



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Campus Carry Policy

June 13, 2015

- On June 13, 2015, Governor Greg Abbott signed into law [Texas Senate Bill No. 11 \(S.B. 11\)](#), popularly known as the “campus carry” law. S.B. 11 amends [Texas Government Code §411.2031](#) to allow carrying of handguns by license holders on the campuses of certain institutions of higher education, including the University of Houston-Downtown.



SENATE BILL 11

- The Bill authorizes a license holder to carry a concealed handgun on or about the license holder's person while the license holder is on the campus of an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education in this state.

SENATE BILL 11

- Open carrying of handguns is still prohibited at **ALL** institutions of higher education.



SENATE BILL 11

- Takes effect **August 1, 2016**, but universities can take action to establish rules prior to that effective date.
- The effective date of this law for a public junior college is August 1, 2017.

SENATE BILL 11

- States the president of an institution of higher education **shall** establish reasonable rules, regulations, or other provisions regarding the carrying of concealed handguns by license holders on the campus or on specific premises located on the campus.

SENATE BILL 11

- Requires universities to submit a report by Sept. 2 in even numbered years to legislative oversight committees describing its rules under this section.
- Prevents universities or its officers from being held liable for damages caused by a person authorized to carry a concealed handgun.

SENATE BILL 11

- Prohibits a university from restricting the carrying of a handgun in a person's car if that person holds a concealed handgun license.
- Requires that handgun prohibited areas, referred to as Gun-Free Areas in the UHD Campus Carry Policy, are designated by "notices" or "30.06 signs" which indicate that the carrying of a handgun within the area is prohibited.

No Longer a CHL...



Texas CHL
(Concealed Handgun License)

is now called

Texas LTC
(License To Carry)

LTC Requirements

- LTC holders must meet state requirements regarding:
 - Age, criminal history, mental health, etc.
- Must successfully complete:
 - Background investigation and a required course of training.

More information visit: www.txdps.state.tx.us/rsd/chl/index.htm

License to Carry (LTC) Statistics

- Let's look at the numbers regarding LTC.

State of Texas

CATEGORY	RESULT
2015 Projected Texas Population*:	27,695,284
Total # of current LTC Holders**:	825,957
% of TX Citizens with LTC:	3%
Total # of Commissioned Police Officers in TX	82,000
Ratio of TX LTC holders to Commissioned TX PO's:	10 to 1

*Texas Department of State Health Services Website – 10/29/2015

**As of December 31, 2014; Texas Department of Public Safety Website – 10/29/2015

UHD Campus

Category	Result
Total # of UHD Students*:	14,262
Total # of UHD Faculty/Staff:	1,361
Total UHD Population:	15,623
# of Students OVER 21 YOA**:	11,901
# of Students who are Military Veterans†:	609
# of UHD Students Eligible for LTC Based on Age/Veteran Status‡:	12,510
POTENTIAL # UHD Fac/Stf/Stu w/LTC compared to 3% of TX Citizens¥:	416
Ratio of UHDPD Police Officers to POTENTIAL UHD CHL Holders***:	1 to 24

*Fall 2015 official headcount provided by the UHD Institutional Research Office

**Information obtained from the UHD Institutional Research Office

†ESTIMATE ONLY; based on Fall 2015 data from UHD Office of Veteran Services. Military Veteran is a Protected Status.

‡Due to the inability to separate military veterans less than 21 YOA, this total potentially counts a veteran over 21 twice.

¥ Sum of all Faculty/Staff/Students; assumes ALL Faculty & Staff are over 21.

***UHD police figure is from Employment Services & Operations, as of Fall 2015

2014 Criminal Convictions LTC Holders vs. Texas Population

Total Convictions in Texas: 50,869

LTC Holder Convictions: 158

(not necessarily gun related)

LTC Holder % of Total Convictions: **0.3106%**

While LTC Holders represent 3% of the population, they represented only 0.3% of total convictions.

