



8.12.1 Campus Carry

Chapter 8 - Health & Safety	Original Effective Date: August 2016
Section: 8.12 Campus Carry	Date Last Reviewed: October 2018
Responsible Entity: Office of the President	Date Last Revised: October 2018

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure compliance with Section 411.2031 of the Texas Government Code, the “Campus Carry Law”.

II. Scope

In 2015, the Texas Legislature passed a law which permits duly licensed concealed Handgun owners the right to bring concealed Handguns on to Texas public university campuses effective August 1, 2016. This law is commonly referred to as the “Campus Carry Law”. The law directed each public university president in Texas to establish campus-specific policies for their campus implementing the law with consideration to the uniqueness of the campus environment. This law is applicable only to those who have a license to carry a Handgun, and the Handgun must be concealed at all times.

This Policy does not authorize the open carry of Handguns on The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UT Health San Antonio) campus.

III. Policy

It is the policy of the UT Health San Antonio to respect the Federal and Texas constitutions, both of which recognize Texas citizens’ rights to keep and bear arms. UT Health San Antonio also recognizes the Texas Legislature’s power to regulate the carrying of Handguns. Finally, UT Health San Antonio recognizes its right under the Campus Carry Law to implement its own reasonable rules, regulations, and other provisions regarding the carrying of concealed Handguns on the premises of the UT Health San Antonio campuses.

A. CHL Zones and Exclusion Zones

Following are the details of CHL Zones and Exclusion Zones as they pertain to UT Health San Antonio. For updated information and for color-coded maps depicting areas

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where campus carry is allowed or excluded, please visit the campus carry website at <https://www.uthscsa.edu/police/campus-carry/home> .

1. CHL Zones (areas where CHL holders MAY carry a concealed Weapon)
 - a. Holly Auditorium and Foyer on the Joe and Teresa Lozano Long Campus;
 - b. All parking lots and parking garages on the all UT Health San Antonio campuses;
 - c. Recreation fields on the Long Campus (excluding the Golds' facility where guns are not allowed);
 - d. Warehouses, Grounds, Facilities Management and UT Police offices;
 - e. Administration Building (where Human Resources is housed);
 - f. Professional Administration Resource Center (PARC);
 - g. Former Texas Star Café/Cafeteria between Schools of Dentistry and Nursing;
 - h. SBC Teleconference Center and former cafeteria at the Texas Research Park campus;
 - i. For the Regional Campus Laredo (RCL), due to the large number of minors who visit the campus during the summer months, guns will be prohibited on campus in both RCL buildings in June, July, and August. When there are visits by minors expected at other times during the year, the Regional Dean may elect to post signage indicating that concealed carry is prohibited during those times.
2. Exclusion Zones (areas where CHL owners may NOT carry a Handgun)
 - a. All patient-care areas, including simulation centers which are used to educate students in the art of patient examination;
 - b. Areas where organized programs for K-12 students are regularly held on campus. This includes the Academic Learning and Teaching Center where regular groups of minors are present for tours, instruction, and mentoring;
 - c. Laboratories where the discharge of a Handgun might cause widespread harm such as laboratories with dangerous chemicals such as biologic or explosive agents, and animal care areas including vivaria;
 - d. The fitness facility on the UT Health San Antonio's Long Campus. This facility is not operated by UT Health San Antonio, but by a third-party vendor, Gold's Gym;
 - e. Space or buildings that are connected by hallways or corridors to other excluded areas cited above. For example, excluded from campus carry are areas of contiguous space that are impossible, or significantly difficult, to cordon off and where to do so would impede heavy foot traffic and inhibit commerce;

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- f. UT Health San Antonio President may deem CHL zones to be Exclusion Zones for the period of time that the CHL Zone hosts excluded activities listed above. For example, an event on the UT Health San Antonio campus that includes minors or patients may be deemed an Exclusion Zone during the event. During this period, required signage of this Policy will be erected in the deemed Exclusion Zone for the duration of the excluded period.

3. Other

- a. Other than patient care areas where CHL holders are excluded from bringing Handguns, the decision to allow Handguns in buildings that are leased and not owned by UT Health San Antonio will be left up to the property owners who will be required to post signage.
- b. Areas where concealed carry is prohibited will be marked by signage that conforms to Section 30.06 of the Texas Penal Code.

