



# Annual Security Report

2024–2025



## **Wilkes Community College**

Wilkes Community College (WCC), a member of the North Carolina Community College System, was founded in October 1964, by the North Carolina State Board of Education. The first Board of Trustees was sworn into office on January 15, 1965, and classes were first held in August 1965. WCC is a public, two-year, open-door institution serving the people of Wilkes, Ashe and Alleghany counties and beyond. The main college campus is located at 1328 South Collegiate Drive in the city of Wilkesboro, North Carolina in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. In addition, WCC operates the WCC Ashe Campus, located at 363 Campus Drive in the town of West Jefferson, NC, and the WCC Alleghany Center, located at 115 Atwood Street in Sparta, NC.

## **Annual Security Report**

### **Preparation**

Beginning in August of each year, the Chief of Wilkes Community College Police Department will prepare an Annual Security Report. In accordance with federal regulations, the Annual Security Report will be completed and published by October 1st of each calendar year and the statistical data will be filed electronically with the U.S. Department of Education. Upon completion, this report may be viewed electronically via the internet at: <https://www.wilkescc.edu/wccpd/#tab-707e3fa8cea0830e0c0>

### **Distribution**

The Chief of Wilkes Community College Police Department will also provide copies of the report to the director of Human Resources and dean of Student Services for distribution. The dean of Student Services and director of Human Resources will provide printed copies of the annual report to any applicant for enrollment or employment upon request.

**Dean of Student Services**  
**Wilkes Community College**  
**PO Box 120**  
**Wilkesboro, NC 28697-0120**

**Director of Human Resources**  
**Wilkes Community College**  
**PO Box 120**  
**Wilkesboro, NC 28697-0120**

## **WCC Police Department**

### **Mission**

The mission of the WCC Police Department is to provide a safe and secure campus environment for the entire college community. This mission is achieved through the collaborative efforts of the WCC Police Department, state and local law enforcement agencies, and the college community.

### **Organization**

The WCC Police Department and all activities are directly supervised by the WCC Chief of Police. The WCC Police Department is comprised of a full-time Chief of Police, 2-3 full time Police Officers. Additionally, the department is staffed by 10-20 part-time sworn Police Officers and 10-12 part-time non-sworn Security Officers, who work various shifts to provide 24-hour per day police and public safety

coverage for the main campus. The Chief of Police reports directly to the Senior Vice President of Administration and Finance, who is responsible for providing administrative oversight for the WCC Police Department.

### **Enforcement Authority of WCC Police and Security Officers**

The WCC Police Department is located on the WCC main campus in Building 7. WCC Police and Security Officers provide police and public safety services for the main campus 24 hours per day, 365 days a year. WCC Police Officers are duly sworn as law enforcement officers and possess the statutory powers of arrest, as granted by North Carolina general statute § 15A-401 . WCC Police Officers provide full law enforcement service for the campus community including the enforcement of state and local criminal laws including felonies, misdemeanors, infractions, crime prevention, criminal investigations, enforcement of violations of traffic laws, investigation of traffic accidents, and crisis intervention.

Campus Security personnel are granted the authority by the college President, Administrative Council, and Board of Trustees to enforce all campus policies and rules related to physical safety and security of college students, personnel, property, and assets, including parking and traffic enforcement. Campus Security personnel have the authority to have any person temporarily removed from WCC property for engaging in criminal activities or willful violations of WCC policies, including violations of the student conduct code.

Students, employees, and visitors are expected to cooperate and comply with the lawful directives of Police and Security Officers. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary or legal action, as appropriate.

### **Working Relationships with Law Enforcement Authorities**

The WCC Police Department maintains a close working relationship with all law enforcement agencies that share jurisdiction. The WCC Police Department works with other law enforcement agencies in the college service area, including but not limited to, Wilkesboro Police Department, Wilkes County Sheriff's Office, Ashe County Sheriff's Office, Alleghany County Sheriff's Office, North Wilkesboro Police Department, West Jefferson Police Department, Sparta Police Department, North Carolina State Highway Patrol, and the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation. The WCC Police and Security Officers and Wilkesboro Police Department communicate regularly on the scene of incidents that occur on or near the main campus area. WCC Police Officers work closely with any law enforcement agency when incidents arise which require joint investigative efforts, resources, crime-related reports, and exchanges of information. There are written mutual assistance agreements between the WCC Police Department and all agencies with joint territorial jurisdiction listed above.

