Creating and maintaining a welcoming environment for the campus community and all visitors is our top priority at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). Beginning August 1, 2016, individuals with a Texas concealed handgun license (CHL) will be allowed to carry concealed handguns on the UTEP campus. As a public university in Texas, UTEP has an obligation to follow any and all state laws and will continue to do so unless changes are mandated through the legislative process of the State of Texas.

**What is concealed carry?**

The Texas Department of Public Safety defines a concealed handgun as a handgun, the presence of which is not openly discernible to the ordinary observation of a reasonable person. This same definition is utilized at UTEP. At all times, the handgun must be on or about the license holder’s body or secured and concealed safely. An individual’s right to carry a concealed handgun is governed by specific legislative and institutional requirements.

- [Eligibility requirements on the Texas Department of Public Safety website](#)
- [UTEP’s Handbook of Operating Procedures, Campus Carry](#)

**Is concealed carry allowed throughout campus?**

University presidents have been given the authority to enact “reasonable rules and regulations” pertaining to campus carry but the rules may not either “generally prohibit” or “have the effect of generally prohibiting” license holders from carrying concealed handguns on campus. UTEP has identified a number of exclusion areas where handguns will not be permitted, including but not limited to:

- University Child Care Center
- Patient Care Facilities
- Select Research Labs
- Intercollegiate Athletic Events
- Miner Canyon and Miner Heights Residence Halls

- [Complete list of UTEP areas exempt from concealed carry as laid out by state law and institutional policy](#)

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**What are my responsibilities as a CHL holder while at UTEP?**

Individuals who are licensed and desire to carry a concealed handgun on campus are responsible for knowing where their handguns are at all times and which locations on campus are exclusion areas. Individuals must also make appropriate decisions relating to gun storage when the handgun is not “on or about their body” and in their direct control.

The concealed carry law does not require institutions to provide storage units or other similar accommodations to license holders. Existing lockers, cabinets, closets and furnishings are property of UTEP and do not meet the definition of providing safe storage and cannot be used to safely store a handgun. At all times, the responsibility for maintaining ownership and control of a concealed handgun rests with the holder. When not in the direct possession of the license holder, handguns must be concealed and locked in the owner’s private automobile or safely and securely stored by other means.

**What do I do if I see a handgun or other type of weapon at UTEP?**

Call the University Police at 747-5611 or dial 911 if you see any individual on campus with a handgun or other type of weapon. University Police will respond and resolve the situation appropriately. Violations of the concealed carry policy will be adjudicated through the campus conduct process and/or the legal system.

Additional information is available at [www.utep.edu/campuscarry](http://www.utep.edu/campuscarry).