

WEAPONS/FIREARMS POLICY

I. PURPOSE:

The Sitting Bull College Weapons and Firearms Policy is to ensure the safety of the students, faculty, staff, residents, and visitors to the college campus and outreach sites. In an effort to maintain a safe environment, the institution does provide a safety awareness program that consists of, but is not limited to the following:

- a. During orientation, students will receive information regarding maintaining a safe learning environment.
- b. Campus crime statistics will be disclosed to the federal government at <http://ope.ed.gov/security>.
- c. Workshops and information sessions on personal safety and self-defense will be offered every academic year.
- d. Counseling and referral services will be provided, as deemed appropriate or as provided in this Policy.

Sitting Bull College finds and determines that the free and unregulated possession of weapons on the SBC campus would:

1. Create an unreasonable risk to the health, welfare and safety of students, employees and campus visitors and the preservation of property on the SBC campus by careless or malicious use;
2. Create a climate of fear and intimidation that would distract and interfere with the reasoned discourse and cooperation required for productive learning and working environments on SBC campus;
3. Be consistent with the academic mission of SBC.

II. POLICY:

Except as expressly provided below; the possession of firearms, explosive or incendiary devices, or other weapons on the Sitting Bull College campus is prohibited. This prohibition shall extend to all grounds and buildings on the Sitting Bull College campus. This policy shall apply to all students, employees and invitees of SBC and all other visitors to the SBC campus. "Weapons" include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Firearms of any size or type of construction and ammunition;
2. Gas or air guns, including BB, pellet and paintball guns;
3. Bows and arrows, and cross-bows;
4. Blackjacks, bludgeons, batons, nunchaku, throwing stars, and metallic knuckles;
5. Swords, pikes, lances and spears;
6. Any knife with a blade over 3.5 inches in length, including fishing and hunting knives;
7. Ballistic, gravity and switchblade knives, regardless of the length of the blade;
8. Fireworks, gunpowder, or explosive substances; and
9. Any harmless object designed to look convincingly like a firearm, explosive and incendiary device, or any other weapon.

III. EXEMPTIONS:

This policy shall not apply to;

1. A law enforcement officer, agent or employee of the United States, when lawfully carrying a weapon in conformance with the policy of his/her employing agency.
2. A member of the Armed Forces of the United States or North Dakota or South Dakota National Guard while acting in his/her official capacity and in conformance with general or specific military orders.

3. A weapon that remains inside a locked motor vehicle while on the Sitting Bull College campus, provided that the weapon is unloaded and is used for the sole purpose of hunting wild game in accordance with hunting regulations. This exception shall not apply to explosive or incendiary devices or explosive substances.
4. A kitchen knife with a blade over 3.5 inches in length which is kept in campus apartments or campus housing homes for the purpose of food preparation.
5. A student, employee or invitee of Sitting Bull College who has a legitimate educational or employment related purpose for the possession of the weapon on the SBC campus. An example of this exception would be the possession of a Bow and Arrow for the purpose of Archery class.

IV. PROCEDURE:

If it is suspected, believed or witnessed that a Sitting Bull College student is in violation of this policy, and is in possession of a weapon, Campus Security needs to be contacted immediately, and under no circumstances should anyone approach this individual.

1. A violation of this Policy by a student is considered a violation of the SBC Code of Conduct, paragraph #9, which states: "Failure to comply with directions of college official acting in performance of their duties." Any student in possession of a weapon or firearm or any incident involving a student in possession of a weapon or firearm in violation of this Policy will be handled by Campus Security until the situation can be neutralized.
2. If Campus Security deems the possession of the weapon is without justification, Campus Security will immediately call the BIA Tribal Police or Sioux County Sheriff's office. Campus Security will prepare an incident report and submit the report to the Vice President of Operations or Dean of Academics.
3. The Vice President of Operations or Dean of Academics will then handle the violation as a violation of the Code of Conduct.
4. If the situation occurs a second time with the same individual during the same academic year, the above procedure will be repeated. However, at this point, the student will be placed on disciplinary dismissal until counseling is received. Upon applying for reentry into the College, the individual must provide verification of counseling and an understanding of the SBC Weapons Policy to the Vice President of Operations or Dean of Academics.

Exception: If the student possessing a weapon is malicious in intent and harms another person or property, the College has the authority to expel the student immediately and permanently.