

# UT SOUTHWESTERN POLICY HANDBOOK

## SEC-155: WEAPONS ON CAMPUS

### CHAPTER 4: CAMPUS SECURITY AND PREPAREDNESS

#### CONTENTS

Policy Rationale and Text  
Scope  
Exceptions  
Responsibilities  
Definitions  
Previous Handbook Policy  
Related Statutes  
Revisions and Updates  
Contacts

#### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Responsible Office: Office of Business Affairs  
Executive Sponsor: Executive Vice President of Business  
Affairs  
Effective Date: August 1, 2016  
Last Reviewed: March 29, 2016  
Next Scheduled Review: August 1, 2021  
Contact: [policyoffice@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:policyoffice@utsouthwestern.edu)

### POLICY RATIONALE AND TEXT

UT Southwestern follows all federal and state laws that pertain to weapons—including handguns—on its campus, while striving to provide a campus environment in which students, post-graduate trainees, staff, faculty, vendors, patients, and visitors can focus on their studies, research, work and receipt of medical care with minimal distraction.

The possession of a weapon by an individual anywhere on property owned or controlled by UT Southwestern is strictly prohibited—unless it is a concealed handgun carried by an individual holding a valid license to carry a handgun (LTC) in ways that are consistent with state and federal law, as well as with this policy. UT Southwestern property includes streets, sidewalks or walkways, parking lots, parking garages, off-campus leased facilities, and any facility over which UT Southwestern has control. It also includes UT Southwestern owned or leased vehicles.

The carrying of a firearm **openly** on UT Southwestern property is strictly prohibited.

Any LTC holder who carries a handgun on campus, including within a backpack or purse, must carry it in a holster that completely covers the trigger and the entire trigger guard area, and maintain it on their person at all times. A LTC holder may not carry a partially concealed or wholly visible handgun on or about the LTC holder's person, or intentionally or knowingly display the handgun on UT Southwestern property in plain view of another person, regardless of whether the handgun is holstered.

UT Southwestern strictly prohibits the carrying of concealed handguns in patient areas; campus childcare and playground facilities; and buildings with laboratories where greater than 50% of the net assignable square feet in the building contains chemicals, biologic agents, and/or potentially explosive gases.

The UT Southwestern campus has many buildings where usage may vary by floor or portions of a floor (mixed use buildings). The portions of mixed use buildings that are comprised of laboratories with chemicals, biologic agents, and/or potentially

explosive gases, patient care areas, and/or childcare and playground facilities will be designated and marked as areas where the carrying of concealed handguns is prohibited.

The remaining portions of the mixed use buildings are areas where the carrying of concealed handguns is allowed. Areas where concealed handgun carry is prohibited will be marked by signs that are compliant with state law requirements.

In addition to signage, UT Southwestern will create and maintain a publicly accessible website that provides notice to individuals regarding the strict prohibition of openly carrying a handgun on UT Southwestern property. This website will also indicate locations where the carrying of concealed handguns by a LTC holder is prohibited.

A map of UT Southwestern property on which allowable areas for the carrying of a concealed handgun by a LTC holder are demarcated in yellow is incorporated in this policy. The locations demarcated in pink indicate areas where concealed handguns may not be carried.

UT Southwestern and its divisions, including, but not limited to, its departments, offices, clinics and hospitals, will not provide handgun storage facilities for LTC holders on UT Southwestern property, and individuals may not add or use lockers for that purpose anywhere on the campus. Should the LTC holder need to visit prohibited areas of the UT Southwestern campus, he or she must store his or her handgun in a locked, privately owned motor vehicle in any driveway, street, parking lot, parking garage, or parking area provided by or under the control of UT Southwestern.

Any student, post-graduate trainee (clinical residents and fellows), postdoctoral scholar, or employee (including but not limited to staff and faculty) violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from educational or post-graduate training programs or termination of employment, as well as possible criminal sanctions. Contractors, commercial tenants, and vendors violating this policy will be subject to removal from the UT Southwestern campus and possible criminal sanctions.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to all individuals associated with UT Southwestern Medical Center, including without limitation employees (including but not limited to staff and faculty), clinical residents and fellows, postdoctoral scholars, students, patients, visitors, volunteers, contractors, commercial tenants, and vendors.

## EXCEPTIONS

Licensed peace officers are allowed to carry a weapon openly, including on UT Southwestern property, regardless of whether the officer is engaged in the actual discharge of duties while carrying the weapon.

