

University Policy: Tobacco- and Smoke-Free Policy

Policy Category: Student Policies; Employment, Benefits, and Workplace Policies; Public Safety; Environmental Health and Safety; Health, Wellness and Sustainability

Subject: Prohibition of tobacco products

Responsible Executive: Chief of Staff to the President

Office Responsible for Review of this Policy: Campus Life; Human Resources; Academic Affairs

Related University Policies: Student Conduct Code, WCL Honor Code, Faculty Manual, Staff Manual, Green Building Policy

I. SCOPE

This policy prohibits the use of tobacco products and medical marijuana on property owned, leased, or otherwise controlled or operated by the university including campus owned, leased, or rented vehicles. The policy applies to faculty, staff, students, vendors, guests, and contractors.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

American University is committed to the promotion of a healthy and safe learning, living, and working environment. The university recognizes the increasing weight of scientific evidence that use of tobacco products presents a danger to both the user and those exposed to its use. The U.S. Surgeon General has determined that tobacco use in any form, active or passive, is a significant health hazard; there is no safe level of exposure. It is the policy of American University to achieve an environment that is tobacco - and smoke-free.

III. DEFINITIONS

Tobacco is defined as all tobacco-derived or containing products, including, but not limited to, cigarettes (clove, bidis, kreteks), electronic cigarettes, cigars and cigarillos, hookah-smoked products, and oral tobacco (spit and spit less, smokeless, chew, snuff).

Covered Property is defined as property owned, leased, or otherwise controlled or operated by the university including without limitation vehicles, buildings, grounds, parking lots, garages and other structures.

IV. POLICY

A. General Prohibition

The use of tobacco products is prohibited on Covered Property and in private vehicles while on university property.

B. Exemptions

Exemptions from this policy may be permitted for medical research and theatrical productions. Requests for exemptions must be submitted to Risk Management & Environmental Health and Safety for review. For medical research exemptions, the University must apply for the exemption with the D.C. Department of Health.

C. Designated Smoking Areas

In March 2016 a bus shelter inside of Fletcher's Gate was converted into a designated smoking area. This the only area on campus where smoking is permitted. Smokers are required to utilize smoking waste receptacles and remain in the designated area while smoking.

D. Commercial Properties

Private and commercial tenants of the university will be bound by the terms of their current lease. Lease renewals will include language requiring conformance with this policy within the bounds of DC law.

E. Tobacco Sale/Promotion

All tobacco industry promotions, advertising, marketing, sponsorship, and distribution are prohibited on campus properties and at athletic events. The sale of tobacco products and tobacco-related merchandise (including logo containing items) is prohibited on all university property and at university-sponsored events, regardless of the operating vendor.

F. University Contracts/Contractors

The tobacco-free policy will be referenced in all university contracts and contractors will be expected to fully adhere to the policy.

G. Enforcement

Faculty, staff, and students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action under the Student Conduct Code enforced by the Dean of Students, WCL Honor Code enforced by the WCL Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Staff Personnel Policies Manual enforced by the Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, and/or the Faculty Manual enforced by the Provost, as appropriate.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPROVAL

This policy is effective August 15, 2013.

This policy was reviewed and revised in July 2016.