

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1.1 The purpose of this document is to inform faculty, staff, students, and visitors of the rules regarding the carrying of concealed handguns on campus by those individuals licensed to carry a handgun and to address the health, safety, and welfare of the campus community. On August 1, 2016, Texas Senate Bill No. 11 (S.B. 11), popularly known as the “campus carry” law went into effect. S.B. 11 amended Texas Government Code §411.2031 to allow carrying of handguns by license holders on the campuses of certain institutions of higher education, including the Texas Southern University. On September 1, 2021, Texas House Bill No. 1927 (H.B. 1927) will go into effect. H.B. 1927 is titled the Firearm Carry Act of 2021 and is sometimes referred to as the “Permit-less Carry” law or the “Constitutional Carry” law. H.B. 1927 amends Texas Penal Code 46.02 and 46.03 to allow persons to carry handguns without a license in certain places and under certain circumstances. Under both laws, while on the Texas Southern University campus only a licensed person may carry weapons designated under Subchapter H of Chapter 411 of the Government Code; any other weapons are expressly prohibited.

1.2 This policy is designed to comply with the relevant state law and to address the health, safety, and welfare of the campus community.

1.3 This policy applies to all faculty, staff, students, guests, and visitors of the University who hold a valid concealed weapons permit recognized by the State of Texas. This policy does not apply to Texas Southern University police officers or commissioned security guards.

II. POLICY

Individuals who do not possess a valid license to carry a handgun currently are and will continue to be prohibited from carrying handguns on campus. Individuals who possess a valid license to carry a handgun may carry a concealed handgun on campus as provided in this policy. This policy is designed to be compliant with the Texas Campus Carry Law of 2015 and the Firearm Carry Act of 2021, as well as to address the health, safety, and welfare of the campus community. The policy was written after ample consideration of input from campus constituencies regarding a number of factors, including the nature of the student population, specific safety considerations, and the uniqueness of the campus environment. This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, and visitors of the University, except for law enforcement officers commissioned by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. Handgun: is defined as any firearm that is designed, made, or adapted to be fired with one hand.

- B. Open Carry: is defined as intentionally or knowingly carrying a handgun in a manner that is noticeable to the ordinary observation of a reasonable person.

- C. Concealed Handgun: is defined as a handgun that is not openly noticeable to the ordinary observation of a reasonable person.

- D. License Holder: License to Carry a Handgun: A License to Carry a Handgun (LTC) issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS), under Texas Government Code, Chapter 411, Subchapter H. Also includes valid Concealed Handgun Licenses issued by the TXDPS, as well as licenses from other states, the validity of which is recognized by the State of Texas.

- E. Retention Holster: is a holster with at least one retention feature or device.

- F. University Property: is defined as any building, area, or land owned or leased by Texas Southern University or subject to its control.

- G. Residence Hall: is defined as a building on University property used to house students and/or staff.

- H. University Facilities: is defined as the spaces on University property with defined enclosures for a designated use, such as an academic building, a residence hall, a theatre, an athletic field or stadium.

- I. Hazardous Material: is defined as a substance or mixture of substances that is toxic, corrosive, extremely flammable, flammable, combustible, an irritant, or a strong sensitizer, or that generates pressure through decomposition, heat, or other means, if the substance or mixture of substances may cause substantial personal injury.

- J. Athletic Event: is defined as a high school, collegiate, or professional sporting event or an interscholastic event

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- K. Gun Free Zone: is defined as any building, area of campus, or land owned or leased by the University in which the possession of handguns is prohibited as provided in Subsection V(B). Each area restriction requires that notice (that has been marked by signage) be given to License Holders as specified under Texas Penal Code § 30.06. *See <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/PE/htm/PE.30.htm#30.06>*
- L. Temporary Gun Free Zone: is defined as any building, area of campus, or land owned or leased by the University in which the possession of handguns is prohibited for a specific time period. Each temporary exclusion area requires that notice be given to License Holders as specified under Texas Penal Code § 30.06.

IV. POLICY PROVISIONS

A. CARRYING OF HANDGUNS BY AUTHORIZED USERS

3.1 License Holders who carry a handgun on campus must carry it on or about their person at all times or secure their handgun in a locked, privately-owned or leased motor vehicle. A License Holder who carries a handgun on campus must carry it in a retention holster that completely covers the trigger and the entire trigger guard area. The holster must have sufficient tension or grip on the handgun to retain it in the holster even when subjected to unexpected jostling.

