



Policy Chapter: Chapter 4 Administration

Policy Number and Title: 04.001 Carrying of Concealed Handguns and Other Firearms on Campus

I. Policy Statement

The University of North Texas is committed to providing a safe environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors, and respecting the right of individuals who are permitted by law to carry a firearm.

II. Application of Policy

All faculty, staff, students, guests, visitors, and individuals and organizations doing business on behalf of the University on campus property. This policy does not apply to commissioned peace officers as defined in article 2.12 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures.

III. Policy Definitions

A. Activities

“Activities,” in this policy, means all functions, events, and programs on the University of North Texas campus property.

B. Biological Hazard

“Biological hazard,” in this policy, means a biological substance used in research or experimentation that poses a threat to the health of a living organism, primarily that of a human, and is classified as biosafety level (BSL) 3 or 4 by the Center for Disease Control. Biological hazards can include medical waste or samples of microorganisms.

C. Campus Property

“Campus property,” in this policy, means all land, buildings and portions of buildings owned or leased by the University. It does not include any public or private driveway, street, sidewalk or walkway, parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area.

D. Campus Housing

“Campus housing,” in this policy, means a residential facility owned or leased and operated by the University and located on the campus property.

E. Collegiate Sports

“Collegiate sports,” in this policy, means intercollegiate, club, and intramural athletic activities occurring on the campus property.

F. Concealed Handgun

“Concealed handgun,” in this policy, means a handgun, the presence of which is not openly noticeable to the ordinary observation of a reasonable person.

G. *Constitutional Carry*

“Constitutional Carry,” in this policy, means the carrying of a firearm, including a handgun, openly or concealed without a license, except where prohibited by law.

H. *Days*

“Days,” in this policy, means business days.

I. *Employee*

“Employee,” in this policy, means an individual at any component of the University of North Texas System, who is hired in a full-time, part-time, or temporary capacity in a faculty or staff position or in a position where the individual is required to be a student as a condition of employment.

J. *Firearm*

“Firearm,” in this policy, means any device designed, made, or adapted to expel a projectile through a barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance or any device readily convertible to that use. Firearm does not include a firearm that may have, as an integral part, a folding knife blade or other characteristics of weapons made illegal by Texas Penal Code, Chapter 46 and that is:

1. an antique or curio firearm manufactured before 1899; or
2. a replica of an antique or curio firearm manufactured before 1899, but only if the replica does not use rim fire or center fire ammunition.

K. *Handgun*

“Handgun,” in this policy, means any firearm that is designed, made, or adapted to be fired with one hand.

L. *Interscholastic Event*

“Interscholastic event,” in this policy, means a function or program involving elementary or secondary schools.

M. *Large-scale Event*

“Large-scale event,” in this policy, means a function or event, other than a classroom or academic program, where attendance is reasonably anticipated to exceed 200 individuals.

N. *License Holder*

“License holder,” in this policy, means a person issued a License to Carry a handgun (formerly called a “Concealed Handgun License”) by the Texas Department of Public Safety under Chapter 411 of the Texas Government Code.

O. Open Carry

“Open carry,” in this policy, means carrying a firearm that is partially or wholly visible, or a handgun that is carried in a holster that otherwise is partially or wholly visible based on the ordinary observation of a reasonable person.

P. Private Residential Room

“Private residential room,” in this policy, means a room that is capable of being locked by the occupant to whom it is assigned, and no other access to the bedroom space is available through a suite bathroom or other shared space.

Q. Reviewing Official

“Reviewing official,” in this policy, means the University official designated by the President to review a decision to temporarily restrict the carrying of concealed handguns on the campus property.

R. Store

“Store,” in this policy, means to take steps that a reasonable person would take to prevent the access to a firearm, including but not limited to placing a firearm in a locked container. For purposes of this policy, a firearm that is temporarily rendered inoperable by use of a trigger lock or other means is not stored.

