Campus Carry: The Basics
August 1, 2017
Objective

The purpose of this presentation is to give the Lone Star College community an overview of Texas gun laws affecting campus life.
Overview

Just like a person with a driver’s license is expected to know the rules of the road in each state he or she drives through, it is the responsibility of the handgun license holder to understand the rules and regulations associated with his or her License To Carry (LTC).
Quick Facts

- A LTC holder is not required to show his or her license unless directed by a law enforcement officer.

- Starting August 1, 2017, a LTC holder may carry his or her firearm into campus buildings unless it is part of an “exclusion zone” that has been identified by Lone Star College policy or State or Federal law. These exclusion zones are clearly marked.

- A LTC holder who chooses to carry is personally responsible for any injury or damage as a result of the use of his/her handgun.
Campus Carry: The Basics

Quick Facts

- Concealed carry by an LTC holder is allowed, but open carry is still illegal.

- Only the concealed carry of handguns are allowed. Rifles, shotguns, and knives with a blade longer than 5.5 inches are illegal.

- Handgun must be carried concealed and in a holster.

- Accidental or negligent discharge of a handgun by any employee or student may be cause for disciplinary action, up to and including termination (for employees) and expulsion (for students). There may also be criminal action taken if applicable.
This presentation is divided into different sections for your convenience. Click one of the buttons below to go directly to that section. Click the “back’ button on the bottom right corner to return to this directory.

- Definitions
- Background and history of “Campus Carry”
- Open vs. Concealed Carry
- Where you can and can’t carry on our campus
- Specific Information for License to Carry (LTC) Holders
- Additional Resources
### Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word/Phrase</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>License to Carry (LTC)</td>
<td>Formerly called Concealed Handgun License (CHL). A person with a LTC has gone through a background check, fingerprinting, and has taken a handgun class. They must be age 21 or older (or honorably served in the United States military).</td>
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<td>Handgun</td>
<td>A type of firearm designed, made, or adapted to be fired with one hand.</td>
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<td>Gun safe</td>
<td>A lockable storage area designed to secure firearms.</td>
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<td>Holster</td>
<td>A holder made for firearms. Holsters should completely cover the trigger and the entire trigger guard area and have sufficient tension or grip on the handgun to retain it, even when subjected to unexpected jostling.</td>
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Texas Senate Bill 11, 84th Legislature (SB 11) is also called the “campus carry” law. It was passed in 2015 and became effective on August 1, 2016 for four year schools and August 1, 2017 for two year schools. It allows for the carrying of concealed handguns by License to Carry (LTC) holders on all public university and college campuses.

Prior to this law, concealed handguns could be carried on campus grounds, but not in campus buildings.

*Note: This law does not apply to police officers. Police officers have been, and will continue to be, allowed to carry their firearms (concealed or unconcealed) in all campus buildings regardless of exclusion zones.*
Background of Campus Carry

SB 11 Allows LTC Holders to Carry Concealed Handguns on all LSC Campuses

The law says the college must allow concealed handguns to be carried by a LTC holder on campus. The president of each college may make reasonable rules regarding concealed carry on campus, including where handguns may not be carried, as long as it does not “generally prohibit or have the effect of generally prohibiting the carrying of a handgun by a LTC holder”. In an effort to be uniform across the System, LSC’s campus carry rules will come from the Office of the Chancellor.
Background of Campus Carry

Creating Rules for Campus Carry

Areas where handguns may not be carried address specific safety considerations and are called “exclusion zones.” These are outlined in the “where you can and can’t carry” section of this presentation.

Every legislative year, LSC will submit a report to the legislature describing its rules (in particular its exclusion zones) and explain the reasons for each rule.

Again, the rules cannot “generally prohibit or have the effect of generally prohibiting the carrying of a handgun by a LTC holder”.
Background of Campus Carry

Campus Carry Across the United States

In addition to Texas, other states such as Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Mississippi, Oregon, Utah, and Wisconsin have “campus carry” laws.

23 other states have legislation where schools can choose whether to allow or ban concealed carry.

Some have had campus carry laws in place for many years.
Between 4-5% of the State of Texas adult population has a license to carry.

2/3 of the LTC holders are over the age of 40.

Source:
http://www.dps.texas.gov/RSD/CHL/Reports/2015Calendar/byAge/9LicenseApplicationsIssued.pdf
Background of Campus Carry

Lone Star College’s Commitment

We are committed to providing a safe environment for our students, faculty, staff, and visitors while respecting the individual rights of those who are licensed to carry a concealed handgun.

We must comply with the law while not compromising the nature of the teaching and learning environments on our campuses.
Open Carry vs. Concealed Carry

There were two different handgun laws passed during the same legislative session and they are often confused. Here are some differences between the two laws:

**Open Carry**

The handgun can be seen in the “open” in a holster outside the clothing.

Per House Bill 910, this is now legal for LTC holders, **EXCEPT** on college campuses.

**Concealed Carry**

The handgun is not visible. (Per statute, as long as the handgun is covered, it is legally concealed, even if one can see the outline of the gun through the clothing.)

Per Senate Bill 11, this style of carry is now legal for LTC holders on college campuses.
Campus Carry: The Basics

Open Carry vs. Concealed Carry

Open Carry

Not allowed on campus

Concealed Carry

Allowed by LTC holders on campus
Open Carry vs. Concealed Carry

Signage

There are different signs that may be displayed when a firearm is not allowed on a site.