3.2 A License Holder who carries a semiautomatic handgun on campus must carry it without a chambered round of ammunition.

3.3 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, on University property and/or in University facilities, including on any public driveway, street, sidewalk, parking lot, parking garage or other parking area on University's premises.

3.4 A License Holder may not carry a concealed handgun on campus while intoxicated.

3.5 A License Holder must display his or her License to carry when directed by a law enforcement officer in accordance with section 411.205 of the Texas Government Code. Otherwise, an individual is not required to disclose whether

he or she is a License Holder in order to participate in any program or service offered by the University, except as required by law.

B. OPEN CARRY PROHIBITED

3.6 All persons, including License Holders, are prohibited from openly carrying a handgun on University property and/or in University facilities, including on any public driveway, street, sidewalk, parking lot, parking garage or other parking area on University's property. It is the responsibility of the License Holder to conceal any handgun so that it is not partially or wholly visible to another person. Non-License Holders are prohibited from carrying a concealed weapon on campus or in buildings on campus.

V. PROCEDURES

A. GUN FREE ZONES ON UNIVERSITY PROPERTY

4.1 A License Holder is prohibited from carrying a concealed handgun on University property where prohibited by law and/or where prohibited by this policy based on the nature of the student population, specific safety concerns, and the uniqueness of Texas Southern University.

4.2 Criteria for Establishment of Exclusion Zones: In order to establish the proper exclusion zones, the University considered the nature of its students, staff, and faculty population, as well as the specific safety considerations and uniqueness of the campus environment, including but not limited to, mental health counseling, health related clinical facilities, grievance and/or disciplinary hearings (including allegations under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, etc.), sporting and interscholastic events, places of religious worship, day care facilities and schools, campus programs for minors, university housing, and polling places. The University also analyzed statutes under Texas and Federal law to determine, by analogy, which areas on campus would be proper exclusion zones. Accordingly, criteria for establishment of an exclusion zone may include, but is not limited to, the following:

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- a. Campus areas used for day care and school activities, including areas frequently used by minor children.
 - b. Health care facilities similar to hospitals used for patient care, counseling and mental health services.
 - c. Areas used for sporting or interscholastic events.
 - d. Established places of religious worship.
 - e. Polling places.
 - f. Laboratory areas where dangerous materials and equipment or research animals are present.
 - g. University housing.
 - h. Spaces used for discussions of grievance and/or disciplinary hearings or meetings. (These exclusions may be permanent or temporary based on usage of the spaces.)
 - i. Areas containing critical university infrastructure.
 - j. Areas where contractual or licensing obligations require the exclusion of firearms.
 - k. An assigned employee office for which the employee has demonstrated that the carrying of a concealed handgun by a License Holder in the office presents a Significant Risk of Substantial Harm due to a negligent discharge of the handgun, and the president or president’s designee has approved the employee’s request that the office be designated as an area where licensed concealed carry of a handgun is not permitted.
 - l. Banks or credit unions.
 - m. Large-scale performance or sports venues during ticketed events.
 - n. Areas where there are Reasonably Justified Safety Concerns on a Temporary Basis. These exclusions are limited to the following circumstances:
 - Where the requestor provides credible evidence that a concealed handgun on the particular premise creates a special danger;
 - For dignitary protection of public officials, judges, candidates, or public figures, upon a showing of credible evidence that there is a particular threat to security;
 - For activities which have a demonstrated history of violence;
 - For large-scale activities where the presence of alcohol, specific safety considerations, the uniqueness of the campus environment, or the specific threat of violence in conjunction with the activity, present a reasonable threat to health or safety.
 - o. Other areas prohibited by state or federal law.

4.3 SB11 allows individuals licensed to carry concealed handguns on or about the License Holder's person while on the Texas Southern University campus and in buildings, except in established Gun-Free Zones and Temporary Gun-Free Zones. Buildings may be either fully excluded, partially excluded, or not excluded and subject to concealed carry.

B. NOTIFICATION AND SIGNAGE FOR GUN FREE ZONES

4.4 Pursuant to section 30.06 of the Texas Penal Code, TSU will provide written notification that states the following: "Pursuant to Section 30.06, Penal Code (trespass by holder of license to carry a concealed handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (concealed handgun law), may not enter this property with a concealed handgun."