S. Work Area

“Work area,” in this policy, means the place or places an individual performs assigned duties as an employee of a component of the University of North Texas System.

IV. Policy Responsibilities

A. Intoxication

Carrying a firearm on campus property while intoxicated is prohibited.

B. Carrying of Firearms by License Holders

1. Right to Carry a Concealed Handgun

A license holder may carry a concealed handgun while on campus property, on public driveways, streets, sidewalks or walkways, parking lots, parking garages and other parking areas of the University, and in University passenger transportation vehicles, unless prohibited by state or federal law, or by this policy. License holders are responsible for knowing areas where carrying a concealed handgun is prohibited where notice is not required to be posted.

2. Display of Concealed Handgun

A license holder may not carry a partially or wholly visible handgun, or intentionally or knowingly display a handgun in plain view of another person, even if holstered, while on campus property, or on the public driveways, streets, sidewalks or walkways,

parking lots, parking garages or other parking areas that are not owned by the University (e.g. public sidewalks, etc.)

3. Requirement to Display License

License holders must display their License to Carry when directed by a law enforcement officer in accordance with section 411.205 of the Texas Government Code. Otherwise, individuals are not required to disclose whether they are a license holder in order to participate in any program or service offered by the University, except as required by law.

C. Carrying of Firearm by Employees

Employees who lawfully hold a License to Carry may carry a concealed handgun into their work areas, unless prohibited under this policy, but are not authorized to use the weapon in the course and scope of performing their duties. Employees are prohibited from carrying all other firearms into their work areas. Employees whose possession, storage, or use of a handgun results in personal injury or property damage are personally liable for the injury or damage, and are not entitled to immunity under section 411.208 of the Government Code or any other immunity the individual otherwise may be entitled to as a University employee.

D. Locations and Activities where Concealed Handguns are Prohibited

A license holder is prohibited from carrying a concealed handgun onto campus property where prohibited by law and where prohibited by this policy based on the nature of the student population, specific safety concerns, and uniqueness of the campus environment.

1. Concealed handguns are prohibited:

- a. at a location where a high school, collegiate, or professional sporting event or interscholastic event is taking place as prohibited under section 46.03 of the Texas Penal Code, or where a sports club or intramural athletic competition is taking place;
- b. at a location designated as a polling place on the day of a federal, state, or local election, including while early voting is in progress as set out in section 46.03(a)(2) of the Texas Penal Code;
- c. at a location where campus property is used by a court unless the handgun is carried pursuant to written regulation or written authorization of the court in accordance with section 46.03(a)(3) of the Texas Penal Code;
- d. in a nonpublic, secure portion of the University of North Texas Police Department used to conduct official business as prohibited under section 411.207(b) of the Texas Government Code;
- e. in a location where substances designated as “immediately dangerous to life and health” are present, access is restricted to individuals who perform research or duties, and a sealed and filtered environment is essential, specifically the Clean Room located at Discovery Park;

- f. in a laboratory where biological hazards, as defined by this policy, are present;
 - g. in an area where equipment that is incompatible with metallic objects is present, (such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) machines);
 - h. where state or federal law or contract, at the sole discretion of the state or federal government or organization with whom the contract is entered, requires exclusion of a handgun in a specific location and the exclusion does not generally prohibit or have the effect of generally prohibiting license holders from carrying concealed handguns on campus property;
 - i. at a location where medical, health, or clinical services are provided, specifically Chestnut Hall, Life of Purpose in Chilton Hall, the Psychology Clinic in Terrill Hall, Speech and Hearing Clinic in the Speech and Hearing Building, and the Welch Street Complex B;
 - j. at a location where services to minors are provided, specifically the Child and Family Resource Center in Matthews Annex, Center for Young Children, Kristin Farmer Autism Center, and McConnell Hall;
 - k. at a location where special student services are provided, specifically, Goolsby Chapel and the University Union Meditation Room;
 - l. at a location where intercollegiate, club, and intramural athletic events occur on the campus property, specifically the Physical Education Building, Ken Bahnsen Gymnasium building, and Pohl Recreation Center; and
 - m. at a location where large-scale events occur on campus property, specifically the ballrooms and Lyceum in the University Union, ballroom in the Gateway Center, Coliseum, Main Auditorium in the Auditorium Building, Murchison Performing Arts Center, University Theater in the Radio, TV, Film, and Performing Arts Building, and the Voertman Concert Hall in the Music Building.
2. Concealed handguns are prohibited at the following Activities:
- a. where intercollegiate, club, and intramural athletic events occur on campus property specifically Apogee Stadium, fields used for intramural activities, Lovelace Softball Stadium, Sand Volleyball Courts at Mean Green Village, Soccer Stadium at Mean Green Village, Volleyball Complex at Mean Green Village, and Warranch Tennis Complex; and
 - b. university and high school graduations.

