

## Student Travel

**Original Implementation:** October 23, 2001

**Last Revision:** January 28, 2020

State law requires that all institutions of higher education adopt a policy regulating travel that is undertaken by one or more students presently enrolled at the institution to reach an activity or event that is located more than 25 miles from the institution that is organized and sponsored by the institution and meets certain other criteria.

This policy shall apply if the travel is funded by the university; the travel is undertaken using a vehicle owned or leased by the university; or if the travel is required by a registered SFA student organization to an event that has been organized and sponsored by the university.

### I. Travel funded by the university and/or using university owned or leased vehicles

University policy 16.23, Rental of University Vehicles, governs the use of university owned vehicles and vehicles rented using university funds from a non-university fleet. All of the requirements of that policy, such as driver qualifications and passenger capacity, apply to student travel as addressed in this policy.

Other specific requirements of this policy include:

- a. All occupants must use seat belts, as provided in the vehicle, in the manner recommended by the vehicle manufacturer.
- b. Passengers are limited to the number that can be safely restrained using the available number of seat belts.
- c. Drivers should continually assess their state of alertness and not begin to drive, or not continue driving, if they are fatigued. There are many factors that impact driver fatigue, all affecting drivers differently; but conditions such as hours without sleep, time of the day, road conditions, etc. should be all considered and monitored.
- d. Only drivers meeting the qualifications set forth in policy 16.23 may drive the vehicle. All drivers must be appropriately licensed to drive the vehicle.

### II. Travel by personal vehicle or privately leased vehicle

While the university may not be made aware of trips undertaken by students using their private vehicles, or vehicles privately leased by them, the university will publish the requirements of this policy in publications used by registered student organizations at SFA and will encourage their use in all travel undertaken by students for any trip governed by this policy. All drivers are encouraged to be appropriately licensed and the owner of the vehicle(s) is encouraged to maintain appropriate vehicle insurance as required by law.

This policy will be filed with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board after the approval of any amendment by the Board of Regents.

**Cross Reference:** Tex. Educ. Code § 51.950; Rental of University Vehicles (16.23)

**Responsible for Implementation:** Vice President of Student Affairs

**Contact for Revision:** Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Student Affairs

**Forms:** None

**Board Committee Assignment:** Academic and Student Affairs Committee

**Revision History:**     January 31, 2017  
                              January 28, 2014  
                              January 25, 2011