

The University of Texas at Arlington

Senate Bill 11 - Campus Carry Draft Recommendations

Specific Building/Location	Information/Background	Applicable Laws and Regulations	Makeup of Campus Population	Safety Considerations	Unique Environment
General Policy Recommendations					
No on-Campus Storage for Weapons Will be Provided by UTA	Senate Bill 11 does not require a university to provide storage for firearms. The Texas Government Code requires a handgun be stored in a manner such that a child would not be at risk of accidental injury. The Texas Penal Code provides guidance on acceptable methods to secure a firearm.	Senate Bill 11	All license holders must meet requirements established by the Texas Government Code to obtain their licenses, including training on how to safely store and secure their firearms.	Providing storage increases the time and frequency spent handling a firearm, thus increasing the risk of accidental discharges, ability for others to identify license holders, and possibility of theft of firearms, as storage locations would be generally well-known.	The 1995 Concealed Handgun License legislation and the new open carry legislation provide the foundation for Senate Bill 11. They do not require that storage be provided for license holders.
Recommended as an Exclusionary Area: Locations Providing Counseling and Health Services					
Social Work Building—Complex B	The Center for Clinical Social Work provides behavioral and mental health services/interventions for vulnerable children and adults (including veterans) who are often suffering from PTSD, ADHD, and other mental health challenges. The Center conducts research-based intervention services and diagnosis, and provides individual/group mental health and substance abuse counseling.	The Texas Penal Code provides an exclusion for the carrying of firearms on the premises of hospitals licensed under Chapter 241 of the Texas Health and Safety Code. The Penal Code also prohibits firearms on any grounds or building in which a school-sponsored activity is being conducted.	Services are provided to the public, many of whom are school-age children as the Center contracts with many local independent school districts to serve their students and the students' families. Social workers and social work students provide these services.	Services are provided to children and adults who are experiencing mental and behavioral health problems including stress, anxiety, PTSD, depression, anger issues, ADHD, and substance abuse. Clients can exhibit anger, aggression, abuse, and violence toward the social workers, students, themselves, or others, thus creating concerns for the health and safety of all involved.	Client treatment areas in this location are equivalent to those excluded in the referenced legislation.
Ransom Hall—Third Floor	Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) provides services to address mental and behavioral health problems. CAPS also provides counseling and psychotherapy, psychological evaluation and assessment, and other services.	The Texas Penal Code provides an exclusion for the carrying of firearms on the premises of hospitals licensed under Chapter 241 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.	Services are available to all students currently enrolled at UTA and are provided by licensed counselors, social workers, and psychologists.	Services are provided to students who are experiencing mental and behavioral health problems including stress, anxiety, depression, anger issues, and suicidal thoughts. Patients can exhibit anger, aggression, abuse, and violence toward staff or themselves, creating concerns for the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff.	Patient treatment areas in this location are equivalent to those excluded in the referenced legislation.

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Health Services Building	Health Services is an ambulatory health care facility that provides primary health care and includes a general medicine clinic, pharmacy, laboratory, radiology department, counseling and psychology services (psychiatry), women's health clinic, immunization clinic, and a health promotion and substance abuse prevention office. Emergency evaluations by psychiatric staff, counseling, and psychological services are also provided.	The Texas Penal Code provides an exclusion for the carrying of firearms on the premises of hospitals licensed under Chapter 241 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.	Services are available to all students currently enrolled at UTA and are provided by psychiatrists, psychiatric nurse practitioners, and psychiatry residents.	Services are provided to students who are experiencing mental and behavioral health problems including stress, anxiety, depression, anger issues, and suicidal thoughts. Patients can exhibit anger, aggression, abuse, and violence toward staff or themselves, creating concerns for the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff.	This location is equivalent to those excluded in the referenced legislation.
Recommended as an Exclusionary Area: Location Providing Childcare for Minor Children					
Transforming Lives Child Development Center	This space is owned by UTA and leased to the Center for Transforming Lives. The Center provides child care services, to include before- and after-school care, at this facility.	The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services prohibits the possession of firearms at licensed child care centers and at facilities with before- or after-school care.	This facility serves small children, from infants to school-age children. The Center serves the public, including children of students, faculty, and staff.	Given the population served, there are significant concerns about a child having the ability to access a firearm.	This location is a state-licensed child care center. Firearms are prohibited by law at this facility.

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Recommended as an Exclusionary Area: Locations Primarily Used for NCAA, UIL or Professional Sports Events					
College Park Center (CPC)	This facility is home to NCAA women's volleyball, women's basketball, and men's basketball teams; the WNBA Team—Dallas Wings; and several UIL State spirit competitions.	The Texas Penal Code prohibits a firearm on the premises where a high school, collegiate, or professional sporting event or interscholastic event is taking place.	UTA students, faculty, and staff attend or participate in events and practices, as does the general public.	For safety purposes, the Penal Code, NCAA, WNBA, and UIL all prohibit the possession of weapons at facilities hosting designated events. The majority of events held at this location are NCAA, WNBA, or UIL events or practices.	Large capacity NCAA, professional sports, and UIL events are hosted at this venue. These events require safety and security plans to be in place to provide a safe environment. UTA Police are onsite for most events.
Maverick Stadium	This location is home to NCAA men's and women's track and field teams; hosts numerous UIL football, track and field, and marching band events each year; and is the host site for Texas State Special Olympic Summer Games.	The Texas Penal Code prohibits a firearm on the premises where a high school, collegiate, or professional sporting event or interscholastic event is taking place.	UTA students, faculty, and staff attend or participate in events and practices at the venue, as does the general public. Many high school and other school district students also attend or participate in practices and events.	For safety purposes, the Penal Code, NCAA, and UIL all prohibit the possession of weapons at facilities hosting designated events. The majority of events held at this location are NCAA or UIL events or practices.	Large capacity NCAA and UIL events are hosted at this venue. These events require safety and security plans to be in place to provide a safe environment. UTA Police are onsite for most events.
Allan Saxe Field and Clay Gould Ballpark	These locations are home to NCAA baseball and softball teams. Numerous UIL baseball and softball games also take place here.	The Texas Penal Code prohibits a firearm on the premises where a high school, collegiate, or professional sporting event or interscholastic event is taking place.	UTA students, faculty and staff attend or participate in events and practices at the venue, as does the general public. Many high school and other school district students also attend or participate in practices and events.	For safety purposes, the Penal Code, NCAA, and UIL all prohibit the possession of weapons at facilities hosting designated events. The majority of events held at this location are NCAA or UIL events or practices.	Large capacity NCAA and UIL events are hosted at this venue. These events require safety and security plans to be in place to provide a safe environment. UTA Police are onsite for most events.

