



The University of Vermont

Policy V. 5.30.1

Responsible Official: Vice President for
University Relations and Administration

Effective Date: August 1, 2015

Tobacco-Free

Policy Statement

This Policy is designed to articulate rationale, general expectations, and restrictions associated with tobacco products and other smoke-producing substances. The use of these products is prohibited on University property.

Reason for the Policy

Cigarette smoking causes more than 480,000 deaths in the United States each year, including an estimated 42,000 deaths from exposure to secondhand smoke. (Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

Cigarette butts, primarily from filtered cigarettes, are believed to be the most common source of litter on the planet, and these non-biodegradable plastic filters contain harmful chemicals and carcinogens. (Source: US Department of Health and Human Services).

Out of concern for the health of our community, the University of Vermont has prohibited the smoking of tobacco products indoors and in proximity to our buildings for more than 30 years. Over this time, multiple studies have clearly shown the adverse impact of tobacco use on our ecosystem, in addition to the well-known destructive health impacts on individuals. At the same time, tobacco-free policies, successfully implemented at hundreds of campuses nationwide, have proven effective in reducing exposure to secondhand smoke while recognizing personal responsibility for societal health and environmental concerns. As a natural outgrowth of UVM's commitment to the environment and to public health, this policy is now extended to include all tobacco products (with the exception of FDA approved smoking cessation products) and encompass all UVM properties.

Applicability of the Policy

This Policy applies to University faculty, students, staff and external persons and entities present on property and facilities owned or leased by UVM, including visitors and individuals providing goods or services to the University.

Policy Elaboration

- 1) All property that is owned or leased by UVM is tobacco-free, including buildings, grounds, roadways, walkways, parking structures and surfaces, as well as University-owned vehicles, regardless of location.
- 2) The University will provide continuing student, faculty, and staff access to multiple smoking cessation programs with free or discounted costs and ongoing, long-term support. Information about these programs may be found at: www.uvm.edu/tobaccofree/quit.
- 3) The Tobacco-Free policy will be communicated on an ongoing basis and will be continually reinforced to all members and guests of the UVM community in a simple and respectful manner.
- 4) Compliance efforts will focus on education and collaboration with campus constituencies. It is expected that peer support, supervisory oversight, and voluntary compliance will lead to behavioral and cultural change, as has occurred at hundreds of institutions that have implemented tobacco-free policies.
- 5) UVM will provide information to assist managers, supervisors, students, faculty and staff with methods to address violations in a respectful manner. As with other University policies and practices, repeat offenders of the policy may be subject to existing disciplinary or other applicable procedures. Problems and chronic violations may be reported to: tobaccofree@uvm.edu.
- 6) Tobacco use is currently permitted on city property, including public streets, sidewalks and greenbelts along the perimeter of UVM property. (Restrictions and notable exceptions exist—including a ban on smoking on the Church Street Marketplace and on school grounds).
- 7) This policy will be evaluated annually for the first three years of its existence, and adjustments will be made as warranted.

Definitions

Tobacco-free: shall be defined as prohibiting the use of all forms of tobacco, and all products derived in whole or in part from tobacco, including e-cigarettes. This encompasses the definition of “smoking,” in the previous policy, which included the burning of any type of lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette, or any other smoking equipment, whether filled with tobacco or any other type of material, including marijuana. (NOTE: The use of FDA approved smoking cessation products such as nicotine gum and patches is permitted).

Procedures

None

Forms

None

Contacts

Questions related to the daily operational interpretation of this policy *by faculty, staff, and non-affiliated organizations* should be directed to:

Office of the Vice President for University Relations and Administration
(802) 656-2992

Questions related to the daily operational interpretation of this policy *by students* should be directed to:

Dean of Students Office
(802) 656-3380

The Vice President for University Relations and Administration is the official responsible for the interpretation and administration of this policy.

Related Documents/Policies

The Tobacco-Free UVM Health Initiative
<http://www.uvm.edu/tobaccofree/>

Effective Date

Approved by the President June 30, 2015