

Odessa College Campus Carry Policy

General Policies

Policy - No Gun Storage Provided by Odessa College

Relevant Laws, Regulation and/or links

[The Texas Government, Subchapter H, Section 411.188.4:](#)

Nature of Student Population

The student population of license holders does not differ from those in the general population in that both must meet the same requirements to obtain a license and safely store their weapons.

Specific Safety Considerations

Texas Government Code Section 411.188 requires that license holders are taught proper handgun storage. Providing handgun storage on campus would raise issues regarding cost, availability, security, privacy, and liability.

Unique Environment

Since the College campuses are expansive and have many separated areas and buildings, one centralized storage area is not feasible. Multiple storage locations would be needed and would be very expensive to establish and maintain.

Policy - Discretionary Authority

Information/Background

At the discretion of the President, concealed carry of a handgun by a license holder may be prohibited on other Odessa College premises associated with temporary events involving safety considerations. There may be unique, temporary, or unforeseen circumstances wherein the carrying of a concealed handgun would pose safety concerns. Other colleges and universities, in states that allow the concealed carry of a handgun on the campus of a public university, have incorporated language in their policies that allow the appropriate authorities to establish areas on campus where concealed carry is prohibited when the nature of a particular academic setting or event would create a safety concern relative to the presence of a concealed handgun. This discretionary authority is consistent with Texas Government Code Section 411.2031 (d-1), that allows the president or other officer to amend the provisions as necessary for campus safety.

Unique Environment

Odessa College offers a broad curriculum that requires unique classroom and lab environments. The campuses host events that allow interactions with the broader community and many guests come on each campus daily. This discretionary authority will allow for flexibility in addressing safety concerns in circumstances that may not be foreseen in the pre-implementation phase of this new legislation.

Policy - Appropriate notice and signage will be provided by the University as required by Texas law.

Policy - License

A license holder must carry a concealed handgun on or about the license holder's person. For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "on or about the license holder's person" is defined as carrying a handgun in a manner such that it must be close enough to the license holder that he or she can grasp it without materially changing position.

Service, Events, Minor Children

The Children's Center

Information/Background

The Children's Center provides a model early education and childcare program for students, staff, faculty, and the community. It serves infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services prohibits firearms on the premises of a licensed childcare facility.

Relevant Laws, Regulations and/or Links

[Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Child Care Licensing Division: Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers, Sec. 746.3707, Subchapter S, Division 1 \(PDF\)](#). [Child Care Services \(CCS\)](#), and the [USDA Child Care and Adult Care Food Program \(CACFP\)](#).

Nature of Student Population

The client population consists of infants, toddlers, and pre-school age children. This population presents unique safety concerns.

Specific Safety Considerations

Young children may exhibit behaviors that are unpredictable and aggressive. Armed adults in the Children's Center will increase the risk of an accidental discharge.

Unique Environment

Not all Colleges operate a Child Development Center. Moreover, the state recognizes the uniqueness of the environment and state licensure regulations prohibit weapons in licensed child-care facilities.

Early College High School

Information/Background

Odessa College has an early college high school located in the OC Techs building. Firearms are prohibited in designated K-12 settings. This building area is specific to OC Tech Students and the open license to carry is prohibited.

Relevant Laws, Regulations and/or Links

[Texas Penal Code Section 46.03 and 46.035 \(PDF\)](#)

Nature of Student Population

All students are 9th-12th grade High School students and employees are members of ECISD

Unique Environment

This building is specific for the early college high school setting; there are no rational college classes or activities held in this building.

Healthcare Services

Health Services**Building**

The Student Health Center- Spur Building

Rooms

Spur Building-Offices 140-148

Information/Background

Odessa College Student Health Center provides healthcare services to college students.

Relevant Laws/Regulations and/or Links

[Gen. Government Code 411.172. Although it does not qualify as a hospital, many of the same safety concerns prohibiting handguns at such facilities apply. The Centers are nationally accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc. \(AAAHC\).](#)

Nature of Student Population

All students are eligible to receive services at the Student Health Centers.

Specific Safety Considerations

The nature of the student population served and diversity of services provided raise concerns about the fear of injury to self and others in the Student Health Centers. The combination of mental health services and the ability to prescribe and dispense pharmaceutical medications creates additional concerns. The law does not provide a mechanism, nor would it be safe or appropriate, for a mental health provider to require that a handgun be relinquished after a diagnosis is made.

Unique Environment

The Student Health Centers serve students suffering from psychological, as well as alcohol and other drug abuse disorders that can lead to threatening behaviors and violence.

