

Policy III.3000.J, Jurisdiction and Authority

Purpose

This policy establishes the jurisdiction and authority of San Jacinto College Police officers and defines the legal authority under which commissioned peace officers perform law enforcement duties to support the College's mission to provide a safe and secure learning and working environment.

Policy

San Jacinto College commissions licensed peace officers to provide law enforcement services in accordance with applicable federal and state law and Board of Trustees policies.

The primary jurisdiction of officers includes all counties where the College owns, leases, rents, or otherwise controls the property. Within this jurisdiction, officers have all powers, privileges, and immunities granted to Texas peace officers, including the authority to:

- a. Exercise the powers and authority of a Texas peace officer;
- b. Make warrantless arrests as authorized by the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure; and
- c. Enforce traffic laws where authorized by law.

Outside their primary jurisdiction, officers retain authority granted by law when they have been requested to assist, or are assisting, another law enforcement agency in the performance of official duties.

In addition to enforcing applicable federal and state laws, officers are authorized to enforce College rules, regulations, and policies adopted by the Board of Trustees and implemented by the College, as permitted by the Texas Education Code.

All individuals commissioned as San Jacinto College commissioned officers shall take the oath required of peace officers, maintain licensure and certification requirements established by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE), fulfill the duties and responsibilities prescribed by applicable state law and College policies and procedures, and maintain a valid Texas driver's license as a condition of employment.

The Chancellor as the chief executive officer has the authority and responsibility for operations and security for the College's campuses. The Chancellor administers the operations of the police department through the Chief of Police. The Chancellor or designee is responsible for providing day-to-day operational oversight of the police department and ensuring that the operations of the department are efficient, effective, and subject to appropriate internal controls.

Authority

The Board of Trustees is authorized under the Texas Education Code, including Sections 51.203 and 51.210, to establish and maintain a police department and commission licensed peace officers to enforce applicable federal and state laws, as well as College rules and regulations. Commissioned officers shall perform their duties in accordance with the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, applicable state and federal law, Board policy, and College procedures.

Associated Procedures

None

Date of Board Approval	This policy became effective as of August 10, 2026, under the Chancellor's authority granted by the Board under Policy III.2000.A, Policy and Procedure Development, Review, Revision, and Rescission. Permanent affirmation of the change will follow the standard policy review process of two readings at regularly scheduled meetings of the Board with first reading on August 10, 2026, and approval anticipated on September 14, 2026.
Effective Date	This policy became effective as of August 10, 2026, under the Chancellor's authority granted by the Board under Policy III.2000.A, Policy and Procedure Development, Review, Revision, and Rescission. Permanent affirmation of the change will follow the standard policy review process of two readings at regularly scheduled meetings of the Board with first reading on August 10, 2026, and approval anticipated on September 14, 2026.
Primary Owner	Vice Chancellor, Fiscal Affairs
Secondary Owner	Chief of Police