SENATE BILL 11

- After consulting with students, staff, and faculty, the President and the Board of Regents have established rules regarding the carrying of concealed handguns by license holders on campus.
- The University **MAY NOT** establish rules that generally prohibit license holders from carrying concealed handguns.

Campus Carry

- The adopted Campus Carry Policy for UHD is published online at

uhd.edu/campuscarry

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- The purpose of this policy 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.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- Only a licensed person may carry weapons designated under Subchapter H of Chapter 411 of the Government Code; any other weapons are expressly prohibited.
- 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.

POLICY

- This policy is designed to be compliant with [S.B. 11](#) and 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.

Applicability

- 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.

DEFINITIONS

- Handgun: Any firearm that is designed, made, or adapted to be fired with one hand.
- Open Carry: Visible possession of a handgun in public.
- Concealed Handgun: A handgun, the presence of which is not openly discernible to the ordinary observation of a reasonable person.

DEFINITIONS

- Gun-Free Area: An area of campus, building, or room in which the possession of handguns is prohibited. A list of gun-free areas is available on the UHD [Campus Carry website](#). Each area restriction requires that notice be given to license holders as specified under [Texas Penal Code §30.06](#).

DEFINITIONS

- 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.

DEFINITIONS

- Campus: All land and buildings owned or leased by an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education.
- Sporting Event: An activity involving physical exertion and skill that is governed by a set of rules or customs and often undertaken competitively.

DEFINITIONS

- Gun-Free Areas: Areas designated as gun-free by the University President and reflective of the student population, safety considerations, and uniqueness of the campus environment.
- “On or About ” the License Holder’s Person: “About” the person means that a license holder may carry a handgun in a backpack or handbag, but the backpack or handbag must be close enough to the license holder that he or she can grasp it without materially changing position.

DEFINITIONS

- Significant Risk: A high probability of harm, not just a slightly increased, speculative, or remote risk.
- Substantial Harm: A serious injury or death to a person or persons, or destruction of valuable property.
- Disciplinary Action: Sanctions by the University, up to and including removal, probation, suspension, expulsion, dismissal, and termination.

SUPPORTING POLICY INFORMATION

- The primary responsibility for enforcement of this policy lies with UHDPD.
- Disputes, concerns, or reports of policy violation should be communicated immediately to UHDPD, which will enforce both Texas law and UHD policy as appropriate.

BE AWARE

- It will be considered a violation of the UHD Campus Carry Policy and/or a potential criminal offense for LTC holders to **intentionally reveal** a handgun in plain view.

If you see a handgun on campus:

- **Contact UHDPD immediately!**
713-221-8911 Emergency
- **Do not confront the individual(s)!**
 - Be a good witness
 - Avoid escalating the situation

