

Weapons Prohibited on Campus:

Summary: Provides a brief summary of laws and campus policy pertaining to weapons on the UCSC campus.

Weapons are not permitted on campus. Penal Code sections 626.10(b), 626.9(h) and UCSC campus policy prohibit the use and possession of weapons anywhere on UCSC property. The laws apply to students, faculty, staff and non-affiliated visitors. Violation of these laws and regulations may result in criminal prosecution and/or student judicial discipline including but not limited to:

- Imprisonment.
- Fines.
- Revocation of on-campus housing privileges.
- Suspension or dismissal of student status.

What is a weapon?

California Penal Code section 16590 lists weapons that are prohibited from using, possessing, transporting, buying, selling or owning anywhere in the state of California. This includes both on and off of University of California property.

Some of the most common prohibited weapons include:

- A ballistic knife.
- A belt buckle knife.
- An air gauge knife.
- Illegal impact weapons such as a baton, wooden club, billy, blackjack, sandbag, sandclub, or sap.
- Metal knuckles (commonly known as “brass knuckles”).
- Nanchakus (commonly known as “nunchucks”).
- Shurikens (commonly known as “ninja stars”).

This section expands to include any object intended to be used as a weapon outside of immediate self-defense. A baseball bat, for instance, although not necessarily a weapon, is considered an illegal weapon when used or intended to be used as such.

May I bring a gun onto campus?

No. Guns are strictly forbidden on campus per Penal Code section 626.9(h) and the 1995 Gun-Free School Zone Act.

May I own/ possess a knife on campus?

Yes. The knife must be folding and cannot be opened automatically (i.e. by clicking a button). The blade cannot be longer than 2.5 inches and can only have one sharp edge. Switchblade knives and other knives defined by Penal Code section 653k are not allowed.

Although it is legal to openly carry a sheathed, fixed-blade knife in California, Penal Code section 626.10(b) and section 102.25 of the UCSC Student Policies and Regulations Handbook prohibits bringing such a weapon onto University of California property without prior authorization.

May I carry pepper spray for self-defense?

Yes. However, pursuant to California Penal Code sections 22810(e)(1) and 22810(e)(2), the pepper spray must be less than 2.5 ounces and must also display a clear warning label.

Use of pepper spray for any purpose other than immediate self-defense is unlawful.

May I have a BB gun or a toy gun on campus?

No. Sections 102.24 and 102.26 of the UCSC Student Policies and Regulations Handbook prohibit BB guns on campus. The sections also prohibits air soft guns, paintball guns, crossbows, stun guns, pellet guns, slingshots, tasers or any facsimile weapons on campus.

Furthermore, BB guns and other replicas often resemble real firearms. They can be easily mistaken for a real weapon and have the potential to create an extremely dangerous situation.

Related California Penal Code Sections:

21310. Carrying of concealed dirk or dagger:

Any person in this state who carries concealed upon the person any dirk or dagger is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year.

417(a)(1). Brandishing a deadly weapon:

Any person who, except in self-defense, in the presence of another person, draws or exhibits any deadly weapon whatsoever, other than a firearm, in a rude, angry, or threatening manner, or who in any manner, unlawfully uses a deadly weapon other than a firearm in a fight or quarrel is guilty of a misdemeanor.

417.4. Imitation firearm:

Every person who, except in self-defense, draws or exhibits an imitation firearm, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 16700, in a threatening manner against another in such a way as to cause a reasonable person apprehension or fear of bodily harm is guilty of a misdemeanor.

20150(A). Altering appearance of imitation firearm:

Any person who changes, alters, removes, or obliterates any coloration or markings that are required by any applicable state or federal law or regulation, for any imitation firearm, or any device described in subdivision (b) of Section 16700, in a way that makes the imitation firearm or device look more like a firearm, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

245(4). Assault with deadly weapon or force likely to produce great bodily injury:

Any person who commits an assault upon the person of another by any means of force likely to cause great bodily injury shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for two, three or four years, or in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or by both the fine and imprisonment.