E. Obligation to Provide Notice Where Concealed Handguns are Prohibited

The University shall provide notice at all locations and Activities where concealed handguns are prohibited under this policy and may post notice where handguns are expressly prohibited but where notice is not required to be posted by law. The language of the notice, which is set out in section 30.06 of the Texas Penal Code, shall not be altered in any way

unless revised by state law. Any individual who without authorization, tampers with, defaces, modifies or removes a notice provided pursuant to this policy is subject to disciplinary action, including trespass from campus, suspension, termination of employment or a business relationship, and is subject to criminal prosecution.

1. Notice required under this policy must read:

Pursuant to Section 30.06, Penal Code (trespass by license holder with a concealed handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property with a concealed handgun.

2. Notice must be provided in writing and on a card or other document in both English and Spanish. When notice is posted at a location, the sign must appear in contrasting colors with block letters at least one (1) inch in height, displayed in a conspicuous manner that is clearly visible to the public, and at a sufficient distance from the location or Activity to inform a license holder that entry on the property or presence at the Activity with a concealed handgun is prohibited.
3. The University shall publish this policy annually in the policy manual and student handbook, and on a webpage dedicated to the carrying of concealed handguns on campus property.
4. Contracts for use of the campus property shall include pertinent provisions of this policy.

F. Notice When Firearms are Prohibited

1. The University shall provide notice when open carry of firearms is prohibited on campus property, including on driveways, streets, sidewalks or walkways, parking lots, parking garages and other parking areas owned by the University.
2. The following notice shall be posted at the entrance to each campus property .

Pursuant to Section 30.05, Penal Code (criminal trespass), a person may not enter campus property with a firearm. This prohibition does not apply to handguns if the individual is a license holder under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code.

3. Notice must be provided in both English and Spanish. When notice is posted at a location, the sign must appear in contrasting colors with block letters at least one (1) inch in height, displayed in a conspicuous manner that is clearly visible to the public, and at a sufficient distance from the location entrance to inform the individual that entry on the property with a firearm is prohibited.

G. Campus Housing

A concealed handgun may be carried or stored in campus housing as set out in this policy. All other firearms are prohibited in campus housing.

1. Residents

- a. A license holder who resides in campus housing may carry a concealed handgun into campus housing and may store the weapon in his or her private residential room except during periods between the spring and fall semesters when the facility hosts summer camps attended by minors.
- b. A resident license holder who brings a concealed handgun into campus housing pursuant to this policy must carry the weapon on his or her person at all times or store it in his or her private residential room.
- c. A handgun may be stored only in a private residential room as defined in this policy, and in a locked container installed or approved by the University.
- d. A resident license holder may not intentionally or knowingly display a handgun in plain view of another person in campus housing except as necessary to properly store the weapon in his or her private residential room.

2. Non-Residents

- a. A license holder who does not reside in campus housing may carry a concealed handgun into campus housing except during periods between the spring and fall semesters when the facility hosts summer camps attended by minors.
- b. The handgun must be carried on the non-resident's person at all time and may not be stored in a campus housing room.