### **Patrol Jurisdiction of WCC Police and security officers**

The normal patrol jurisdiction of WCC Police Officers includes any property owned, leased, or controlled by Wilkes Community College including locations in Wilkes, Ashe, and Alleghany counties. This area can include but is not limited to any adjacent highway, roadways, streets, and any area immediately adjacent to our campus that is leased, owned, or controlled property.

Pursuant to North Carolina § 116-40.5. Wilkes Community College Police and its officers shall meet the requirements of Article 1 of Chapter 17C of the General Statutes, shall take the oath of office prescribed by Article VI, Section 7 of the Constitution, and shall have all the powers of law enforcement officers

generally. The territorial jurisdiction of a campus police officer shall include all property leased, owned, or otherwise controlled by the institution employing the campus police officer and that portion of any public road or highway passing through such property and/or immediately adjoining it, wherever located within the State of North Carolina.

### **Crime or Incident Reporting Procedures**

#### **WCC Wilkes Campus Procedures for Reporting a Crime or Emergency**

It is the responsibility of every college employee and student to report crimes whenever they become aware of such activity. All criminal offenses or emergencies that occur on the main campus should be reported to the WCC Police Department immediately. The WCC Police Department is located in Building 7 and officers are on patrol during and after normal business hours. WCC Police Department may be contacted by telephone at (336) 838-6275 (mobile). Dial only the last four digits when calling from an on-campus phone. Courtesy telephones located in each classroom building on the main campus also offer immediate access to WCC Police Department staff by dialing ("6275"). The WCC Police Department can also be reached by calling ("911") in an emergency.

The WCC Wilkes campus resides within the municipal jurisdiction of the City of Wilkesboro. The Wilkes Community College Police Department, Wilkes County EMS, and the Wilkesboro Fire Department are the primary emergency response agencies for these campuses. To report an "emergency" or request law enforcement assistance, dial 911.

#### **WCC Ashe Campus Procedures for Reporting a Crime or Emergency**

The reporting person should immediately alert the Dean of the Ashe Campus or the administrative assistant of the crime or emergency.

The Ashe Campus resides within the jurisdiction of the town of West Jefferson. The West Jefferson police and fire departments are the primary emergency response agencies for the Ashe Campus. To report an "emergency" or request law enforcement assistance, dial 911. WCC Police Department will respond and assist when requested or as necessary.

#### **WCC Alleghany Center Procedures for Reporting a Crime or Emergency**

The reporting person should immediately alert the Director of the Alleghany Center or the administrative assistant of the crime or emergency.

The Alleghany Center resides within the jurisdiction of the town of Sparta. The Sparta police and fire departments are the primary emergency response agencies for the Alleghany Center. To report an "emergency" or request law enforcement assistance, dial 911. WCC Police Department will respond and assist when requested or as necessary.



## **Privacy and Confidential Reporting**

The WCC Police/Security staff will strive to maintain privacy when an incident or related information is reported by victims or witnesses as such. However, federal law and WCC policy may limit the Police/Security staff's ability to maintain privacy under certain conditions. For example, if an incident reported to WCC Police/Security staff involves allegations of sexual assault, sexual harassment, or other forms of sexual violence, these reports must be made available to the institution's Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator, and he/she are obligated to investigate and take appropriate action on these types of cases independent of any other security or law enforcement related function. Additionally, the seriousness of the crime or incident being reported and the potential ongoing safety risk to the college community could also require WCC Police or Security staff to disclose certain relevant information contained in such a report. This type of disclosure would typically be for the purposes of conducting reasonable threat assessment activities, issuing timely warnings, and implementing protective measures for the college community and the public.

For information on confidential resources related to reporting sexual assaults, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and related incidents, please refer to the institution's Title IX and Sexual Misconduct policy and procedure at <http://www.wilkescc.edu/prevent/>

## **Timely Warnings**

Students, faculty, staff, and visitors are encouraged to report all crimes and public safety-related incidents to the WCC Police Department in a timely manner to aid in providing accurate and timely warning notices to the campus community, when appropriate, and to ensure inclusion in the annual crime statistics. In the event of a serious incident which may pose an ongoing threat to the college campus community, a Crime Alert is sent to all students and employees on campus. The alerts are generally written by the WCCPD Chief of Police, or a designee, and are approved and distributed to the campus community by the WCC president or their designee. Alerts and updates to the WCC community about any particular case may be distributed via campus-wide email, posted on the WCC website, or WCC Insider webpage. Crime Alerts are typically distributed for the following Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR)/National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) classifications: arson, criminal homicide, and robbery. Incidents of aggravated assault and sex offenses are considered on a case-by-case basis, depending on the facts of the case and whether there is a continuing threat to the campus community. Crime Alerts may also be issued for other crime classifications, as deemed necessary.