What the Police need to know

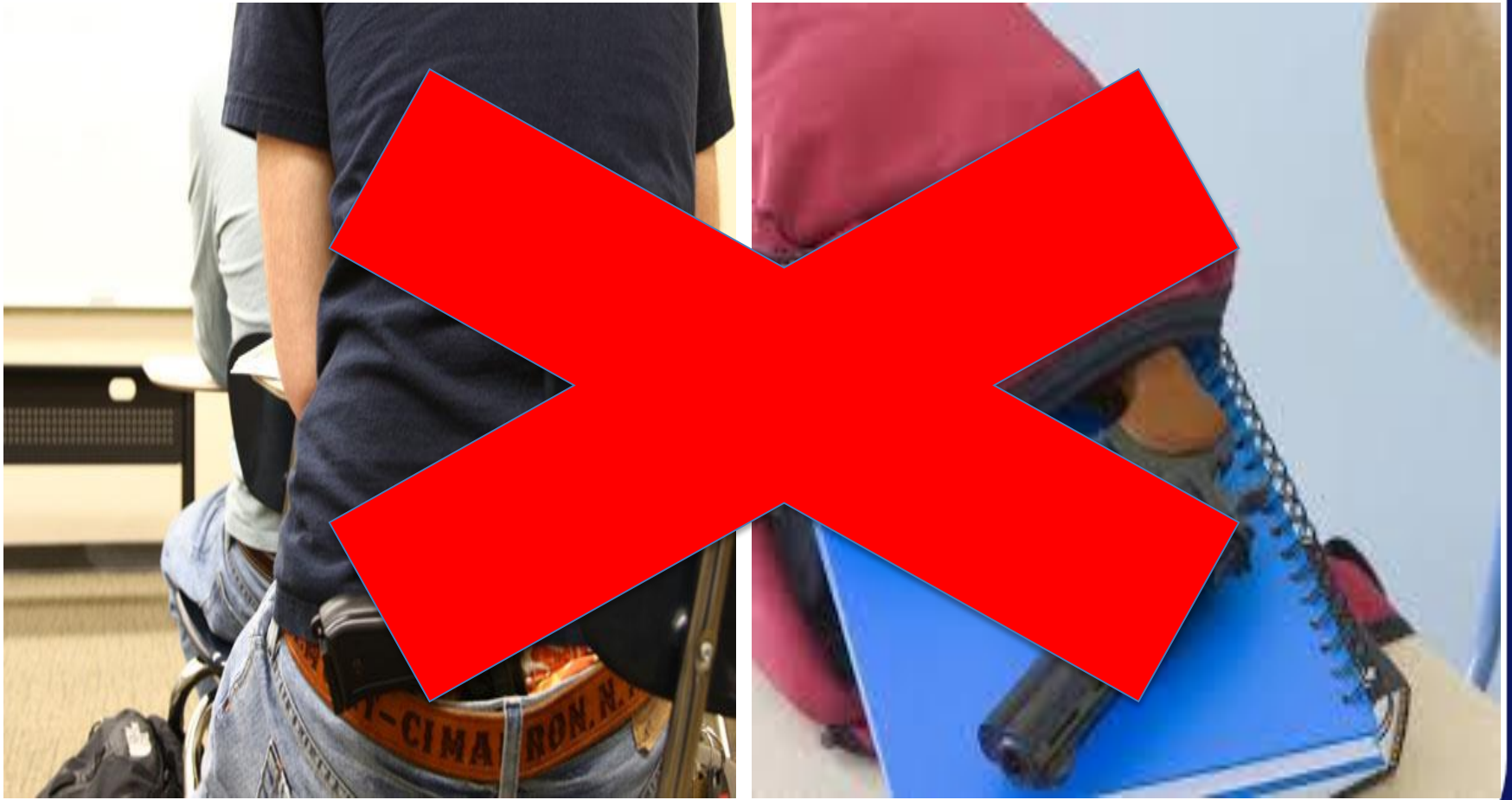
- When reporting a crime/suspicious person we need the following:
 - Specific location(s)
 - Type of incident
 - Description of person(s) / suspect(s) / vehicle / weapon
 - Think TOP DOWN: race/gender/clothing/other unique attributes
 - Example: I was in the One Main building when a white male threatened me. He had a long blond ponytail, was carrying a blue backpack, wearing a black short sleeve shirt, khaki shorts, and white tennis shoes. He left walking southbound on Main.
 - If safe to do so, take a photo with your cell phone

Remember, **WE CAN'T HELP IF WE DON'T KNOW.**

What you SHOULD SEE!



SHOULD NOT SEE THIS!



POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

- Failure to comply with any of the following procedures may result in Disciplinary Action.
- A holder of an LTC may carry a concealed handgun on or about his or her person on the University of Houston-Downtown campus, except in Gun-Free Areas.
- Handguns must be carried in a retention holster that covers the trigger.

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

- It is the responsibility of the holder of the LTC to conceal any handgun so that it is not partially or wholly visible to another person.
- Persons who do not hold a valid LTC are **prohibited** from carrying a concealed weapon on campus or in buildings.

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

- No handgun storage will be provided by the University on campus. LTC holders are responsible for the safe and secure storage of their own weapon.
- Unless an employee is required to carry a firearm as part of the employee's specific job duties, any possession or use of a firearm by the employee is not considered to be within the scope of employment with the University.

