a motorcycle and not visible from outside the motor vehicle or motorcycle pursuant to ARS § 12-781;
 6. Retired peace officers who meet the provisions of ARS § 38-1113.G(4), as determined by the MCCCDC Chief of Police or designated representative;
 7. Permissible personal safety devices, as defined in this policy; or
 8. Other activity that has been given prior written approval by: (1) the College President or designated representative, and (2) final MCCCDC approval by the MCCCDC Chief of Police or designated representative.
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Definitions

Employee: persons employed by MCCCDC on a full- or part-time basis, including academic professionals, administrators, non-faculty administrators, classified staff, and faculty.

Explosive: Any explosive device or substance, including dynamite, nitroglycerin, black powder, or other similar explosive material including plastic explosives; any breakable container that contains a flammable liquid with a flash point of 150° F or less and has a wick or similar device capable of being ignited.

Fireworks: Any fireworks, fire crackers, sparklers, rockets, or any propellant-activated device whose intended purpose is illumination.

Permissible Personal Safety Devices: Non-lethal self-defense items such as:

- Over-the-counter, electroshock devices and conducted electrical weapons which include but are not limited to non-police grade Tasers and stun guns. Non-police grade is defined as being under 50,000 volts
- Over-the-counter mace and pepper spray
- Knives with blades of less than 5 inches
- Tactical pens
- Hi-intensity tactical flashlight or strobe device
- Hi-volume audible alert/alarm device (may include visual and audio effects)
- Expandable or fixed baton

- Over-the-counter keyring defensive tools

Weapon: Any object or substance designed to (or which could be reasonably expected to) inflict a wound, cause injury, incapacitate, or cause death, including, without limitation, all firearms (loaded and unloaded, simulated and real), devices designed to expel a projectile (such as bb guns, air guns, pellet guns, and potato guns), swords, knives with blades of 5 inches or longer, martial arts weapons, bows and arrows, and chemicals such as tear gas. Permissible personal safety devices as defined in the Governing Board Policy Glossary are excluded from this definition.

The terms explosive and weapon do not include substances, tools, equipment, or props used in a manner consistent with an authorized MCCCCD activity (e.g. culinary arts, agricultural programs, facilities maintenance, athletics, or theatrical productions). Possession of such items is limited to the specific location of the activity and the necessary transportation of the item to and from that specific location, so long as the items are transported in a secure, non-threatening manner.

Policy Statement

Use, possession, display, or storage of any weapon, explosive device, or fireworks is prohibited on all land and buildings owned, leased, or under the control of the Maricopa County Community College District (“MCCCCD”) or its affiliated or related entities; in all MCCCCD vehicles; and at all MCCCCD-sponsored events and activities, except as provided in Arizona Revised Statutes § 12-781.

MCCCCD students and employees must report violations and suspected violations of this policy to the MCCCCD Police Department immediately.

Responsibilities

Role or Office	Responsibility
MCCCD Police Department	Enforces this policy on MCCCD property and at MCCCD events.
MCCCD Chief of Police or an authorized representative of the MCCCD Police Department Administration	Authorizes the use of weapons in academic programs.
College President or Designated Representative	Reviews and grants College approval for exception requests, subject to final review and approval by the MCCCD Chief of Police or Designated Representative.
MCCCD Chief of Police or Designated Representative	Reviews and grants MCCCD approval for exception requests following approval by the College President or Designated Representative.

In addition to any sanctions available under applicable law, violations of this policy by MCCCD students are subject to sanctions under the MCCCD Student Conduct Code, and violations of this policy by MCCCD employees are subject to sanctions under MCCCD policies governing employee conduct.

MCCCD assumes no liability or responsibility for the actions, omissions, or conduct of any individual's possession or usage of a weapon or permissible personal safety device on MCCCD property or at MCCCD events. MCCCD assumes no liability or responsibility for any property damage, injury, or death resulting from the incorrect, negligent, or intentional misuse of a weapon or permissible personal safety device on MCCCD property or at MCCCD events, even if a peace officer not affiliated with MCCCD's police is responsible for such misuse. Improper use of any weapon or permissible personal safety device may result in appropriate disciplinary action or charges of criminal wrongdoing.

Cross Reference(s)

[AR 2.5.2 Student Conduct Code; AR 6.7 Employment Standards](#)

Legal Reference(s)

[A.R.S. 4-229. Licenses; handguns; posting of notice](#)

[A.R.S. 12-781. Transportation or storage of firearms; motor vehicles, applicability](#)

[A.R.S. § 13-2911. Interference with or disruption of an educational institution; violation; classification; definitions](#)

[A.R.S. § 13-3101. Definitions](#)

[A.R.S. § 13-3102. Misconduct involving weapons; defenses; classification; definitions](#)

[A.R.S. § 13-3103. Unlawful imprisonment; classification; definition](#)

[A.R.S. § 13-3112. Concealed weapons; qualification; application; permit to carry; civil penalty; report; applicability; annual report](#)

[A.R.S. § 38-1113.G\(4\) Carrying of firearms by peace officers; exceptions; definitions](#)

Policy History and References

Frequency of Review: Every three years

Review Date(s)	Responsible Division	Revised Date(s)
	MCCCD Police Department	