



Tobacco & Smoke Free Community Policy

I. Purpose

The purpose of this proposed policy is to transition Tulane University to a Tobacco and Smoke Free Community, and to promote a healthy campus environment by decreasing community exposure to secondhand smoke and reducing the direct health impacts of tobacco use. This will be accomplished through a phased approach including education/information, increased cessation services, a warning period, and enforcement.

Phase 1. *Education/Information/Cessation*: Will begin after approval and will be an ongoing effort to inform the entire Tulane Community about the policy and its implementation and provide increased cessation services for those interested.

Phase 2. *August 1, 2014, Tulane will become Tobacco and Smoke Free*: All policy violators will be issued warnings and provided information about the policy.

Phase 3. *January 1, 2015, Enforcement of the Policy will Commence*: Fines, conduct and procedures outlined in this document will be implemented.

II. Scope

This policy applies to all Tulane University campus locations, including the Primate Center, Health Sciences Center, Hebert Center, Elmwood, Maple Street, and other remote locations/campuses. Where possible, all tobacco related services prescribed will be provided and replicated, including education and cessation services (some exceptions apply). This policy does not apply to public rights-of-way (sidewalks, streets) on the perimeter of any campus location.

III. Background and Rationale

In 2007, Louisiana took major steps toward addressing the health concerns caused by secondhand smoke by passing the Louisiana Smoke Free Air Act to provide a safe, healthy, tobacco free environment and decreasing exposure to secondhand smoke. More deaths are caused each year by tobacco use than by all deaths from human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), illegal drug use, alcohol use, motor vehicle injuries, suicides, and murders combined (CDC, 2012). Tulane University is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all community members, including students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

By enforcing this policy, Tulane University demonstrates its national leadership in alignment with:

Industry Gold-Standard—The American College Health Association Position Statement on Tobacco on College and University Campuses “encourages colleges and universities to be diligent in their efforts to achieve a 100% indoor and outdoor campus-wide tobacco free environment” (ACHA 2009) and has created objectives for tobacco cessation for students, faculty, and staff in Healthy Campus 2020 documents. As of June 2012, there are 281 completely tobacco free college and university campuses in the United States (American Lung Association).

Improved Public Health—Non-smokers who are regularly exposed to secondhand smoke, including exposure in the workplace, are at one-third higher risk for heart attack and lung cancer (CDC, Smoking & Tobacco Use, 2010). The U.S. Surgeon General has concluded that the only way to fully protect the public from the dangers of secondhand smoke is through 100% smoke free environments (USDHHS 2006).

Reduction of Healthcare Costs—Cigarette smoking accounts for \$96 billion in annual medical spending and \$97 billion in lost productivity at work (US DHHS, 2012). Enacting smoke free policies in public venues, including workplaces, has the potential to save millions of dollars in cardiovascular costs (ACS 2012).

There is no safe form of Tobacco—The makers of smokeless tobacco want people to believe that their products are “safer” than cigarettes and can even be used as an aid in quitting smoking. The fact is that chewing tobacco and snuff contain over 28 cancer-causing agents. The most harmful carcinogens in smokeless tobacco are the tobacco-specific nitrosamines, which are formed during the growing, curing, fermenting, and aging of tobacco. Smokeless tobacco users increase their risk of oral cancer, which can include cancer of the lip, tongue, cheeks, gums, and the floor and roof of the mouth. Some of the other effects of using smokeless tobacco include addiction to nicotine, oral leukoplakia (white mouth lesions that can become cancerous), gum disease, and gum recession (when the gum pulls away from the teeth).

IV. Policy

- A. It is mandatory that faculty, staff, students, and all other individuals affiliated with Tulane University Colleges, departments, units, and/or organizations follow the measures of this policy to support safety and health for the Tulane University Community.
- B. The use of any tobacco product in any form is prohibited on all Tulane University facilities and property effective August 1, 2014. This applies to all students, faculty, staff, visitors, and individuals affiliated with Tulane by contract (including non-employees, such as vendors and independent contractors).