Of Note...

- An employee with a LTC may carry a concealed handgun into his or her work space, unless the location is prohibited by law or policy.
- An employee **is not** authorized to use weapon in course or scope of duties.
 - Carrying is a **personal decision** and is not on behalf of the University.
- The employee accepts **personal liability** for any injury or damage resulting from the use of their handgun.

INFORMATION

- Alcohol: Possessing a weapon on campus while intoxicated is prohibited.

§[46.035](#), Texas Penal Code states that it is unlawful for an individual who is intoxicated to carry a handgun. It is important to note that the Penal Code defines “intoxicated” as not having the normal use of mental or physical faculties by reason of the introduction of alcohol, a controlled substance, a drug, a dangerous drug, a combination of two or more of those substances, or any other substance in the body; or having an alcohol concentration of .08 or more.

INFORMATION

- Open Carry: The carrying of an unconcealed handgun on campus is restricted to authorized members of the UHDPD, other law enforcement officers, and other persons who may be designated by appropriate law enforcement authorities.
- Intentional Reveal: Intentionally revealing a handgun on campus is prohibited. Any such incident will be grounds for Disciplinary Action.

INFORMATION

- Inquiry of LTC or Carrying Status by University Employees: Employees of the University, with the exception of members of UHDPD in their official capacity, should not inquire as to whether any person is carrying a concealed weapon or possesses an LTC.

INFORMATION

- Verbal Reference to Firearms or Other Weapons: The declaration of handgun possession or LTC status may be considered a threat under some circumstances.
- Weapon Discharge: The discharge of a weapon intentionally or unintentionally anywhere on campus by any person may be grounds for Disciplinary Action.

INFORMATION

- Other Weapons: All other weapons are strictly prohibited for students, faculty, staff, and visitors, including long guns, knives with blades longer than 5.5 inches, brass knuckles, clubs, and explosives. Their possession on campus is grounds for immediate Disciplinary Action.

PROCEDURES

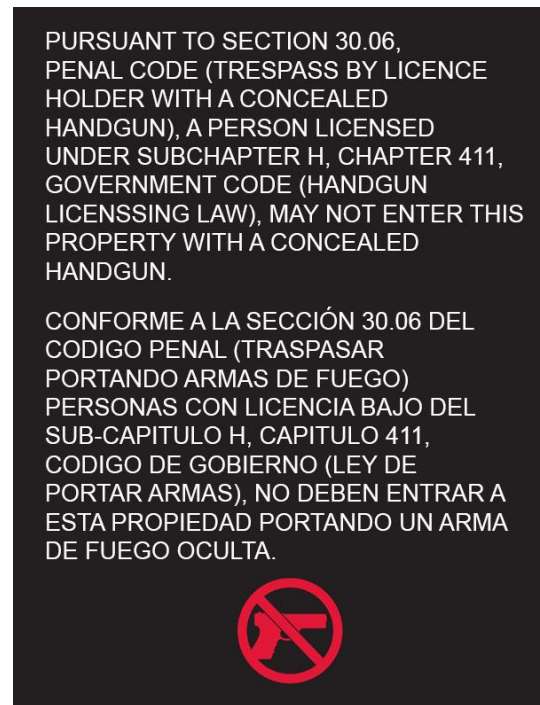
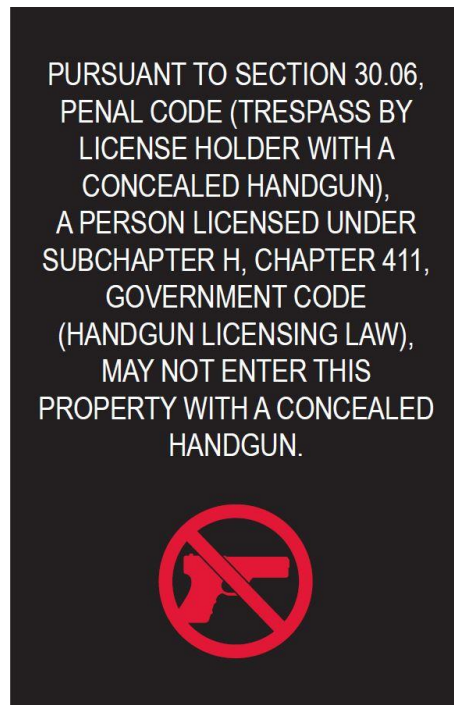
- In accordance with S.B. 11, the President appointed a Campus Carry Work Group made up of representatives from the faculty, staff and students. The group was charged with developing “reasonable rules” regarding which areas can be designated gun-free. To do so, the Campus Carry group consulted with its students, staff, and faculty regarding the nature of the student 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, grievances, and disciplinary hearings, sporting and interscholastic events, child watch facilities and, campus programs for minors.

