

34.06.02.R1 Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus

Approved April 27, 2016 (Effective August 1, 2016)
Revised February 8, 2018
Revised November 18, 2021
Next Scheduled Review: November 18, 2026



Rule Statement

Texas A&M University-Commerce (A&M-Commerce) is committed to provide a safe and secure living, learning and working environment for all students, faculty, staff, and community visitors in a diverse campus community setting.

Reason for Rule

This rule establishes the requirements for carrying handguns at A&M-Commerce pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 411.2031. For requirements for other weapons on campus, refer to System Regulation *34.06.02 Weapons*.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1 GENERAL

- 1.1 The President established this rule after consulting with A&M-Commerce students, staff, and faculty about the nature of the student population, specific safety considerations, and the uniqueness of the campus environment. This rule was reviewed by The Texas A&M System Board of Regents as required by law.
- 1.2 A handgun license holder under Chapter 411, Texas Government Code, may carry a concealed handgun on or about the license holder's person while the license holder is on the campus of A&M-Commerce or in an A&M-Commerce vehicle, unless prohibited by federal or state law or this rule. Licensed peace officers are authorized by law to carry firearms at all times.
- 1.3 The open carrying of handguns is prohibited on campus.
- 1.4 The University enforces state law regulating firearms on campus. This enforcement occurs two ways.
 - 1.4.1 The University Police Department will investigate and take appropriate action, including referral for criminal prosecution when violations occur.

1.4.2 The University will consider any violation of state law regulating firearms to be a violation of university rules. Accordingly, such a violation is subject to disciplinary action under rules/procedures applicable to students, staff, and faculty.

2 STORAGE OF HANDGUNS IN RESIDENTIAL LIVING AND LEARNING (RLL) COMMUNITY

Any resident of campus housing who is a handgun license holder and wants to store a handgun in his/her assigned room must provide their own safe, intended and manufactured for handgun storage.

2.1 The resident may not provide access to their safe to any other individual.

2.2 Additional information regarding this process can be found on the RLL website, RLL Community Guidebook, and Student Handbook.

2.3 Failure to comply with this rule may result in removal from campus housing and participation in the University conduct process.

3 RULES APPLICABLE TO CARRYING A HANDGUN ON CAMPUS

3.1 State Law Prohibitions

A license holder is responsible for complying with the applicable state law prohibitions. See Appendix.

3.2 Federal Law Prohibitions

A license holder is responsible for complying with the applicable federal prohibition.

3.3 Prohibited Campus Premises

A license holder is also prohibited from carrying a concealed handgun on the following campus premises: (The prohibition is only for the identified rooms and not the building as a whole unless otherwise indicated.)

3.3.1 The Campus Counseling Center, Room 204, Halladay Student Services Building (B17)

3.3.2 Psychology & Community Counseling Clinic, Rooms 106-125 and 231-242, Binnion Hall (B5)

3.3.3 The Children's Learning Center (B8)

3.3.4 Student Health Services, Lobby and Connected Rooms, Henderson Hall (B19)

3.3.5 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Laboratory, Room 314, Keith D. McFarland Science Building (B34)

- 3.3.6 Student Assessment & Evaluation Testing Lab, Room 172, Student Access & Success Center (One Stop Shop) (B38)
 - 3.3.6.1 Other campus premises where standardized exams (ACT, CLEP, LSAT, THEA, etc.) are administrated per the third party examination standards.
- 3.3.7 United States Post Office, Room 123A, Postal Services Building (B3)
- 3.3.8 The Heritage House/Lyday Heritage Gardens during events where the President deems it appropriate. (B17).
- 3.3.9 Campus premises during events heavily attended by minors as deemed appropriate by the President. (Camps/Programs for Minors, Pre-K through Grade 12 educational activities, etc.)
- 3.3.10 Any premises where the University, as directed or approved by the President as necessary for campus safety, gives effective notice on a temporary basis pursuant to Section 30.06, Penal Code. For this rule, the term “owner of the property” in Section 30.06(b), Penal Code, means the President of the University. No university employee is “someone with apparent authority to act for the owner” for purposes of Section 30.06(b), Penal Code. All notices under Section 30.06, Penal Code, will be institutional notice, conform to Section 46.03 of the Penal Code, and apply equally to all handgun license holders;
- 3.3.11 Any portion of campus leased by the University to a third party, if the third party determines to prohibit the concealed carry of handguns on the premises and provides effective notice pursuant to Sec 30.06, Penal Code;
- 3.3.12 Assigned offices, as approved by the President, 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; and
- 3.3.13 On the following premises where a collegiate sporting event is taking place, so long as effective notice is given under Section 30.06, Penal Code:
 - 3.3.13.1 Memorial Stadium (B25)
 - 3.3.13.2 Bleacher Area Inside the University Field House (B39)
 - 3.3.13.3 John Cain Family Softball Field
 - 3.3.13.4 Lion Soccer Field
- 3.4 At all premises where concealed carry is prohibited, A&M-Commerce will give effective notices under Section 30.06, Penal Code.

4 RESPONSIBILITIES

If you see anyone brandishing a weapon, call UPD at 903.886.5868 or “911” immediately and take precautions to protect yourself (i.e. evacuate the area or retreat behind a locked door, depending on the circumstances).

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

System Regulation [34.06.02, Weapons](#)

System Policy [12.01, Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure](#)

System Policy [32.02.02, Discipline and Dismissal of Nonfaculty Employees](#)

University Procedure [13.02.99.R0.06 Standards of Student Conduct](#)

Definitions

Assigned office – an office assigned to an individual faculty or staff member that is not generally open to the public.

Campus – means all land and buildings owned or leased by A&M-Commerce, including on any public or private driveway, street, sidewalk or walkway, parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area, off-site location.

Campus housing – means dormitories or other resident facilities located on campus that are: (1) owned and operated by the University; or (2) leased and operated by the University.

Premises – means a building or portion of a building. The term does not include any public or private driveway, street, sidewalk or walkway, parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area.

Significant risk – means a high probability of harm, not just a slightly increased, speculative, or remote risk.

Substantial harm – means serious injury or death to a person or persons, or destruction of valuable property.

Appendix

[Texas Statutory Prohibitions](#)

[Assigned Offices Request Form](#)

A campus map showing building where CHL holders are prohibited from entering with effective notice pursuant to Sec 30.06, Penal Code.

[Campus Carry FAQs](#)

[DPS Handgun Licensing](#)

Contact Office

University Police Department
903.886.5868