## **Campus Security and Access**

WCC buildings are open to employees, students, and persons enrolling for classes or conducting official business with WCC during normal operating hours. While in college buildings, all persons are required to obey all federal, state, and local laws and ordinances, as well as college policies.

Access to campus buildings during non-operating hours shall be restricted to employees having official college business. When an office or facility is closed, access for anyone other than employees of the college is prohibited unless accompanied by an employee. Employees working in college buildings during such times must notify the WCC Police or the Security Officer on duty of their presence.

Portions of the WCC grounds are open to the public daily between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 11:30 p.m., except when being utilized for instructional purposes or a WCC sponsored or sanctioned event. These areas include the walking trail, tennis courts, WCC endowed gardens, public playground near the Waldon Caboose, and public picnic shelter. These areas are maintained by the college and considered public daily use areas intended for the recreational use and enjoyment of the community. The use of WCC land or property for any other purpose shall be in accordance with the provisions set forth in WCC Policy 7.16, "Use of Facilities."

### **Campus Security and Facilities Maintenance**

Facilities and landscaping are maintained in a manner that minimizes hazardous conditions. WCC Police and Security staff regularly patrol campus buildings and grounds and report malfunctioning lights and other unsafe physical conditions to facilities/maintenance staff for repair. All members of the college community should promptly report unsafe conditions to WCC Police and/or Security staff or to Facilities/Maintenance staff.

### **Crime Statistics**

#### **Clery Act Crimes**

The WCC Annual Security Report includes crime statistics that occurred: on campus, in non-campus buildings, or on public property. The report must also indicate if any of the reported incidents, or any other crime involving bodily injury, was "hate crime." The following offenses are required to be included in the institution's Annual Security Report (ASR) as well as sent to the U.S. Department of Education annually:

- Criminal homicide:
  - Murder and non-negligent manslaughter
  - Negligent manslaughter
- Sexual offenses:
  - forcible
  - nonforcible
- Robbery
- Aggravated assault
- Burglary
- Arson
- Motor vehicle theft
- Arrest and/or disciplinary referrals for
  - Liquor-law violations
  - Drug-law violations
  - Illegal weapons possession

## Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

In addition to the categories for crime statistics that are reported under the Clery Act, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) requires the additional disclosure of incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, and incidents of stalking.

## Hate Crimes

A **hate crime** is a criminal offense committed against a person or property which is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender's bias. **Bias** is a preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of persons based on their race, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or ethnicity/national origin.

## Wilkes Campus

I.	<u>Crime or Offense</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	A. Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter	None	None	None
	B. Negligent Manslaughter	None	None	None
	C. Sex Offense (Forcible)			
	Rape	None	None	None
	Fondling	None	None	None
	D. Sex Offense (Non-Forcible)			
	Incest	None	None	None
	Statutory Rape	None	None	None
	E. Robbery	None	None	None
	F. Aggravated Assault	None	None	None
	G. Burglary	None	None	None
	H. Motor Vehicle Theft	None	None	None
	I. Arson	None	None	None
II.	<u>Arrest or Disciplinary Referrals</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	A. Liquor Law Violations	None	None	None
	B. Drug Law Violations	2	1	1
	C. Illegal Weapons Possession	None	None	None
III.	<u>Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Categories</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	A. Domestic Violence	2	None	None
	B. Dating Violence	None	None	None
	C. Stalking	1	1	1
IV.	<u>Hate Crimes</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	A. Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	None	None	None
	B. Sexual Assault	None	None	None

C. Robbery	None	None	None
D. Aggravated assault	None	None	None
E. Burglary	None	None	None
F. Motor vehicle theft	None	None	None
G. Arson	None	None	None
H. Larceny-theft	None	None	None
I. Simple assault	None	None	None
J. Intimidation	None	None	None
K. Destruction/damage/vandalism of property	None	None	None
<b>V. <u>Unfounded Crimes</u></b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Total Unfounded Crimes	4	2	1