B. Policy Permissions and Violations

1. The mere possession of a properly licensed concealed Handgun by a CHL holder in CHL zones on the UT Health San Antonio campus is not a violation of UT Health San Antonio's policy. However, a violation of this Policy by an employee, student or trainee may constitute a violation of institutional policies regarding conditions of employment, school attendance or training, thereby subjecting the individual to disciplinary action, up to and including termination and/or criminal prosecution. See related statutes at the end of this Policy.
2. UT Health San Antonio students are also subject to this Policy.
3. CHL holders are prohibited from engaging in direct, conditional, or veiled threats, involving the CHL holder's concealed Handgun. This may include, but is not limited to, overt or implicit references by the CHL holder to the CHL holder's concealed Handgun in a way as to intentionally or knowingly incite fear or concern in any other person. Such conduct may result in disciplinary actions.
4. Except for storing a Handgun in a vehicle as permitted by Texas law, CHL holders must keep their concealed Handgun on or about their person at all times. For purposes of this Policy and subject to the requirements of Texas law, "on or about one's person" means close at hand and within such distance of the CHL holder so that, without materially changing his/her position, the CHL holder could get his/her hand on the Handgun. Except for storing a Handgun in a vehicle as permitted by Texas law, CHL holders are prohibited from leaving their concealed Handgun unattended anywhere on the UT Health San Antonio campus, regardless of whether stored in a desk drawer, cabinet, purse, handbag, backpack, fanny pack, briefcase or otherwise.

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5. CHL holders are responsible for safeguarding their concealed Handgun at all times and must take necessary precautions to ensure their concealed Handgun is secured in a manner that is most likely to prevent theft, loss or damage, or misuse. CHL holders must have their Handgun in a holster that completely covers the trigger and the trigger guard area. The holster must have sufficient tension or grip on the concealed Handgun to retain it in the holster even when subjected to unexpected jostling. CHL holders are liable for any and all damage, injury, liability, loss, cost, or expense directly or indirectly resulting from or arising out of an accidental or inadvertent discharge of their concealed Handgun or their violation of this Policy.
6. UT Health San Antonio does not provide storage or lockers or holding services for CHL holders.
7. The CHL holder whose concealed Handgun is lost or stolen on the UT Health San Antonio campus must immediately report the loss or theft to the UT Health San Antonio Police Department.
8. In accordance with Texas law, CHL holders may secure their concealed Handgun safely in their vehicles. UT Health San Antonio assumes no responsibility for loss or theft of concealed Handguns from CHL holders' vehicles on the UT Health San Antonio campus.
9. If any person believes that a CHL holder has violated this Policy, they should immediately report the violation by calling the University Police Department, (210) 567-2800, or call the University's Compliance Hot Line number, 877-507-7317. Emergencies should be reported by calling 911.

IV. Definitions

When used in this document with initial capital letter(s), the following words have the meaning set forth below unless a different meaning is required by context.

Campus - all lands and buildings leased or owned by the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System for and on behalf of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Campus Carry Law - section 411.2031 of the Texas Government Code permitting the carrying of concealed Handguns by duly licensed holders on the UT Health San Antonio campus.

Concealed Handgun License (CHL) - a valid and current Concealed Handgun License as defined by Subchapter H of the Texas Government Code.

Concealed Handgun License Zones - areas on the UT Health San Antonio campus where CHL holders may carry a concealed Handgun.

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Exclusion Zones - areas on the UT Health San Antonio campus where CHL holders may not carry a concealed Handgun.

Handgun - any firearm that is designed made or adapted to be fired with one hand (see Texas Penal Code, Section 46.01(5)).

License to Carry - In January 2016 when open carry became permissible in Texas, the Texas Legislature formally changed the terminology of “Concealed Handgun License”, or CHL, to “License to Carry”, or LTC. “License to Carry” is now the official terminology used to include both concealed carry and open carry. If an individual has a LTC permit, where permissible, they can carry a Handgun in a concealed or open manner. However, on the UT Health San Antonio campus, we do not allow open carry in any of our buildings. The language in this Policy will utilize the “CHL” terminology since that terminology is consistent with the discussions held on campus in FY 2016.

Weapon - a Handgun, illegal knife, club, or other item as defined by Chapter 46 of the Texas Penal Code.

V. Related References

UT Health San Antonio

[Campus Carry website](#)

Texas Government Code

GC §411.2031. Carrying of Handguns by License Holders on Certain Campuses

GC §411.2032. Transportation and Storage of Firearms and Ammunition by License Holders in Private Vehicles on Certain Campuses

GC §411.205. Requirement to Display License

GC §411.206. Seizure of Handgun and License

GC §411.207. Authority of Peace Officer to Disarm

Texas Penal Code

PC §30.06. Trespass by Holder of License to Carry Concealed Handgun

PC §30.07. Trespass by License Holder with an Openly Carried Handgun

PC §42.01. Disorderly Conduct

PC §46.02. Unlawful Carrying Weapons

PC §46.03. Places Weapons Prohibited

PC §46.035. Unlawful Carrying of Handgun of Handgun by License Holder

PC §46.04. Unlawful Possession of Firearm

VI. Review and Approval History

- A. The approving authority of this Policy is the University Executive Committee.
- B. The review frequency cycle is set for three years following the last review date, a time period that is not mandated by regulatory, accreditation, or other authority.

Effective Date	Action Taken	Approved By	Date Approved
08/2016	Policy Origination		
10/2018	Policy Revision		
06/2021	Policy Update/new policy template		