

POLICY

FIREARMS	The College District prohibits the use, possession, or display of a firearm on College District property or at a College District-sponsored or -related activity in violation of law and College District regulations. Restrictions as defined in this policy shall not apply to commissioned peace officers as defined in Texas Code of Criminal Procedures.
OPEN CARRY	All persons, including license holders, are prohibited from openly carrying a handgun on campus.
CONCEALED CARRY	The College District is committed to providing a safe environment for its students, employees and visitors and to respecting the right of individuals licensed to carry a handgun in the state of Texas. Individuals licensed to carry may do so on the College District's campuses, except where prohibited by law or this policy and the implementing administrative regulations. License holders will not be subject to discriminatory conduct for lawfully expressing their right to carry.
DEFINITIONS	
"CAMPUS"	"Campus" means all land and buildings owned or leased by the College District.
"CONCEALED CARRY"	"Concealed Carry" means a handgun not openly discernable to the ordinary observation of a reasonable person.
"HANDGUN"	"Handgun" means any firearm that is designed, made, or adapted to be fired with one hand.
"LICENSED HOLDER"	"Licensed Holder" means a person licensed to carry a handgun under Chapter 411 of the Texas Government Code.
"ON OR ABOUT THEIR PERSON"	"On or about their person" with respect to a license holder carrying a handgun means close enough that the license holder can grasp it without materially changing position.
GENERAL PROVISIONS	<p>License holders who carry a handgun on campus must carry it concealed and on or about their person at all times or secure their handgun in a locked, privately- owned, or leased motor vehicle.</p> <p>As an exception to the requirement that license holders carry a concealed handgun on or about the person while on campus, college employees who are license holders and have an office solely assigned to them, may securely lock their gun in a desk drawer or filing cabinet within the office. When leaving the office, the license holder must take the gun with them so as to not leave it unattended. This provision is not an exception to the prohibition against an improper display of a handgun.</p>

License holders are responsible for safeguarding their handguns at all times, and must take all necessary precautions to ensure their handguns are secured in a manner that is most likely to prevent theft, loss, damage or misuse. The College will not provide general storage or secured storage areas or facilities for license holders.

A license holder who carries a handgun on campus must carry it in a holster that completely covers the trigger and 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. A holstered handgun may be carried in a backpack or handbag, but the backpack or handbag must be on or about their person.

An employee who is a license holder may carry a concealed handgun into his or her work area, unless prohibited by law or under this policy, but is not authorized by the College District to use the handgun in the course and scope or performing his or her duties.

License holders are not required to disclose their status as a license holder to College District employees. Only a law enforcement officer may ask a license holder to show proof of license.

EXCLUSION BY
LAW

A license holder is prohibited from carrying a concealed handgun onto campus where prohibited by law.

ADDITIONAL
EXCLUSIONARY
ZONES

The College President is the only person with the authority to declare a specific premise or venue as an exclusionary zone. Therefore, except as written herein, without the express written consent of the College President, no faculty member, staff member, student or student group may exclude a specific venue as "off limits."

After consultation with the College District's students, faculty, employees and other members of the College District community, exclusionary zones shall include the following, as more specifically approved by the College President in administrative regulations or as temporary exclusionary zones in accordance with this policy:

1. All commencement ceremonies;
2. Performance venues during public or large events on a case-by-case basis if a temporary designation is obtained from the College President;
3. Any location where student or employee discipline or grievance proceedings are being conducted;
4. Laboratories with extremely dangerous chemicals, biologic agents, or explosive agents, and areas with equipment that is

SITE MANAGEMENT
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incompatible with metallic objects such as magnetic resonance imaging machines.

5. Specific areas designated by the College President for faculty and staff to meet with one another or students regarding student conduct, grades, or other college matters.
6. Any location where patient care is being provided, including any professional mental health services.
7. Any premises on which a program, activity, or camp is being conducted specifically for minors are exclusionary zones.

TEMPORARY
EXCLUSIONARY
ZONES

Other specific premises or venues may be declared as temporary exclusionary zones by the College President. Adoption of a premise or venue as a temporary exclusionary zone under this section of this policy must be reasonably justified in accordance with the law and principals of this policy. The College President shall consider requests made by members of the College District community and third parties that are leasing or using the campus. Any requestor of a temporary exclusionary zone must provide evidence that a concealed handgun on that particular premise or venue creates some special danger. Any requests for a temporary exclusion must be provided in writing to the College President at least 60 days prior to the date of the event, unless the College President determines that specific circumstances make such notice impractical, in which case advanced notice must be reasonable under the circumstances. The College President shall provide notice to the Board as soon as reasonably practical regarding the approval of any temporary exclusionary zone. The College President may seek Board approval of a request for a temporary exclusionary zone.

REQUESTS FOR
EXCLUSIONARY
ZONES

To assist in the process of approving exclusions, the College Safety and Security Committee shall be charged with investigating requests for exclusions and making recommendations to the College President.

NOTICE

The College Security Department shall be responsible for posting signs for exclusionary zones, including any temporary exclusionary zone after receiving notice of approval of any temporary exclusionary zone by the College President or designee. Notice shall also be provided on the College District's website and as otherwise determined by the College President.

OTHER WEAPONS
PROHIBITED

The College District prohibits the use, possession, or display of any illegal knife, club, or prohibited weapon, as defined by law, on College District property or at a College District-sponsored or -related activity, unless written authorization is granted in advance by the College President or designee.

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Additionally, the following weapons are prohibited on College District property or at any College District-sponsored or -related activity:

1. Fireworks of any kind;
2. Incendiary devices;
3. Instruments designed to expel a projectile with the use of pressurized air, like a BB gun;
4. Razors;
5. Chains; or
6. Martial arts throwing stars.

The possession or use of articles not generally considered to be weapons may be prohibited when the College President or designee determines that a danger exists for any student, College District employee, or College District property by virtue of possession or use.

VIOLATIONS

Individuals who violate this policy or the related administrative regulations are subject to disciplinary action by the College District, up to and including termination or non-renewal of employment, dismissal from the College District and termination of a business relationship, and also may be subject to criminal prosecution. [See DH, FM, and FMA]

APPEALS

Student complaints resulting from actions taken under this policy will be considered under FLD (LOCAL). Employee grievances resulting from actions taken under this policy will be considered under DGBA (LOCAL).