

## Frequently Asked Questions

July 19, 2016

Q: What do I have to do to carry a weapon on campus?

A: Any full-time employee with a valid handgun carry permit who desires to carry a weapon concealed on any Northeast State property must notify the NeSCC police department (NSPD) before doing so. To properly notify the NeSCC police department you must report to a police officer (not a security officer) at the Blountville or Johnson City campus, present you handgun carry permit, and assist the police officer in completing a notification form. This process will take approximately one hour. You do not need an appointment.

Q: What does NSPD do with the information they collected?

A: All information with regards to this notification procedure is confidential. The only people authorized to know a NeSCC civilian employee is carrying a firearm is members of the NSPD and the law enforcement agency with concurrent jurisdiction. This information will not be given to any other employee of NeSCC or to the general public.

Q: What campus sites can I carry on if I have completed the notification process?

A: You can carry on the Blountville, Kingsport, Bristol, Gray, and Johnson City campus sites. You cannot carry a weapon at the Unicoi or Mountain City campuses due to the fact these are high school campus sites and carrying a weapon on a high school campus violates state law. Additionally, NeSCC at Johnson City will be offering high school classes. Employees are not permitted to carry a handgun inside any classroom where high school classes are being taught.

Q: What if I also teach/work for a different college?

A: Individuals who have completed the notification procedure with the NSPD to carry on NeSCC campuses must check with the current policies of the institution they teach/work for. Remember what the basic requirements of the law are. You must be a full-time employee and have a valid handgun carry permit.

Q: Does a NeSCC police officer have the right to check if I am carrying my credentials and firearm?

A: Yes, if a campus police officer asks to see your gun carry permit and verify if you are or are not carrying, you must comply with any request the officer makes. Failure to do so violates NeSCC/TBR policy and state law. Officers will only ask if there is a need to know concerning officer safety or responding to information received. Additionally, officers will only ask trying to respect the confidentiality requirement of the law. However, officer safety will take priority over confidentiality.

Q: If I am registered to carry a firearm on a NeSCC campus, where can I not carry a firearm?

A: Examples include, Auditoriums (KCHE, RCPA, Student Services, Amphitheatre) while school sponsored events are taking place, all NeSCC state owned vehicles, tenure meetings, disciplinary meetings, counseling centers, and health offices. For a detailed explanation or listing see a campus police officer.

Q: What should I do if I accidentally enter one of these areas with my handgun?

A: Immediately exit the designated “no carry” area with your handgun. If you need to reenter the area, immediately secure your handgun out of sight in your locked personal vehicle. Notify campus police immediately.

Q: Will NSPD secure my weapon for me?

A: No, NSPD will not assume any responsibility for your weapon.

Q: What should I do if my employment status, handgun carry permit status, or employment location changes?

A: Immediately notify the NeSCC Police Department to update your intent to carry status. If anything changes that disqualifies you from being able to carry, immediately cease carrying your handgun while on college property.

Q: Does the college offer any type of firearm training?

A: No, the NeSCC Police Department does not offer any training. If you are interested in completing any additional training try contacting other local law enforcement agencies or ranges to see if they can meet your needs.

Q: What if I am enrolled as a NeSCC student but only take night/online/abbreviated class or classes?

A: You are not eligible to carry your handgun at any campus site as long as you are enrolled as a student at NeSCC.

Q: What if I am enrolled as a student at a different college?

A: As long as you are not enrolled as a student at NeSCC, you may continue carrying your handgun while acting as a full-time employee of NeSCC. Remember, do not carry your firearm at any time when you are going to any college as a student unless you have permission from the college where you are a student.

Q: Can a POST certified law enforcement officer carry a weapon on a college campus?

A: Yes, law enforcement officers, by state law, can carry their approved firearm at any campus site; however, this must be approved by the chief law enforcement official of the agency. The overwhelming

majority of law enforcement agencies permit their officers to carry off duty and on college campus sites. Officers must have their credentials about their person when carrying off duty.

Q: What are the penalties for violating policy/laws?

A: If you violate any part of a TBR or NeSCC policy that is not part of the law you may be susceptible to disciplinary action taken up to and including termination of employment. If you violate any part of the state law, you may be arrested and charged with up to a Class E felony (maximum penalty – 6 years imprisonment and \$3,000 fine) in addition to disciplinary action taken by the college.

Q: Am I allowed to tell my supervisor/coworkers/subordinates about my handgun so that they may be aware of its presence during an emergency situation?

A: No, breaching the confidentiality of individuals that are carrying (including yourself) is punishable with disciplinary action. Remember you must keep the fact that you are carrying a firearm confidential and the firearm must be concealed.

Q: Can I secure my handgun inside my office? What if I bring a gun safe and anchor it into the office?

A: No, you must keep the handgun about your person at all times within arm's reach except when you have the handgun locked inside your personal vehicle.

Q: What can I do to help police during an active shooter or violent crime emergency?

A: During an emergency, your first priority should be to RUN and get to safety. Do not re-enter a dangerous area after exiting. If you encounter police while you are holding your firearm, immediately place your firearm on the ground and raise your hands making your hands clearly visible to the officers. Follow all orders that are given by police officers. Your firearm is to be used for YOUR OWN SELF DEFENSE only.

Q: What if I am confronted by a concerned staff member or student who saw my handgun/holster?

A: Advise the other staff member that you are registered with the NeSCC Police Department, provide your name to the individual, and advise them that they may call campus police regarding the incident. Immediately report this incident to campus police.

Q: If I use my firearm while on a NeSCC campus am I covered legally?

A: No, if you discharge your firearm on a NeSCC campus the Tennessee Board of Regents will not cover you in any way. You are totally on your own!

Q: What do I do to get more information?

A: Contact the NSPD and speak to a police officer.