Members of the armed forces (including the National Guard), guards employed by a penal institution, or officers of the court will not be considered to have violated this policy if they carry a weapon openly while engaged in the discharge of official duties.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

**Any individual associated with UT Southwestern Medical Center** is responsible for notifying the University Police Department when an individual on UT Southwestern campus is observed either (1) possessing a weapon (excluding a completely concealed handgun); (2) openly carrying a handgun; (3) carrying a concealed handgun in a manner that is prohibited by law or by this policy (e.g., not holstered; only partially concealed); or (4) carrying a concealed handgun in a prohibited area.

**The UT Southwestern administration** is responsible for posting signage compliant with state law that indicates where concealed carry is prohibited.

**The University Police Department** is responsible for taking appropriate legal action against violators and reporting alleged violators of this policy to the appropriate UT Southwestern administrative personnel including, but not limited to, the Executive

Vice President for Business Affairs; the Executive Vice President for Health System Affairs; the Vice President for Human Resources; the Deans of either the medical school, graduate school, or school of health professions; and the Designated Institutional Official (DIO) in the Graduate Medical Education Office.

**The Executive Vice President for Business Affairs, the Executive Vice President for Health System Affairs, the Vice President for Human Resources, the Deans of the schools, and/or the DIO** are responsible for ensuring that appropriate non-criminal sanctions are considered and imposed against violators, when appropriate.

## DEFINITIONS

**License to Carry a Handgun (LTC) Holder** – a person licensed by the Texas Department of Public Safety to carry a handgun under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Texas Government Code.

**Firearm** – 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.

**Handgun** – any firearm that is designed, made, or adapted to be fired with one hand.

**Holstered Handgun** – a firearm carried in a 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.

**Weapon** – includes a firearm, explosive weapon, machine gun, short-barrel firearm, firearm silencer, knuckles, armor-piercing ammunition, zip gun, chemical dispensing device (other than a small chemical dispenser sold commercially for personal protection), tire deflation device, illegal knife, switchblade knife, or club.

## PREVIOUS HANDBOOK POLICY CHAPTER AND NUMBER

SEC-155 Prohibition of Weapons on Campus

## RELATED STATUTES, OTHER POLICIES, REQUIREMENTS, OR STANDARDS

- Texas Government Code, Section 411.2031; 411.208
- Texas Labor Code 52.061 -.064
- Texas Penal Code, Section 30.6.
- Texas Penal Code, Section 46.01; 46.03; 46.035

## REVISIONS AND UPDATES

August 1, 2016: Revised to reflect legislative changes that allow concealed carrying of handguns on campus property by duly licensed individuals as of August 1, 2016.

## CONTACTS/FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

University Police 214-648-8311

**NORTH CAMPUS**

- Bass Center Food Court (BL)
- Bass Center Post Office (BL-level D)
- Bass Center Tower 1 (BP)
- Bass Center Tower 2 (BL)
- Bass Center Tower 3 (BK)
- Bass Mezzanine (BM)
- C. Kern Wildenthal Research Building (NL)
- Clements Imaging Building (NE)
- Hamon Biomedical Research Building (NA)
- Moncrief Radiation Oncology Building (NF)
- Pickens Biomedical Building (ND)
- Pickens Medical Education & Conference Center; Commons Food Court (NG)
- Police Station (BL)
- Prothro Plaza & Gardens (NH)
- Sey Biomedical Building (NC)
- Simmons Biomedical Research Building (NB)
- Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center Clinics (NC)
- University Store (NG)

**EAST CAMPUS**

- BioCenter at Southwestern Medical District (EB)
- Landscape Office (PG)
- Landscape Warehouse (WP)

**WEST CAMPUS**

- Environmental Health & Safety Building (WT)
- Health Professions Building (V)
- Outpatient Building (WA)
- Professional Office Building 1 (POB1)
- Professional Office Building 2 (POB2)
- Simmons Radiation Oncology (ROC)
- William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital (CUH) UH

**SOUTH CAMPUS**

- Aston Building (U)
- Cary Building (F)
- Danciger Building (H)
- Florence Building (E)
- Food Court (C-lower level)
- Gooch Auditorium (C)
- Green Research Building (Y)
- Green Science Building (L)
- Hoblitzelle Building (G)
- Jonsson Building (K)
- Laboratory Research & Support Building (JA)
- McDermott Administration Building (B)
- McDermott Lecture Halls (D-lower level)
- McDermott Plaza (D)
- Moss Building (J)
- Physical Plant Administration Building (P)
- Physical Plant Service Building (PA, PB)
- Postal Substation (C-lower level)
- Skilern Building (M)
- Sprague Building (CS)
- Student Support Services (S)
- Transplant Services Building (R)
- University Store (C-lower level)
- Visitor Information Center (A)
- Williams Student Center (MA)
- Zale Lipshy University Hospital (ZL) UH