- 4.5 The written communication may be conveyed in one of two ways:
1. A card or other written document that contains the language above, or
 2. Signage in both Spanish and English displayed in a conspicuous manner clearly visible to the public, with contrasting colors and block letters at least one inch in height.

C. CARRYING OF HANDGUNS PROHIBITED IN AREAS WHERE STATE OR FEDERAL LAW, LICENSING REQUIREMENTS, OR CONTRACTS REQUIRE EXCLUSION

4.6 The concealed carry of handguns shall be prohibited in areas for which state or federal law, licensing requirements, or contracts require exclusion exclusively at the discretion of the state or federal government or are required by a campus accrediting authority. Where appropriate, signage must conform to the overriding federal or state law requirements. Otherwise, notice conforming to Texas Penal Code Section 30.06 must be provided.

D. STORAGE OF WEAPONS

4.7 Texas Southern University will not provide any storage for concealed handgun License Holders. Concealed handgun License Holders must store their handguns in a privately owned or leased motor vehicle.

E. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF THIS POLICY

4.8 Any person who violates any provision of this policy will be subject to all appropriate penalties under Texas Southern University policies and applicable laws of the State of Texas, including criminal prosecution.

F. REPORTING TO TEXAS LEGISLATURE

4.9 In even numbered years by September 1, the University will submit to the Texas Legislature a copy of its policy along with the justification used for development of the policy.

G. REFERENCES

[Texas Penal Code § 30.06](#)

[Texas Penal Code § 46.03](#)

[Texas Government Code, Chapter 411, Subchapter H](#)

[S.B. 11 \(84th Texas Legislative Session – 2015\) – “Campus Carry” Act](#)

[H.B. 1927 \(87th Texas Legislative Session – 2021\) – Firearm Carry Act of 2021](#)

Appendix 1

EXCLUDED – Exclusion zone criteria prohibits all carrying in these areas:

- 148 SLC – ERNEST S. STERLING STUDENT LIFE CENTER
- 132 EBH – EVERETT OWENS BELL HALL (BASEMENT ONLY)
- 135 HC – UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTER (Counseling Center)
- 103 LIB – ROBERT JAMES TERRY LIBRARY
- 202 LLC – LIBRARY LEARNING CENTER
- 101 HH – MACK H. HANNAH HALL
- AIRWAY SCIENCE BUILDING (Charter School)
- 110 BCD – W. R. BANKS CHILD DEVELOPMENT (Daycare)
- 137 AMA – ALLEE J. MITCHELL CENTER (Daycare)
- All Residence Halls
- 194 TO1 – TIERWESTER OAKS 1
- 195 TO2 – TIERWESTER OAKS 2
- 196 TO3 – TIERWESTER OAKS 3
- 197 TO4 – TIERWESTER OAKS 4
- 198 UT1 – UNIVERSITY TOWER 1
- 199 UT2 – UNIVERSITY TOWER II
- 191 UC1 – UNIVERSITY COURTYARD 1
- 192 UC2 – UNIVERSITY COURTYARD 2
- 193 UC3 – UNIVERSITY COURTYARD 3
- 139 TV – TRANSFORMATION VILLAGE
- 129 LHE – GARRIETTE G. LANIER HALL EAST
- 130 LHW – RAPHAEL O’HARA LANIER HALL WEST
- 105 RH – THORNTON M. FAIRCHILD HALL
- 106 PO – POST OFFICE
- 125 TP – CENTRAL THERMAL PLANT
- 126 STP – ATELLITE THERMAL PLANT
- 116 AMB – EARL CARL INSTITUTE
- 161 GSB – GENERAL SERVICES BUILDING
- 200 LC – UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC LEARNING CENTER
- 147 LSB – THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW
- 153 ATF – ATHLETIC TRAINING FACILITY FIELD HOUSE
- 154 TFO – TRACK & FIELD OBSERVATION FACILITY
- 107 ART – JOHN T. BIGGERS ART CENTER
- 109 RMA – CHARLES P. RHINEHART MUSIC

