

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
Concealed Handgun Carry on Campus
Information for Faculty and Staff

Safety is our top priority

The Arkansas State University System is dedicated to providing an educational and social climate that is safe for its students, employees, and visitors. Individuals who are properly licensed to carry a concealed handgun may do so on campus except in locations and at activities prohibited by law or as is specified in the ASU System Weapons Policy.

Can anyone with a concealed handgun carry license carry on campus?

No. Only a person licensed to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Arkansas who has also obtained the Arkansas State Police-approved enhanced training endorsement may carry a concealed handgun on campus.

Will I encounter certain individuals that openly carry a handgun?

Yes. Law enforcement officers, including University Police, Campus Police, and Public Safety officers may openly carry their service weapon.

Is open carry otherwise allowed on campus?

No. Anyone who sees an openly carried gun by anyone other than law enforcement should call 911.

How does a licensee carry a concealed handgun on campus?

A “concealed handgun” is a handgun that is covered from observation so as to prevent public view. A concealed handgun carry licensee may not carry a handgun openly or in any other manner in which it is visible to ordinary observation or in public view. When carrying a concealed handgun on campus, a licensee must carry a valid concealed handgun carry license (CHCL) with the endorsement and a valid ID and must display both upon demand by a law enforcement officer.

What type of firearm may lawfully be concealed?

A “handgun” is any firearm, other than a fully automatic firearm, with a barrel length of less than twelve inches (12”) that is designed, made, or adapted to be fired with one hand.

Are students allowed to carry a concealed handgun on campus?

Yes, if the enhanced concealed carry licensure requirements are met. Generally, licensees must be 21 years of age or older and meet other eligibility requirements.

Are faculty and staff allowed to carry a concealed handgun on campus?

Yes, if the enhanced concealed carry licensure requirements are met. Faculty and staff are not required to carry a concealed weapon.

What should I do if I’m aware that someone is a concealed handgun carry licensee?

Properly licensed individuals may not be excluded from class or elsewhere on campus because others feel uncomfortable. The act of lawfully carrying a concealed handgun is not in and of itself a disruption of class activity or other university operations.

What are limitations for faculty and staff who are licensees carrying a concealed handgun on campus?

Unless possessing or carrying a handgun is a requirement of an employee's job, (such as a law enforcement officer), possessing or carrying a handgun is a personal choice of the licensee and not a requirement of the employing university or college. A licensee who possesses a concealed handgun in the buildings and on the grounds of the campus at which the licensee is employed is not:

- Acting in the course of or scope of their employment when carrying or using the handgun.
- Entitled to workers' compensation benefits for injuries arising from his or her own negligent acts in possessing or using a concealed handgun.
- Immune from personal liability with respect to possession or use of a concealed handgun.
- Permitted to carry a concealed handgun openly or in any other manner in which the concealed handgun is visible to ordinary observation.

Where may a person authorized to carry on campus store a handgun?

Properly licensed individuals who decide to carry a concealed handgun must plan appropriately for its legal storage. A licensee may store a handgun in his or her own locked and unattended motor vehicle in a publicly owned and maintained parking lot.

- A licensee may not store a handgun in a university or college-operated student dormitory or residence hall.
- A licensee may not store a handgun in a locked office or desk drawer.
- A licensee may not store a handgun in an ASU vehicle.

Where are the areas on campus that carrying a concealed handgun is prohibited?

State law exempts certain areas from concealed handgun carry including:

- Posted firearm-sensitive areas, such as a collegiate athletic event, that have security plans approved by the Arkansas State Police.
- Grievance and disciplinary meetings conducted in accordance with university procedures.
- Daycare facilities.
- Private educational institutions, such as the NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Specifically on the Jonesboro campus, because of Alcohol Beverage Control Board regulations, the following areas are also exempt from concealed handgun carry:

- Centennial Bank Stadium, 2720 A Street
- Convocation Center, 217 Olympic Drive
- Cooper Alumni Center, 2600 Alumni Blvd.
- Fowler Center, 201 Olympic Drive
- Pavilion, 2605 A Street
- Tomlinson Stadium, 208 Olympic Drive

What should I do if I see a handgun and feel threatened?

Any concerns about violations of the concealed handgun carry law should be brought to the immediate attention of the University Police or campus security. Emergencies should be reported to law enforcement by calling 911.

This document is intended to provide general information about Arkansas law concerning the ability of a person to lawfully carry a concealed handgun on ASU System campuses. For specific questions about concealed handgun carry licensing, please contact the Arkansas State Police at 501-618-8000 and see the [Services and Programs section](#) of the Arkansas State Police website.