



Associated Students of the UNIVERSITY of MISSOURI

Campus conceal and carry makes campuses less safe.

- ASUM, which represents 75,000 students statewide, opposes efforts to introduce conceal and carry firearms on college campuses. We defer to **campus law enforcement agencies, which have consistently opposed such measures on the grounds that they encourage individuals with inadequate training to take matters into their own hands.**
- Research demonstrates that right-to-carry laws are associated with increased levels of violent crime. Furthermore, new research on mass shootings between 1966-2016—in which six or more victims were killed—found that only a small fraction of those shootings occurred in fully or partially gun-free zones, contradicting the claim that gun-free zones encourage and attract mass murderers.¹
- Conceal and carry also undermines our goals with respect to suicide and sexual assault prevention:
 - “Research demonstrates that access to firearms substantially increases suicide risks ... as firearms are the most common method of lethal self-harm.” This is particularly harrowing for a population in which suicide is the second leading cause of death, and in which 39 percent of Missouri college students have reported considering in their lifetime.¹
 - We are also concerned by disagreement about the true impact of firearms on other dangerous scenarios, such as domestic and sexual assault. While anecdotes abound about using firearms for self-defense, research suggests that merely having access to a weapon increases the probability of violence. In states where guns are allowed on campus — Colorado and Utah — incidents of forcible rape have increased at a higher rate than the national average.²

¹ John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health: “Firearms on College Campuses: Research Evidence and Policy Implications.” October 15, 2016.

² Women Against Gun Violence: “Guns on Campus.” Link: <http://wagv.org/about-gun-violence/guns-on-campus/>