### **Ashe Campus**

<b>I. <u>Crime or Offense</u></b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
A. Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter	None	None	None
B. Negligent Manslaughter	None	None	None
C. Sex Offense (Forcible)			
Rape	None	None	None
Fondling	None	None	None
D. Sex Offense (Non-Forcible)			
Incest	None	None	None
Statutory Rape	None	None	None
E. Robbery	None	None	None
F. Aggravated Assault	None	None	None
G. Burglary	None	None	None
H. Motor Vehicle Theft	None	None	None
I. Arson	None	None	None
<b>II. <u>Arrest or Disciplinary Referrals</u></b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
A. Liquor Law Violations	None	None	None
B. Drug Law Violations	1	None	None
C. Illegal Weapons Possession	None	None	None
<b>III. <u>Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Categories</u></b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
A. Domestic Violence	None	None	None
B. Dating Violence	None	None	None
C. Stalking	1	None	None
<b>IV. <u>Hate Crimes</u></b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
A. Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	None	None	None
B. Sexual Assault	None	None	None



C. Robbery	None	None	None
D. Aggravated assault	None	None	None
E. Burglary	None	None	None
F. Motor vehicle theft	None	None	None
G. Arson	None	None	None
H. Larceny-theft	None	None	None
I. Simple assault	None	None	None
J. Intimidation	None	None	None
K. Destruction/damage/vandalism of property	None	None	None

<b>V. <u>Unfounded Crimes</u></b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Total Unfounded Crimes	2	None	None

### **Alleghany Center**

<b>I. <u>Crime or Offense</u></b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
A. Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter	None	None	None
B. Negligent Manslaughter	None	None	None
C. Sex Offense (Forcible)			
Rape	None	None	None
Fondling	None	None	None
D. Sex Offense (Non-Forcible)			
Incest	None	None	None
Statutory Rape	None	None	None
E. Robbery	None	None	None
F. Aggravated Assault	None	None	1
G. Burglary	None	None	None
H. Motor Vehicle Theft	None	None	None
I. Arson	None	None	None
<b>II. <u>Arrest or Disciplinary Referrals</u></b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
A. Liquor Law Violations	None	None	None
B. Drug Law Violations	None	None	None
C. Illegal Weapons Possession	None	None	None
<b>III. <u>Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Categories</u></b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
A. Domestic Violence	None	1	None
B. Dating Violence	None	None	None
C. Stalking	None	None	None

<b>IV.</b>	<b><u>Hate Crimes</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>
	A. Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	None	None	None
	B. Sexual Assault	None	None	None
	C. Robbery	None	None	None
	D. Aggravated assault	None	None	None
	E. Burglary	None	None	None
	F. Motor vehicle theft	None	None	None
	G. Arson	None	None	None
	H. Larceny-theft	None	None	None
	I. Simple assault	None	None	None
	J. Intimidation	None	None	None
	K. Destruction/damage/vandalism of property	None	None	None
<b>V.</b>	<b><u>Unfounded Crimes</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>
	Total Unfounded Crimes	None	None	None

### **Non-Campus Property**

<b>I.</b>	<b><u>Crime or Offense</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>
	A. Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter	None	None	None
	B. Negligent Manslaughter	None	None	None
	C. Sex Offense (Forcible)			
	Rape	None	None	None
	Fondling	None	None	None
	D. Sex Offense (Non-Forcible)			
	Incest	None	1	None
	Statutory Rape	None	None	None
	E. Robbery	None	None	None
	F. Aggravated Assault	None	None	None
	G. Burglary	None	None	None
	H. Motor Vehicle Theft	None	None	None
	I. Arson	None	None	None
<b>II.</b>	<b><u>Arrest or Disciplinary Referrals</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>
	A. Liquor Law Violations	None	None	None
	B. Drug Law Violations	None	None	None
	C. Illegal Weapons Possession	None	None	None
<b>III.</b>	<b><u>Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Categories</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>
	A. Domestic Violence	None	None	None

	B. Dating Violence	None	None	None
	C. Stalking	None	None	None
<b>IV.</b>	<b><u>Hate Crimes</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>
	A. Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	None	None	None
	B. Sexual Assault	None	None	None
	C. Robbery	None	None	None
	D. Aggravated assault	None	None	None
	E. Burglary	None	None	None
	F. Motor vehicle theft	None	None	None
	G. Arson	None	None	None
	H. Larceny-theft	None	None	None
	I. Simple assault	None	None	None
	J. Intimidation	None	None	None
	K. Destruction/damage/vandalism of property	None	None	None
<b>V.</b>	<b><u>Unfounded Crimes</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>
	Total Unfounded Crimes	None	None	None

### **Crime Prevention**

Crime prevention is important to the college community, and you can help by reporting any crime or suspicious activity to the WCC Police Department immediately. By doing so, you may be preventing someone from becoming a victim of a serious crime.