- C. Organizers and attendees at on-campus events such as, but not limited to, conferences, meetings, lectures, social events, cultural events and sporting events using Tulane University facilities will be required to abide by the Tobacco and Smoke Free Community policy. University offices responsible for reserving facilities shall be responsible for informing event organizers of the policy.
- D. Littering the remains of tobacco products or any other disposable tobacco product on campus is prohibited.
- E. All tobacco industry promotions, marketing, distribution, and programs or events that promote the sampling and/or sale of tobacco products and tobacco related merchandise (including logo containing items) are prohibited on all university property and at university and student organization/group sponsored events.
- F. Definitions and Examples
 - a. *Tobacco*: all tobacco-derived or tobacco-containing products. Examples include but are not limited to: cigarettes (clove, bidis, kreteks), cigars and cigarillos, pipe, hookah-smoked products; smokeless tobacco, also known as oral (spit and spitless, dip, snus, chew, snuff, orbs, etc.); vapor emitting and all other types of e-cigarettes.
 - b. *University business or event*: university-sponsored or sanctioned activity or event that is wholly or partially funded by the University or any of its schools, departments, units, or organizations. Examples include but are not limited to: Athletic events, mandatory and non-mandatory student and employee trips, summer camp activities, etc.
 - c. *Tulane University facilities and property*: all facilities or property owned, occupied, or maintained by Tulane University. Examples include but are not limited to:
 - 1. Tulane University main uptown campus; Tulane National Primate Research Center; Tulane Health Sciences Center downtown facilities; University Square; Hebert Research Center; Elmwood campus; Maple Street facilities; all indoor and outdoor athletic facilities; and all other remote campuses and facilities that are clearly Tulane properties.
 - 2. All interior space on the Tulane University main campus and other locations (listed above);
 - 3. All vehicles owned and maintained by Tulane University, including but not limited to: inter-campus shuttles; maintenance vehicles; TUPD squad vehicles; buses and vans used to transport students, faculty, staff, and visitors on University business.

V. Procedure

A. Tobacco Use Cessation Programs

The university is committed to support all students and employees who wish to stop using tobacco products. Assistance to students, faculty, and staff is available through theWELL, via Student Health Services, or through



the health benefits plan through Workforce Management. Ongoing efforts will be made to increase access and reduce costs for these services.

B. Compliance

It is the responsibility of all members of the Tulane University community to comply with the Tobacco and Smoke Free Community Policy as with all other university policies. Members of our campus community are empowered and expected to professionally and respectfully inform others about the policy in an ongoing effort to enhance awareness and encourage compliance

A violation of this policy is defined as any tobacco use on University property (see definition section IV.F.c) and will be handled in a manner that is consistent with university procedures.

C. Enforcement

As per the Faculty Handbook, Staff Handbook and Student Code of Conduct, those in violation of University policies are subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

It is the responsibility of supervisors to facilitate and enforce compliance among all employees under their supervision or contract managers to ensure temporary and permanent contract employees comply with this policy. All members of the Tulane community are expected to identify and address those in violation of the Tulane University Tobacco and Smoke Free Community policy.

Consequences for Policy Violation

Sanctions for student violations will be addressed by the Office of Student Conduct; staff, by their supervisor; and faculty, by the dean of their school. Consequences of violating the policy could include but are not limited to verbal warning or written documentation/warning for both employees and students. A fine of \$25.00 will be issued by TUPD for any person violating the policy.

VI. Policy and Procedure Review

This policy and procedure will be reviewed annually by the Healthy Tulane Coalition, led by The Center for Wellness & Health Promotion. Specific responsibility for completing revisions and associated outreach will be maintained by the Director of the Center for Wellness & Health Promotion, Division of Student Affairs, Office of Environmental Health and Safety, Office of Student Conduct, student government organizations (ASB, USG, and GASPA), TUPD and Workforce Management Organization.