




**Policy Number:** 800.2

**Policy Title:** Firearms and Dangerous Weapons

**Subject:** Section 800 – Miscellaneous

**Date Adopted:** August 24, 2009

**Date(s) Revised:** August 30, 2012; January 20, 2021; January 13, 2025

**Approved by:**   
Sandra J. Bauman  
Dean/CEO  
Helena College University of Montana

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**POLICY STATEMENT:**

Helena College University of Montana restricts the possession and use of firearms, prohibited knives, and/or dangerous weapons on the campuses of the College. Individuals authorized to carry firearms without prior approval from the Dean/CEO includes:

- On-duty Peace Officers who are on campus in the performance of their duties as Peace Officers;
- Federal authorities that are empowered by federal law to be armed.

All Helena College policies shall adhere to and be consistent with relevant federal and state laws, rules, and regulations and with Board of Regents' policies and procedures. This policy is in accordance with [MCA 20-25-321](#), [MCA 20-25-323](#), [MCA 20-25-324](#), [MCA 46-1-202](#), and [BOR Policy 1006](#).

## PROCEDURES:

### 1. PURPOSE

- a. To state the policy of Helena College regarding the possession of firearms and dangerous weapons within its facilities and premises and the requirements of Montana State Code Annotated and Board of Regent Policy.

### 2. DEFINITIONS

- a. **Firearms:** Any rifle, shotgun, pistol or revolver or any other firearm from which a shot or shots are discharged by an explosive.
- b. **Dangerous Weapons:** Any gas, liquid or other substance or instrumentality, which, in the manner used, is calculated or likely to produce death or great bodily harm.
- c. **Prohibited Knives** include, but are not limited to, any knife with a blade length of more than four inches, any knife with a blade that opens automatically by hand pressure applied to a button, spring or other device in the handle of the knife, or any knife having a blade that opens or falls or is ejected into position by the force of gravity, or by an outward, downward or centrifugal thrust or movement.
- d. **Facilities and Premises:** Real property and immovable property under the authority and control of the State of Montana or Board of Regents of the State of Montana. This includes all parking lots, parking areas, sidewalks and walkways, and Helena College UM owned/leased vehicles and equipment or any off-site premises where Helena College is conducting any activity sponsored by the College.

### 3. WEAPONS ON CAMPUS

- a. No firearm, explosive device, or any unlawful weapon of any kind is permitted on College property or in any College facility or at any College function without proper authority unless one or more of the following conditions applies:
  - i. In the possession of a peace officer in the performance of their duties;
  - ii. Prior approval has been obtained in writing from the Dean/CEO.
- b. Request for having firearms on campus will be approved as follows:
  - i. All requests that involve firearms on campus will be submitted to the Dean/CEO Office 72 hours prior to the event. Requests, which may be approved include, but are not limited to the following:
    1. Use in hunter safety classes;
    2. Classroom or College Center special classes on firearms;
    3. A public demonstration(s) (re-enactment), which would involve the use of BLANK ammunition ONLY;
    4. A theatrical production, which is under the direction of the Academic Department.
    5. Gun Show promotions that have been approved for rental of College space.
  - ii. Other than the Dean/CEO, no Helena College officer, faculty, or staff member has authority to grant permission to bring firearms on campus. If approved by the Dean/CEO, the Executive Director of Operations will work with each individual situation to establish the appropriate protocols for the event. These protocols, at a minimum, will include:
    1. The weapon(s) and/or any component of a weapon(s), brought onto campus property (including the parking lot) remain under control of the responsible party.
    2. No live ammunition is brought on site.

3. The campus community will be notified when a weapon has been approved to be on campus to avoid creating an alarming situation.

#### **4. VIOLATION OF POLICY**

- a. Any person(s) violating this policy will be required to leave College premises immediately and will be subject to further disciplinary sanctions as deemed by federal and/or state law, Board of Regent, and college policy. Any employee found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline, including immediate termination.