GUN-FREE AREAS

- The following 7 types of rooms have been designated as gun-free areas:
 - Student Life Center
 - Weightlifting area
 - Student Health Center
 - Student Counseling Services
 - Child watch facilities
 - Testing Services
 - Multi-purpose rooms
- [Read a complete list of UHD gun-free areas.](#)

GUN-FREE AREAS

- Per [Texas Penal Code §30.06](#), each gun-free area requires that notice be given to license holders. Campus signage and/or notices may look like this:



TEMPORARY GUN-FREE AREAS

- **Mobile/Temp/Other Signage Request Process**
Circumstances or events may arise when concealed carry of handguns may pose a significant risk of substantial harm for persons in that area of campus. Upon justification of circumstances that conform to the type of excluded areas previously described in this policy and/or create a significant risk of substantial harm in a University event or area, UHD faculty, staff, or students may make a request to the for a specific, well-defined area to be gun-free for a specified period of time.

TEMPORARY GUN-FREE AREAS

- Mobile/temporary requests to the Provost must be made in writing at least one week prior to the event. The requested areas must be ones in which a clear and persuasive justification is made that weapons would pose an significant risk of substantial harm in that specific area or that conform to the type of excluded areas previously described in the [UHD Campus Carry Policy](#).

TEMPORARY GUN-FREE AREAS

- The Provost will make a recommendation to the President regarding the request. The President has final approval of all requests for mobile/temporary signage. The Provost must respond to the request in writing within 48 hours.

TEMPORARY GUN-FREE AREAS

- It is the responsibility of the requesting party to make arrangements for securing and posting mobile/temporary signage. The requesting party must follow the UHD Police Department procedure authorized in section 4.4.2 of in the [UHD Campus Carry Policy](#).

TEMPORARY GUN-FREE AREAS

- Notification must be made of the gun-free area on the [UHD Campus Carry website](#) at least 24 hours prior to the event.

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

- Reporting Violations of this Policy: Any violations of this policy should be reported to UHDPD. UHDPD shall maintain a list of all handgun-related incidents and provide an annual report to the President.

Effective Notice

- UHD will be utilizing a combination of messaging tactics to notify LTC holders of areas where concealed weapons are prohibited.
- Messaging will consist of signs, notices and cards that comply with the requirements of notification outlined in Texas Penal Code [§30.06](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

To find answers to some of the most common questions associated with campus carry please visit the Frequently Asked Questions page at:

uhd.edu/campuscarry

EMERGENCY TRAINING

- Emergency training videos can be found on the [Office of Emergency Management website](#).

Seeking more...

- Was your question not listed?
- Do you still have concerns?
- Please contact

UHDPD Interim Chief Deleon

campuscarry@uhd.edu

REFERENCES

- [Texas Government Code Chapter 411, Subchapter H](#)
- [Texas Penal Code § 30.06](#)
- [Texas Penal Code § 46.03](#)
- [Texas Penal Code § 46.035](#)
- [Texas Senate Bill No. 11 \(S.B. 11\)](#)
- [Texas Senate Bill No. 273 \(S.B. 273\)](#)