Students and employees are encouraged to practice the safety measures listed below:

- Do not leave textbooks, laptop computers, tablets, smartphones, or other high value portable items unattended in classrooms or common areas.
- Record the serial numbers and brand names of all property of value.
- Students are encouraged to be observant and share information about suspicious activity either directly with campus security or through Student Services.
- Avoid walking alone at night, if possible, and stay on lighted routes when you are walking alone at night. Carry a cellular telephone for use during an emergency.
- Lock your car.
- Do not leave valuables out in the open or in unlocked vehicles.

## **Title IX and Sexual Misconduct**

### **What is Title IX?**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 states: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

Title IX is a federal law intended to end sex discrimination in all areas of education. Title IX:

- Requires that all educational institutions that receive federal funds or financial assistance must prohibit sex discrimination in their education programs and activities.
- Applies to sexual harassment and sexual assault. According to the Office for Civil Rights, "sexual harassment of students, which includes acts of sexual violence, is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX."

### **What is Sexual Misconduct?**

Sexual misconduct is a broad term used to describe conduct of a sexual nature that is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to:

- Sexual Harassment
- Sexual Exploitation
- Sexual Assault
- Dating Violence
- Domestic Violence
- Stalking

### **Your Rights under Title IX**

Title IX requires WCC to respond to harassment on the basis of sex, which it knows about, or reasonably, should have known about. The College must:

- Investigate what happened
- Take appropriate steps to resolve the matter, doing its best to eliminate the harassment, prevent recurrence, and remedy effects even if no formal complaint has been made or when a person making a complaint does not wish to further participate in the process.
- Take interim measures during the investigation to prevent potential further harassment

Detailed information on the WCC Sexual Misconduct policy and Title IX resources can be viewed at the following link: <http://www.wilkescc.edu/prevent/>

## Reporting Title IX and Sexual Misconduct Violations

Contact	Population Served	Contact Information
Sherry Cox Executive Director of Human Resources Title IX Coordinator	Faculty and Staff	336-838-6422 <a href="mailto:spcox072@wilkescc.edu">spcox072@wilkescc.edu</a>
Scott Johnson Associate Vice President of Instructional Support & Student Services Deputy Title IX Coordinator	Curriculum and Workforce Development & Community Education Students	336-838-6141 <a href="mailto:sajohnson366@wilkescc.edu">sajohnson366@wilkescc.edu</a>

## Educational Programs to Promote Awareness

The Office of Student Services offers a variety of educational programming on various topics, including relationship violence, sexual assault, consent, stalking, and bystander intervention. These events are offered throughout the year and open to all students and employees. These and other programs are available upon request for a group such as a class or student club. Events include guest speakers, displays created through student participation; for example, These Hands Don't Hurt and The Clothesline Project, and passive campaigns which include posters and social media posts emphasizing primary prevention messaging. The college partners with SAFE for feedback on social messaging, program selection, and at times, to provide speakers. SAFE is a nonprofit organization in our county which provides services to intimate partner violence victims and survivors, as well as sexual assault victims and survivors. In addition to the larger events, there is a series of small group informal discussions held throughout each semester to discuss topics related to sexual violence prevention. Incoming students have an online class within their course management account which provides educational information on sexual violence as well as on campus and community resource information.

## Counseling Services

There are ongoing efforts to remind college employees to provide students with resource information if a student discloses experiencing violence. Students who have experienced sexual violence are encouraged to talk to a Student Services counselor. Student Services counselors have been designated a confidential resource. The counselor, in addition to providing counseling for the student, also provides information regarding reporting options, if the student decides to take steps to discuss with a Title IX Deputy Coordinator or law enforcement, and options for increasing the student's safety while on campus. Counseling contacts are treated confidentially. Confidentiality does not apply when disclosure is required to prevent clear and imminent danger to the client or others, or when legal requirements demand that confidential information be revealed. The counseling staff adheres to the Ethical Standards of the American Counseling Association. Appointments are preferred, but drop-ins are welcome.