Since open carry is not allowed on campuses, 30.07 (Open Carry Prohibited) signs will be on every campus building’s exterior entry door.
Background of Campus Carry
Open vs. Concealed Carry Signage

30.06 (Concealed Carry Prohibited) signs will be posted at the entrance of all exclusion zones.

The LTC holder is responsible for knowing where a handgun can and cannot be carried.
Open Carry vs. Concealed Carry

Open Carry of Firearms on Campus

Because open carry is not allowed on campus, the campus community is instructed to do the following immediately upon seeing any firearm on campus not being carried by a police officer:

- Contact LSC Police immediately
  - 281-290-5911 OR x5911 from campus phone
  - LSC Police is on duty 24/7/365
- Provide description of the person: what they were doing, their location, the direction they were headed, etc.
- Do not confront the individual
- Avoid escalating the situation
LTC holders are responsible for knowing where they can and cannot carry a handgun. When displaying proper signage, there are certain places where carrying a handgun is prohibited by law, such as:

- Church, synagogue, or other established place of worship
- Correctional facility
- Courthouse or place where formal hearings are conducted
- Amusement park or athletic arena
- Patient-care areas, like a clinic, hospital or mental health facility
- ...and more
Lone Star College Exclusion Zones

LSC’s policy creates “exclusion zones” where the carrying of a concealed handgun is prohibited.

LSC campuses have a variety of facilities. Sometimes only a portion of a building may be excluded. Sometimes the exclusion zones are temporary.

LSC will make a determined effort to educate the public about where these exclusion zones are located.
Permanent Exclusion Zones at Lone Star College include:

- Any child care facilities on campus. For example: YMCA locations or Day Care Centers.
- Any laboratory areas on campus that:
  - have gases that are corrosive, reactive, flammable, toxic, and/or oxidizers,
  - have equipment that is incompatible with metallic objects
- Any area on campus that requires the changing of clothes.
- Any area that is a live surgical theatre or treats patients.
Permanent Exclusion Zones at Lone Star College - continued:

- Any area exclusively used for high school or programs for minors. For example: iSchool or Children’s Libraries
- A private office, if the sole occupant of that office chooses to prohibit the concealed carry of a handgun. However, the office space must:
  - Be assigned to only one person
  - Not be generally open to the public
  - Have a 30.06 sign posted
  - Have a designated alternate non-exclusion zone space for meetings upon request.
Where You Can and Can’t Carry

Lone Star College Exclusion Zones

Temporary Exclusion Zones at Lone Star College can be designated based upon the purpose of a space at a given time. The locations will be marked with appropriate signage when they are active exclusion zones. Examples include:

- When an area is being used as a polling place.
- When an area is being used for formal hearings.
- When an area is being used for an athletic or performing arts event.
Specific Information for License to Carry Holders

- The LTC holder who chooses to carry a concealed handgun on campus is responsible for knowing where a handgun can and cannot be carried.

- Employees who do not follow LSC policy are subject to discipline up to and including termination.

- Students who do not follow LSC policy are subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.

- Accidental or negligent discharge of a firearm is also cause for discipline up to and including termination for employees and up to and including expulsion for students. There may also be criminal action taken if applicable.
Specific Information for License to Carry Holders

- LTC holders are not police officers. LTC holders should not inject themselves into a police matter or try to assist the police unless a police officer instructs them to do so.

- If exposed to an active shooter or other threat, LTC holders should not try to assist the police unless a police officer instructs them to do so.

- An LTC holder brandishing a weapon in a police situation in an attempt to help the police could be mistaken for the assailant.

- LTC holders are personally responsible, both criminally and civilly, for any use of their firearm. Lone Star College and Lone Star College Office of General Counsel will not provide legal assistance or advice.
Specific Information for License to Carry Holders

- Storage of handguns is prohibited on campus. Guns carried by LTC holders should always be on or about their person. See definition of “on or about person” on the next slide.

- Gun lockers or safes will not be provided by the college. If someone needs to enter an exclusion zone, the person must secure his/her handgun in his/her vehicle or at off-campus private property.

- LTC holders who carry a concealed handgun on campus must not display the gun unless it is intended to be lawfully used.

- LTC holders are urged not to discuss their LTC status or the fact that they are carrying a handgun (unless asked by the police).
Specific Information for License to Carry Holders

On or About Person Defined

The LTC holder who chooses to carry on campus must keep the handgun “on or about their person”.

This means the handgun must be close enough that the LTC holder can grasp it without materially changing position. The LTC holder must be able to possess the handgun without taking a step and without the possibility of someone possessing it before the LTC holder can.
Specific Information for License to Carry Holders

On or About Person Defined

One method of “on or about person” carry is in the LTC holder’s waistband or pocket in a holster.

Another, is in the LTC holder’s backpack or purse (also in a holster), but this is only “on or about person” if the backpack or purse remains close and within the LTC holder’s immediate reach.
Additional Resources

Lone Star College Campus Carry Website:
- www.lonestar.edu/campuscarry

Lone Star College Police Department:
- 24 Hour Dispatch Center: 281-290-5911
- Website: www.lonestar.edu/police
- See Something, Say Something

Texas Department of Public Safety Handgun License Website:
- www.dps.texas.gov/rsd/chl/

Lone Star College System Policy Manual:
- www.lonestar.edu/policy.htm
Thank You!

Lone Star College
5000 Research Forest Drive, The Woodlands TX 77381
LoneStar.edu/campuscarry