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Recommended as an Exclusionary Area: Locations with Special or Unique Uses					
Maverick Activities Center (MAC) and Physical Education Building (PEB)	The MAC houses a gymnasium, indoor/outdoor basketball/volleyball courts, raquetball/badminton courts, gameroom, table tennis, climbing wall, locker rooms, classrooms, and offices. Over 1800 intramural sport and sport club competitions, intercollegiate wheelchair basketball competitions, and youth sporting competitions are held at the MAC. The indoor/outdoor swimming pools and classrooms are located in the PEB. High school swim teams regularly use the pools during their season for practices/events.	The Texas Penal Code prohibits a firearm on the premises where a high school, collegiate, or professional sporting event or interscholastic event is taking place. The Government Code requires that license holders carry their firearms on or about their person, and that they cannot display their firearms in plain view of the public.	The locations are available to all UTA students, faculty, and staff. They are also available to the public and are utilized by independent school districts and other organizations that host K-12 events.	For safety purposes, the Penal Code and UIL prohibit the possession of weapons at facilities hosting designated events. Most participants in the various athletic activities would have a difficult time complying with Government Code requirements to keep their firearm on or about their person and concealed from view. Changing in locker rooms would complicate this further and result in exposure of the firearm. It would also require additional handling of the firearm, increasing the possibility of an accidental discharge.	These locations are multi-use facilities, host a range of activities, and serve a diverse population. Many events or activities are governed by the Penal Code, while others are not. It would be impossible to effectively communicate to license holders all situations where they would be in violation of the law, placing them in a position of incurring criminal or administrative sanctions.
Summer Camps (May - August) in University-Owned Residence Halls	Approximately 5,000-6,000 summer camp participants and 250 UTA students reside in on-campus, UTA-owned residence halls during the summer, with many of the summer campers being in grades K-12.	Senate Bill 11 allows a university to establish rules, regulations, or other provisions concerning the storage of handguns in dormitories or other residential facilities that are owned/leased and operated by the institution and located on the campus. The Texas Penal Code prohibits a firearm on the premises where a high school or interscholastic event is taking place.	The majority of summer camp participants are in grades K-12.	During fall and spring semesters, license holders in university-owned housing must have their firearms on or about their person, or they must safely secure or store their firearms to prevent tampering or theft. During the summer semesters, the majority of housing occupants are K-12 students. This population and the activities these minors participate in are the same or similar to those governed by the Penal Code.	UTA Housing and Residence Life will provide UTA summer students residing in a university-owned residence hall housing options where campus carry is allowed.

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Single Location (TBD)—Formal Hearings—student conduct, employee disciplinary, faculty and student grievance and appeal	These hearings can be controversial and generate a range of emotions including anger, frustration, irritation, disappointment, resentment, bitterness, and hostility.	Senate Bill 11 allows the University President to identify areas where concealed handguns are prohibited. The Texas Penal Code prohibits firearms on the premises of any government court. Formal disciplinary hearings and grievance actions can be similar to court proceedings.	UTA faculty, staff and students will utilize this location for formal hearings.	Removal or elimination of handguns in an environment that has the potential to become emotionally charged.	Hearing proceedings are not unlike those associated with court hearings, in which handguns are not allowed in accordance with the Texas Penal Code.
The Testing Center—Davis Hall	Testing for admissions, credit by exam, licensing, proficiency, petition for credit, and Texas Success Initiatives. Requirements and policies of many of the testing companies prohibit personal items and/or specifically prohibit weapons in the Testing Center.	Senate Bill 11 allows the University President to identify areas where concealed handguns are prohibited.	Testing is available to UTA students, non-UTA college students, K-12 students, and the general public.	Contractual requirements of the testing companies prohibit personal items and/or specifically prohibit weapons in the Testing Center are the foundation for this recommendation.	Research will continue to explore the policies and requirements of the testing companies. Final recommendations will be made in the near future.

Exemption Process for Unique Situations—Senate Bill 11 allows the University President to identify areas where concealed handguns are prohibited. New dynamics or changes in facility usage, a specific event, temporary circumstances, unique or unforeseen circumstances, case law, and other subtleties may pose a safety threat to students, faculty, staff, or visitors. The University will develop a policy to address these situations or circumstances.

Leased Spaces—The UT System Office of General Counsel's interpretation of "leased spaces" includes leases on the main campus to external parties. Examples include Centennial Court Apartments (CLV), Follett Bookstore, and Shops at College Park. SB 11 defines a campus as all land and buildings owned and leased by an institution of higher education. The Penal Code allows an entity (other than a government agency) to exclude concealed carry by giving sufficient notice. UTA's legal counsel will review current leases to determine the rights afforded to each party.

A roommate selection process for UTA students seeking a non-license holder roommate will be developed for UTA-owned and -operated, on-campus residence halls.