

WHAT IS GUN FREE UT?

Gun Free UT is a grassroots organization of UT faculty, staff, students, alumni, family, and community members committed to preserving the University of Texas-Austin as a safe and welcoming institution of higher learning. We are fighting against SB11, the "campus carry" law that allows license holders who are 21 or older to carry concealed handguns on university campuses starting August 1, 2016

Gun Free UT agrees with President Fenves, Chancellor McRaven, and the thousands of UT faculty, staff, students, parents and alumni who have protested SB11: Guns do not belong on this or any other campus. Our mission is to educate the community about the realities of gun violence and gun safety in the hopes of overturning SB11 and all other laws that permit weapons on campus. Hook 'em, don't shoot 'em!

Where Handguns Are Allowed

- Handguns are allowed in classrooms, dining halls, offices and common areas in dormitories.
- License holders who bring a handgun to campus must keep it on their persons at all times.
- The gun must be holstered, the safety must be on, and the trigger must be covered.
- Handguns must be carried without a chambered round of ammunition.

Where Handguns Are Prohibited

- Handguns are prohibited in residence halls, except in common areas. Parents and visitors to residence halls may carry licensed handguns there.
- Handguns are prohibited where there are K-12 students present. Adults who work with children 18 or younger on campus are prohibited from carrying a handgun around them.
- Handguns are prohibited at polling places, government courts or student disciplinary hearings.
- Handguns are prohibited at athletic events.
- Handguns are prohibited in health care facilities.
- Handguns are prohibited in areas where dangerous chemicals or equipment are present, and in animal research facilities.

Where Handguns *May Be* Prohibited

- Private businesses operating on campus may post a sign prohibiting handguns on their premises.
- University employees with private offices may prohibit handguns in their offices if they post a sign pursuant to the regulations outlined in SB11. Note: Office space in gun-exclusion zones will be made available to employees who do not have their own offices.

Source: campuscarry.utexas.edu

Our purpose:

- To urge Chancellor McRaven and the UT System administration to adopt the most restrictive implementation of SB11 possible. No guns in classrooms, offices, or dormitories.
- To work to repeal of SB11.
- To make UT-Austin a completely gun-free campus and a safe place for free inquiry

Get armed...with reason:

Concealed carry permits do not decrease crime: There is no statistically significant correlation between changes in concealed carry licensing and crime rates. Armed citizens rarely successfully defend themselves in mass shootings or during other crimes; instead, in a number of mass shooting events, an armed citizen nearly endangered other bystanders. (Phillips 2015, *Journal of Criminology*; everytown.org)

Suicide is the second-leading cause of death among young people ages 15 to 24. But college student suicide rates have actually been lower than the general population since 1960 because firearms were effectively banned from campuses. (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention; Schwartz 2006, *Journal of American College Health*)

The majority of Texans are opposed to Campus Carry: 63% are opposed to allowing college students to carry concealed handguns onto college campuses. 72% are opposed to allowing college students to bring concealed handguns into the classroom. (March 2015 SurveyUSA News Poll)

The High Costs of Campus Carry: The UT System says it will pay more than \$39 million to further train campus police, add personnel, build gun storage facilities, purchase equipment and signage, and update security systems. (*Houston Chronicle*, Feb 2015)

Guns have a chilling effect on the free speech and free discourse that are the core of UT's mission. Students must feel comfortable asking questions and discussing complex, charged topics. Faculty and staff must be able to challenge students to engage with difficult subjects. Family members need to be confident that UT is protecting their loved ones. Guns in classrooms and offices erode the foundation of higher education.

We are already seeing the fallout from the impending implementation of SB11. The Dean of our nationally celebrated UT School of Architecture stepped down, as have several professors, all citing campus carry as a reason for their departure. Numerous top academic hires and outstanding graduate students have turned down offers from UT-Austin or withdrawn from consideration because of campus carry. More than a few out-of-state students are transferring, while greater numbers are choosing not to apply. Even in-state families are seeking other options.

Losing even one professor or student because of campus carry is one too many.

What you can do:

- Join more than 1,700 faculty members and thousands of staff, students, parents and alumni who have signed petitions against guns on our campus at: gunfreeut.org
- Add your name to our mailing list to receive updates at: tinyurl.com/gunfreeut-list
- Tell us your story of how an experience you've had on campus could have turned dangerous or deadly if someone had had a gun at: tinyurl.com/gunfreeconcerns
- Connect with us at: gunfreeut.org, Facebook (Gun-Free UT), Twitter (@gunfreeut)