AUDITORIUM LABORATORY o 136 KTSU – KTSU
RADIO STATION ON THE FAMILY o 143 MLK –
MARTIN LUTHER KING HUMANITIES CENTER o 144
RSM – ROLLINGS - STEWART MUSIC CENTER o 145
HE C. S. – LANE HOME ECONOMICS CENTER o 149
ED – RODERICK R. PAIGE BUILDING (COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION) o 150 JHJ – JESSE H. JONES SCHOOL OF
BUSINESS o 151 PAB – BARBARA JORDAN-MICKEY
LELAND SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS o 152 WRB –
WAREHOUSE AND RECEIVING BUILDING o 156 RTF
– RADIO TRANSMITTER FACILITY
o 201 NSCA – SAMUEL MILTON NABRIT
SCIENCE CENTER ANNEX

**PARTIALLY EXCLUDED – Carry permitted in these areas except in designated rooms
where carrying is prohibited:**

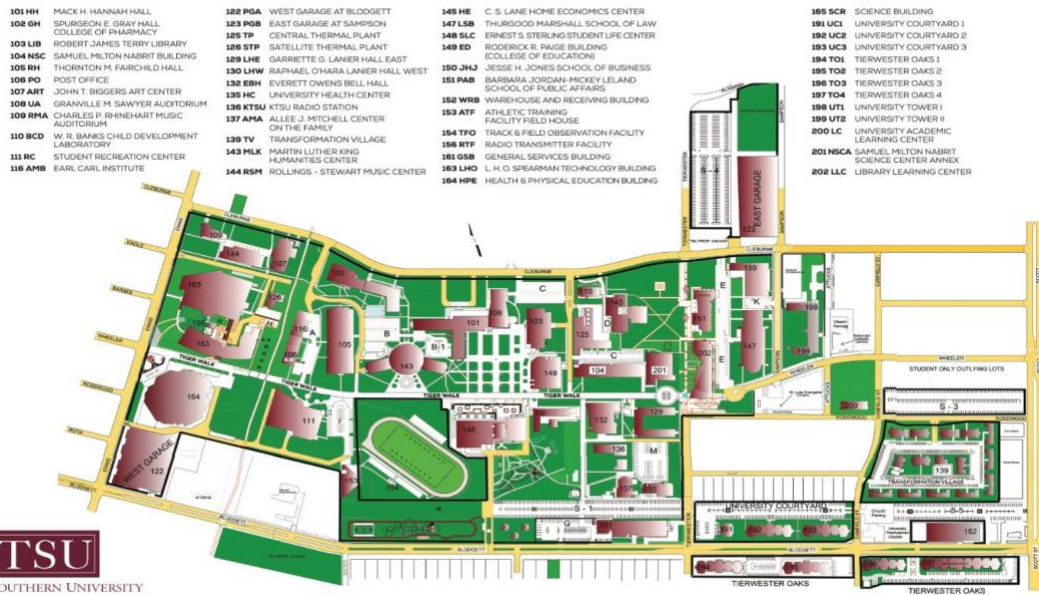
- o 165 SCR – SCIENCE BUILDING o (SECOND,
THIRD, AND FOURTH FLOORS ONLY)
- o 102 GH – SPURGEON E. GRAY HALL
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY o (ROOMS 120, 253A, 256,
229, 214 AND 216, 222, AND 207 ONLY)
- o 163 LHO – L. H. O. SPEARMAN TECHNOLOGY
BUILDING o (ROOMS 138 AND 235 ONLY)
- o 104 – NSC SAMUEL MILTON NABRIT
BUILDING o (SECOND AND THIRD FLOORS ONLY)
- o 111 RC – STUDENT RECREATION CENTER o
(SECOND FLOOR DURING DISCIPLINARY
HEARINGS) o (FIRST FLOOR DURING BASKETBALL
GAMES)
- o 108 UA – GRANVILLE M. SAWYER
AUDITORIUM o (DURING EVENTS ONLY)
 - o Athletic Events
- o 164 HPE – HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION
BUILDING
 - o Premises used for Disciplinary Actions o Locations
used for summer camps - Pre-K- 12 o University owned

- o automobiles
- o Premises used for polling on the day of an election or early voting in progress
- o Any place where alcoholic beverages are sold or consumed
- o Any Facility used for Board of Regents Meetings

NOT EXCLUDED

- o 122 PGA – WEST GARAGE AT BLODGETT
- o 123 PGB – EAST GARAGE AT SAMPSON
- o Carry is permitted at the discretion of the legal occupant of an office:
- o Offices - An occupant of an office, generally not open to the public, should be permitted, at the occupant's discretion, to prohibit the concealed carry of a handgun in his or her office.

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MAP



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