



Policy Chapter: Chapter 12 Campus Safety and Security

Policy Number and Title: 12.001 University Police Enforcement

I. Policy Statement

The University of North Texas Board of Regents has established a campus law enforcement agency with commissioned peace officers who, as specified in [Tex. Educ. Code §105.152](#), are empowered with the same jurisdiction, powers, privileges, and immunities as specified in [Tex. Educ. Code §51.203](#). All of the general and criminal laws of the State of Texas are in full force and effect within the areas under the control and jurisdiction of the University.

II. Application of Policy

Total University.

III. Policy Definitions

A. Law Enforcement Information

“Law Enforcement Information,” in this policy, means information that is written, produced, collected, assembled, or maintained by the UNT police department under a law or in connection with the transaction of law enforcement activities or other official business, including video and accompanying audio that shows department personnel engaging in law enforcement activities.

IV. Policy Responsibilities

A. Generally

The Board of Regents may promulgate and enforce any appropriate rules and regulations for the orderly conduct of the University in carrying out its purposes and objectives and has the right to separate jurisdiction relating to the conduct of its students and personnel.

A person who violates any provision of [Texas Education Code, Chapter 51, Subchapter E](#), or any rule or regulation promulgated under the authority of this subchapter is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is punishable by a fine of not more than \$200.

The judge of a municipal court or any justice of the peace of any city or county where property under the control and jurisdiction of a state institution of higher education is located, is each separately vested with all jurisdiction necessary to hear and determine criminal cases involving violations of provisions of [Texas Education Code, Chapter 51, Subchapter E](#), or rules or regulations promulgated under this chapter of the code for which the punishment does not exceed a fine of \$200.

B. Chief Law Enforcement Officer

1. The University President will employ and commission a chief law enforcement officer, subject to confirmation by the Board of Regents, to direct the activities of the campus

law enforcement agency. The chief law enforcement officer must be a certified peace officer, meeting the requirements of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement in accordance with [Tex. Educ. Code §51.203](#), or obtain such certification during the period specified by the Commission.

2. To assure the timely employment, training, and commissioning of peace officers, the Board of Regents delegates the authority to employ and commission peace officers to the chief law enforcement officer of the campus law enforcement agency. The chief law enforcement officer will employ and commission peace officers in accordance with [Tex. Educ. Code §51.203](#). All officers so employed and commissioned must meet, at a minimum, the requirements prescribed by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.
3. The chief law enforcement officer will provide, through agency policies and directives, for the continuing education and training of the university's campus peace officers to maintain each peace officer's certification.

C. *Scope of University Police Authority*

All peace officers commissioned by the university are empowered by law to enforce the general and criminal laws of this State, as well as any other rules and regulations promulgated by the Board of Regents deemed necessary which affect the safety and welfare of students, employees, and property. Those rules specifically include, but are not limited to, UNT policies [05.045, Workplace Violence](#); [04.013 Solicitation, Signs, and Postings](#); [04.016, Use of Alcoholic Beverages](#); and [12.004, Vehicle Operation & Parking](#).

Nothing in [Texas Education Code, Chapter 51, Subchapter E](#), is intended to limit or restrict the authority of the Board of Regents to promulgate and enforce appropriate rules and regulations for the orderly conduct of the institution in carrying out its purposes and objectives or the right of separate jurisdiction relating to the conduct of its student and personnel.

D. *Release of Video and other Information*

1. In keeping with the department's commitment to transparency and to fostering community trust in its law enforcement operations, the Chief of Police is authorized to release law enforcement information when disclosure is in the public interest.
2. Disclosure is in the public interests when:
 - a. the rights of an individual (including those of a victim, minor, witness, bystander, law enforcement officer or other third-party) do not outweigh the public interest in its disclosure;
 - b. disclosure will not compromise the integrity of an investigation or prosecution or investigative techniques; and

- c. federal or state law does not require the university to withhold the information from disclosure.
- 3. Video and accompanying audio generally will be released within 24 hours following an incident except when it is necessary to redact images in order to protect confidentiality, rights of an individual, or identify property shown in the video.
- 4. Prior to the release of law enforcement information to the public, the Chief of Police will notify the appropriate university and UNT System officials.

V. References and Cross-References

- [Tex. Educ. Code § 105.152](#)
- [Tex. Educ. Code, Chapter 51, Subchapter E](#)
- [Tex. Educ. Code § 51.203](#)
- [UNT Policy 04.013, Solicitation, Signs and Postings](#)
- [UNT Policy 04.016, Use of Alcoholic Beverages](#)
- [UNT Policy 05.045, Workplace Violence](#)
- [UNT Policy 12.003, Protection of Building and Grounds](#)
- [UNT Policy 12.004, Vehicle Operation and Parking](#)

VI. Revision History

Policy Contact:	Chief of Police
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