## **Sex Offender Registry**

All convicted sex offenders coming to or in North Carolina, including students, are required to register with the local county sheriff's department for inclusion in the North Carolina Sex Offender and Public Protection Registry. This information may be obtained by calling the Wilkes County Sheriff's Office at 336-903-7600 or on the Internet at <http://sexoffender.ncsbi.gov/>.

## **Monitoring of Off-Campus Student Activities**

Wilkes Community College prohibits off-campus student organizations. Officially recognized student organizations typically have few activities held off campus. Social events held off campus must be chaperoned by a club or organization advisor. Any club or organization wishing to sponsor a trip to an off-campus activity (conference, workshop, or special event) must register the proposed trip with the Student Activities Office at least 5 working days in advance of the intended travel. A designated advisor (full-time college employee) must accompany students on off-campus trips. The sale and use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited at college events held on or off campus.

## **Alcohol and Drug Policies**

### **Possession, Sale, and Use of Alcoholic Beverages**

The possession or use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on college premises or as a part of any of its activities. Violation of this regulation may result in suspension or dismissal. A complete description of the college's program to prevent use of alcohol is contained in the college catalog and in multiple links on the college website. Included in this program are college policies, sanctions for infractions, legal consequences, health risks, and resources for alcohol abuse assistance.

### **Possession, Sale, and Use of Illegal Drugs**

The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, sale, possession, and/or use of drugs, controlled substances, banned substances, and/or illegal substances is prohibited on college premises or as a part of any of its activities. Violation of this regulation may result in suspension or dismissal. The college's program to prevent illegal drug use and abuse is contained in detail in the college catalog and in multiple links on the college website. Included in this program are college policies, sanctions for infractions, legal consequences, health risks, and resources for alcohol abuse assistance.

### **Drug and Alcohol Abuse Education Programs**

The WCC Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program consists of free assessments in Student Services by licensed counselors and drug-free events throughout the year, highlighted each October during Drug and Alcohol Prevention Week. For employees, the college maintains an Employee Assistance Program (EAP), which can authorize three treatment sessions with a community provider free-of-charge. For further information about the EAP program, contact the director of Human Resources at (336) 838-6422.



The college has walking trails, student commons, a gymnasium, a wellness center, and year-round student activities that are drug and alcohol-free and promote wellness. Educational activities and information are provided for students and employees to stress prevention.

Drug and alcohol information is disseminated to all students, faculty, and staff via email each semester. Students are introduced to the policy during new student orientation and in ACA and general course syllabi. Employees are introduced to the policy during orientation with Human Resources and receive a policy pamphlet. In addition, information is published in the college catalog and is in multiple links on the college website.

### **Firearms and Weapons Policies**

Wilkes Community College Policy 7.08, “Weapons on Campus” prohibits the possession of unlawful weapons on campus or at any Wilkes Community College activity pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 14-269.2 and House Bill 937, which are set forth below:

#### **NC General Statute 14-269.2**

“It is unlawful for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, hand gun (except as permitted in House Bill 937), rifle, pistol, dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine, powerful explosive, bowie knife, dirk, slingshot, leaded cane, switch-blade knife, blackjack, metallic knuckles or any other weapon of like kind, not used solely for instructional or school sanctioned ceremonial purposes, in any public or private school building or bus, on any public or private school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field or other property owned, used or operated by any board of education, school, college, or university board of trustees or directors for the administration of any public or private educational institution.”

#### **House Bill 937**

A firearm is permissible on a community college campus only under the following limited circumstances:

1. The firearm is a **handgun**; AND
2. The individual has a valid concealed handgun permit or is exempt from the law requiring a permit; AND
3. The handgun remains in either a closed compartment or container within the permit holder’s locked vehicle or a locked container securely affixed to the permit holder's open vehicle; AND
4. The vehicle is only unlocked when the permit holder is entering or exiting the vehicle; AND
5. The firearm remains in the closed compartment at all times.

Any person violating any provision of this policy shall be reported to local law enforcement officials for action consistent with the law. It shall be the responsibility of every college employee to report any violation of this policy to the campus security officer on duty at the time of the violation.

### **Emergency Evacuation Procedures and Policies**

The WCC Emergency Response Plan is available online at the following URL: [WCC Police Department – Wilkes Community College \(wilkescc.edu\)](http://www.wilkescc.edu/police)