

# Proposal: Install Security Cameras in the UNT AUDB

## Overview

Many public schools and universities across the United States have security cameras installed in and around buildings to promote safety and deter violence. Several buildings on UNT's main campus (for example, the University Union<sup>2</sup>) have cameras for these same reasons. However, the UNT Auditorium-English Building (AUDB) is not one of UNT's well-protected spaces; the AUDB lacks surveillance in and around the building. This proposal recommends enhancing the safety and security of UNT students and faculty by installing surveillance cameras within and around the AUDB.

## Situation

The AUDB is a three-story building along the north edge of the UNT main campus. The facility hosts several English and Technical Communication classes, faculty and staff offices, an instructional support lab, and a full-sized auditorium.

The lack of cameras in the building presents an issue where UNT Police may not be aware of potential crimes or security breaches in the vicinity of the building until long after they've occurred. This absence of surveillance also makes it more difficult to identify suspects of evident crimes in the vicinity.

Currently, the surveillance camera in closest viewing proximity of the AUDB is a 360° camera on the southeast corner of the General Academic Building, located approximately 400 feet from the AUDB (see Figure 1).

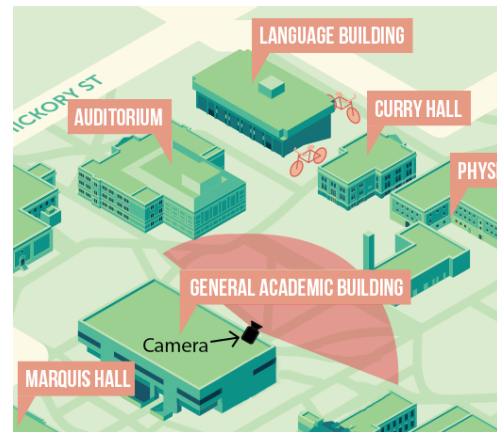


Figure 1: Diagram showing the view radius of the surveillance camera nearest to the AUDB.

## Problem

The Auditorium-English Building faces the intersection of Hickory Street and Fry Street, home to several bars—and several criminal incidents reported within the past year, including gunshots.<sup>1</sup>

Furthermore, classes in the AUDB occur between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. on most weekdays; the lack of surveillance poses a safety concern for students and faculty in and around the building, especially at night.



## Key Players

**UNT English and Technical Communication Students:** Hundreds of students enter and exit the AUSB daily for classes.

**Auditorium-English Building Faculty:** Several faculty and staff members have offices in the AUSB and work in them throughout the day.

**UNT TECM Tech Lab Staff:** The Tech Lab staff are UNT students responsible for operating the Department of Technical Communication's instructional support lab from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. most weekdays. The 3rd-floor lab classrooms are locked and armed overnight, but the student employees who work after dark exit the building unprotected.

**UNT Facilities Department:** Members of the UNT Facilities Department maintain and promote the safety of facilities on UNT campuses.

**UNT Campus Police:** UNT Police is responsible for responding to crime on campus, which should include in and around the AUSB.

**Denton Police Department:** Denton PD responds to crime along Hickory and Fry Street, adjacent to the AUSB.

## Recommendations

For the safety and security of students and faculty in the Auditorium-English Building, we recommend installing at least four surveillance cameras, one in each of the following locations:

1. Facing the main ground-level entrance on the north side of the building
2. Facing the adjacent ground-level doors on the southwest corner of the building
3. Facing the ground-level entrance on the east side of the building
4. Facing the staircase and elevator entrances in the southwest corner of the 3rd floor of the building

If budget allows, additional cameras in the following locations would enhance security in the AUSB:

- On the 2nd floor of the north staircase
- On the 2nd floor of the southwest staircase
- On the 2nd floor of the southeast staircase
- Facing the elevator and vending machine in the southwest corner of the building
- Inside the elevator



## Outcome

Introducing surveillance cameras to the Auditorium-English Building would offer numerous security advantages for UNT faculty and students. Strategic installation of surveillance cameras in key building areas would mean patrons of the AUSB could feel safer, and potential threats could be promptly addressed.

In particular, students and staff exiting the building late at night could gain a heightened sense of security, knowing that law enforcement is actively monitoring the vicinity for suspicious activity. Additionally, in the case of a criminal incident within the AUSB (such as physical assault or active shooting), cameras would aid UNT Police in quickly locating and responding to offenders. Furthermore, due to the AUSB's proximity to Hickory St, Denton PD would obtain an additional investigative resource for events on Hickory & Fry.

Ultimately, adding surveillance cameras to the AUSB would contribute to a safer and more secure learning environment for the UNT community.



## References

- <sup>1</sup>Colombo, B. (2023, April 10). *Report: Victim uninjured after shooting outside Fry Street bar.* Denton Record-Chronicle.  
[https://dentonrc.com/news/crime/blotter/report-victim-uninjured-after-shooting-outside-fry-street-bar/article\\_b203d4de-68da-599b-bda0-bd2416076733.html](https://dentonrc.com/news/crime/blotter/report-victim-uninjured-after-shooting-outside-fry-street-bar/article_b203d4de-68da-599b-bda0-bd2416076733.html)
- <sup>2</sup>University of North Texas. (2023). Section 11.9 - Security System. In *House Guidelines: University Union* (p. 29).  
[https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/sites/default/files/university-union/documents/UnionHouseGuidelines\\_v4\\_Aug19.pdf](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/sites/default/files/university-union/documents/UnionHouseGuidelines_v4_Aug19.pdf).

