

University of St. Thomas

WEAPONS POSSESSION

Policy Number: S.02.05

SCOPE

Students

PURPOSE

To establish and publicize rules, regulations and other provisions relating to the prohibition of weapons, including handguns, by students on University premises and at University sponsored events.

POLICY

The University strictly prohibits the use, sale, manufacture, distribution, purchase, transfer, receipt or possession of weapons by students on the University's campus; any grounds or buildings on which an activity sponsored by the University is being conducted; and in any passenger transportation vehicle owned or leased by the University.

The following is also prohibited:

- Use, sale, manufacture, distribution, purchase, transfer, receipt, or possession of weapons while attending classes, and/or while entering or being physically present on the University's premises, including residence halls.
- Students from entering University premises or reporting for class while in possession of weapons.

Weapons include firearms, knives with a blade longer than three inches (with the exception of knives designed for food preparation, used in a cooking area), explosive materials, or any other object that could be used to harass, intimidate, or injure another individual, student, faculty or non-faculty member, volunteer, manager, or supervisor.

The University reserves the right, with cause, to conduct searches and inspections of students and/or their personal effects, lockers, desks, and/or other containers located on University premises. This includes University vehicles wherever located. Entry onto University premises or attendance at an activity sponsored by the University constitutes consent to such searches or inspections. The purposes of such searches or inspections under this policy are to determine whether any student is in possession of weapons.

Searches will be conducted by authorized law enforcement officers. Authorizations may come from the Chief of Police, the President or the respective Vice President or their designees, or by a certified law enforcement officer in instances of clear and present imminent danger.

A student's refusal to submit to such searches may result in disciplinary action that can include any of the full range of sanctions as cited in the Code of Student Conduct, including suspension or expulsion.

TEXAS PENAL CODE

This policy is not intended to prohibit the storage or transport of a firearm or ammunition that a student is authorized by law to possess in a locked, privately owned or leased motor vehicle by a student who holds a license to carry a handgun under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code and lawfully possesses the firearm or ammunition: on a street or driveway located on the campus of the University; or in a parking

lot, parking garage, or other parking area located on the campus of the University.

Students are prohibited from entering University property with a concealed handgun or a handgun that is carried openly. By entering onto University premises or attendance at an activity sponsored by the University, students acknowledge the following notice with respect to such premises and property:

PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.06, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN.

PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.07, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH AN OPENLY CARRIED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A HANDGUN THAT IS CARRIED OPENLY.

QUESTIONS

Students having questions concerning this policy should contact the Office of Student Affairs at 713-525-3570.

APPROVED: Dr. Robert Ivany

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 22, 2017