3. Responsible for Personal Injury or Damage

A resident or non-resident whose possession, use, or storage of a handgun results in personal injury or property damage is personally liable for the injury or damage.

H. Temporarily Prohibiting Concealed Handguns on Campus Property

1. The President or President's designee may prohibit the carrying of concealed handguns for up to seven (7) days in order to promote safety on campus property:
 - a. when the Activity has a history for violence; or
 - b. where a large-scale activity, due to the presence of alcohol, uniqueness of the campus environment, specific threat of violence, or other safety considerations present a reasonable threat to health or safety.
2. The University Chief of Police may prohibit the carrying of concealed handguns on campus property:
 - a. when it reasonably appears there is threat of injury to human life, destruction to University property, or a threat of willful disruption of orderly operation of the University as defined in section 51.231 of the Education Code; or

- b. upon receipt of credible information of imminent injury to human life or destruction to University property.
3. Review of Decision to Temporarily Restrict Carrying of Concealed Handgun
 - a. A license holder may request review of the decision to temporarily prohibit the carrying of a concealed handgun.
 - b. The request must be submitted in writing to the Reviewing Official and describe why allowing concealed handguns at the location or Activity does not present a safety concern.
 - c. The reviewing official may request additional information and must notify the license holder of the decision no later than two (2) days after receiving the request for review. The notice must provide the reason(s) for the decision.
 - d. The decision of the reviewing official is final.

I. Sanctions for Violating this Policy

Any individual who violates this policy is subject to disciplinary action to include trespass from campus, suspension, or termination of employment or a business relationship, and is subject to criminal prosecution.

J. Report to Legislature

The University shall prepare a report for the Texas Legislature describing the campus rules adopted to regulate the carrying of concealed handguns on campus and the reasons for the rules every even-numbered year.

The report will be submitted to the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations prior to submission to the Legislature.

K. Amending Policy Regarding Carrying of Concealed Handguns by License Holders

The President may amend this policy regarding carrying of concealed handguns by license holders as necessary for campus safety, to include permanently designating new or additional locations where the carrying of concealed handguns on campus property is prohibited. Any prohibition must be based on specific safety considerations, the nature of the student population, and the uniqueness of the campus environment and may not generally prohibit or have the effect of generally prohibiting license holders from carrying concealed handguns on campus property.

1. A request to amend this policy to permanently prohibit the carrying of a concealed handgun by a license holder must be submitted, in writing, to the University Policy Office.
2. The request must describe the specific factual reasons for the permanent designation, including safety concern(s), the nature of the student population, and any unique features or circumstances related to the building, part of a building, or Activity that regularly takes place in the building. The request also should identify other locations

of the campus or Activities with similar characteristics where license holders are prohibited from carrying a concealed handgun.

3. The request and proposed amendment must be posted on the University's webpage dedicated to the carrying of concealed handguns. Interested individuals must be given a reasonable time and opportunity to comment on the request. Students, faculty, and staff must be given the opportunity to comment in person before the proposed amendment is submitted to the President for approval.
4. Any amendment to this policy that has the effect of restricting the lawful carrying of a concealed handgun by a license holder must be submitted to the Board of Regents within 90 days of the President's approval, and will not take effect until reviewed by the Board.

V. Resources/Forms/Tools

[UNT Campus Carry Webpage](#)

VI. References and Cross-References

[Texas Government Code, Chapter 411](#)

[Texas Penal Code, Chapter 30](#)

[Texas Penal Code, Chapter 46](#)

[Texas Education Code § 51.231](#)

[Texas Code of Criminal Procedure § 2.12](#)

[Texas HB 1927](#)

VII. Revision History

Policy Contact:	UNT Chief of Police
Approved Date:	02/09/2016
Effective Date:	08/01/2016
Revisions:	01/10/2021