

East Texas Baptist University Campus Carry Policy

Pursuant to Section §30.06, Penal Code (trespass by license holder with a concealed handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property (ETBU) with a concealed handgun. The ETBU President may grant authorization to a qualified and certified full-time faculty or staff member, who is a license holder with a concealed handgun to conceal carry on the University campus, at a University-sponsored event or within or on a University vehicle. Penal Code §30.06 states that the required written communication includes "a sign posted on the property that: (i) includes the language described by Paragraph (A) in both English and Spanish."

Weapons Prohibition Policy

East Texas Baptist University has a policy banning various weapons from campus. If you have any questions about the Campus Carry Policy or the Weapons Prohibition Policy, please contact the ETBU Security Department at 903.923.2323.

Texas Senate Bill 11 Information

Texas law previously permitted public and private universities to ban the carrying of concealed handguns on their campuses. On June 13, 2015, Governor Abbott signed into law S.B. 11 which adds section 411.2031 to the Government Code and authorizes a concealed handgun license holder to carry a concealed handgun on the campus of a public or private university in Texas, effective August 1, 2016. However, private universities in Texas may adopt rules, regulations, or other provisions to prohibit license holders from carrying handguns on the campus of the institution, any grounds or building on which an activity sponsored by the institution is being conducted, or a passenger transportation vehicle owned by the institution." Open carry of handguns (or other firearms) on a college campus continues to be prohibited under Texas Law.

WEAPONS PROHIBITION POLICY

General Policy

This policy applies to all persons entering property owned or leased by ETBU (including the main campus and downtown Marshall Grand campus), at all locations where any ETBU-sponsored activity is being conducted, and in all passenger transportation vehicles owned or leased by ETBU.

ETBU aims to provide a safe and secure campus community in which to pursue its mission of Christ-centered education. Therefore, all members of the ETBU community, including faculty, staff, students, and off-campus visitors are prohibited from possessing firearms, explosives, other dangerous weapons and replicas of dangerous weapons (as described in this policy) while on ETBU property, in buildings where an ETBU-sponsored activity is held or within or on ETBU's vehicles. This prohibition against weapons possession is in effect to the fullest extent allowed under Texas laws, including laws pertaining to weapons generally (Texas Penal Code § 46.03) and to concealed handgun licenses (Texas Penal Code § 46.035). The only exceptions to this weapons prohibition are those authorized in writing by the Office of the President and those exceptions mandated by law.

Any ETBU student, faculty member, staff member or contracted service provider violating this policy is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, dismissal or termination of employment. When appropriate, anyone, including off-campus guests, violating this policy may also be subject to removal from the campus, prohibition from the campus, and/or criminal prosecution.

ETBU expects all members of the campus community to help safeguard the community by reporting promptly to University Security, Office of Student Affairs, and/or Office of the President any weapons discovered to be present on campus. Persons should report any concerns about violations of this policy to the Director of University Security, Vice President for Student Affairs, Vice President for Enrollment and Administrative Affairs, Dean of Students, Director of University Operations, or supervisor. Any person concerned about an imminent threat of violence on University property or at a University-sponsored event should report the concern immediately to University Security at 903-923-2323 or dial 911 for the Marshall Police Department.

Definitions and Descriptions

As used in this policy, the term "weapon" encompasses any object or substance designed to inflict a wound, incapacitate or cause injury, and includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- firearms, including, without limitation, rifles, shotguns, handguns, BB or pellet guns, compressed-air guns, stun guns, paintball or airsoft guns;
- ammunition, including materials for making ammunition;

- explosive material, including bombs, grenades, rockets and fireworks;
- chemical weapons (other than small chemical dispensers sold commercially for personal protection, such as pepper spray);
- daggers, swords, spears, knives with blades longer than 5½ inches, switchblades, butterfly knives and other bladed weapons (including those intended for ceremonial or decorative uses);
- slingshots, bows and arrows, clubs, blackjacks, nightsticks, hunting or martial arts weapons;
- weapons prohibited by Texas Penal Code Chapter 46 (which includes a variety of firearms, handguns, zip guns, clubs, knives, fake bombs, explosive weapons and components of explosives that are possessed with the intent to create an explosive weapon);
- other dangerous weapons, especially those intended for warfare, combat or hunting; and
- replicas or other objects that are made to look like actual weapons and could reasonably be mistaken by community members or police officers as actual weapons (including toy, fake or facsimile weapons).

Any questions about whether an item may constitute a “weapon” addressed by this policy should be directed to the University Security Department or the Office of Student Affairs.

The term “possession” includes, but is not limited to, having the weapon on one’s person or storing the weapon in workplaces, residential facilities, lockers, desks, briefcases, any type of carrying bags or containers, or in vehicles on University property.

Exceptions to the Policy

The only exceptions to this prohibition on possession or storage of weapons at ETBU are the following:

- State law (Texas Labor Code § 52.061) permits employees (including ETBU employees) who hold concealed handgun licenses and lawfully possess a firearm or ammunition, to store or transport the firearm or ammunition in a locked, privately owned vehicle in a parking lot, garage or other parking area that the employer provides to the employee. This permission extends only to employees and not to visitors or contracted service providers; it pertains only to locked, privately owned vehicles in ETBU parking facilities and does not extend to ETBU-owned vehicles.
- In addition, state law (Texas Government Code § 411.2032) permits persons who hold concealed handgun licenses (including enrolled ETBU students) to store or transport firearms

Implementation

Persons licensed by the state to carry concealed handguns may not bring such weapons into any area not permitted by law, such as ETBU buildings or residences, and they should instead store their weapons in a secure manner that does not violate state law or this policy.

ETBU does not provide storage of personal firearms.

University classes, clubs and other sponsored activities that will be using items included in the definition of “weapons” (such as classes using martial arts weapons or theatrical productions using fake guns) must, prior to any use, obtain written permission from the University President to use weapons as part of the activity. It is important that University Security be notified in advance of any weapons (including replicas or facsimiles) that are being used on the campus, even in university-sponsored activities, in order to avoid misunderstandings with University Security, local law enforcement, campus officials, and to permit ETBU to respond appropriately to any reports regarding the weapons. Any weapons permitted as part of university-sanctioned events must be stored in the location designated in the written permission obtained from the University President.

Responsible Officer

The responsible officer for this policy is the University President.