Legal, Disciplinary, Counseling

Counseling

Building

Saulsbury Campus Center

Room

2nd Floor-LPC Office Room 211

Information/Background

The second floor of the Saulsbury Campus Center room 211 contains Student Affairs offices that provide sensitive services to vulnerable and potentially volatile populations. The majority of distressed students served in this area have an immediate need for assistance and there is a high density of vulnerable and potentially volatile students served in this area. Distressed students are frequently walked between offices on this floor. It is not unusual for the College Police Department officers to respond to situations involving safety concerns for students and/or staff.

Relevant Laws/Regulations and/or Links

[Gen. Government Code 411.172. Accreditation standards, International Association of Counseling Services. The doctoral internship program is accredited by the American Psychological Association and is a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers.](#)

Nature of Student Population

Services accessible to students on the second floor of the Saulsbury Campus Center include the Licensed Professional Counselor, who treats students for various causes, including mental health and substance abuse.

Specific Safety Considerations

Violations of the code of student conduct are adjudicated. Students often demonstrate high levels of anger and frustration at adjudicatory proceedings. Additionally, populations prone to substance and alcohol abuse can be present at the Alcohol and Drug Compliance Services. Students with mental illness who might present a danger to themselves or others attend the counseling centers. The law does not provide a mechanism, nor would it be safe or appropriate, for a mental health provider to require that a handgun be relinquished after a diagnosis is made.

Unique Environment

The Counseling Center is unique because there is a density of vulnerable, volatile, and distressed students seeking services for which they have an immediate need.

Discipline

Buildings

Premises Used for Disciplinary Action as Defined in Official College Policy Statements

Rooms

Various locations on Odessa College Campuses are used for disciplinary matters, legal and quasi-judicial matters, and legal compliance.

Information/Background

Disciplinary actions can be taken against students, staff, organizations, and faculty members. Adjudication of a disputed matter is done in accord with the processes and procedures required by the applicable College policies. Processes often include quasi-judicial, administrative hearings and dispositions. Disciplinary sanctions vary from verbal warnings to employment termination or student expulsion.

Relevant Laws/Regulations and/or Links

[Texas Penal Code Section 46.03 and 46.035 \(PDF\)](#)

Nature of Student Population

A disciplinary action may be brought against a student, an organization, a staff member, or a faculty member. Disciplinary action involves adjudicatory processes that can include individual and/or group meetings, hearings, mediations, quasi-judicial proceedings, and appellate proceedings.

Specific Safety Considerations

Premises of the College wherein formal disciplinary actions are being conducted are comparable to governmental courts. The Texas Penal Code prohibits carrying weapons in a court. That same rationale provides justification to disallow weapons in matters involving adjudication at the college level.

Unique Environment

Since disciplinary matters, hearings, and legal compliance of faculty, staff, organizations, and students may occur in a variety of locations.

Athletic and UIL Events

Athletic and UIL Events

Buildings

Locations on the Odessa College Campuses Used for Competitive Sporting, NCAA, and UIL Events While Such Events Are Occurring

Rooms

Sports Center, Baseball/Softball Complex; Track and Field Stadium, and other locations where such events are held

Information/Background

Disciplinary actions can be taken against students, staff, organizations, and faculty members. Adjudication of a disputed matter is done in accord with the processes and procedures required by the applicable College policies. Processes often include quasi-judicial, administrative hearings and dispositions. Disciplinary sanctions vary from verbal warnings to employment termination or student expulsion.

Relevant Laws/Regulations and/or Links

Texas Penal Code Section 46.03 and 46.035 (PDF). Texas State's Safety and Security Plan, approved by the NCAA; NCAA rules; and UIL Rules and Regulations (PDF)

Nature of Student Population

Students and the general public, including children, attend these events. UIL events are specifically held for middle and high school aged participants and their guests.

Specific Safety Considerations

Texas law prohibits weapons at athletic and interscholastic events.

Unique Environment

Large capacity sporting events and UIL events, are hosted on both the Odessa College campuses. Said events require that safety and security plans are in place in order to provide a safe environment.

Government Events

Government Events**Buildings**

Locations used for Governmental Meetings

Rooms

Locations on Odessa College Campuses when used for governmental meetings

Information/Background

[Texas law does not allow a license holder to carry a handgun in governmental meeting venues \(Texas Penal Code Section 46.035 Subsection C\)](#)

Relevant Laws/Regulations and/or Links

[Texas Penal Code Section 46.035 Subsection C \(PDF\)](#)

Specific Safety Considerations

At various times in various locations on the Odessa College Campuses governmental meetings are held and under Texas law concealed carry of handguns are not permitted in those locations during the time the governmental meetings are held.
