

William Paterson University Policy

University Policy

SUBJECT:	University Policy		TITLE:	Smoke Tobacco, Vape and Cannabis-Free Policy	
CATEGORY: Check One	Board of Trustees ☐	University ☐	Functional ☐	School/Unit ☐	
Responsible Executive:	President and Cabinet Members		Responsible Office:	Chief Wellness Officer	
CODING:	00-01-	ADOPTED:		AMENDED:	2-26-26
LAST REVIEWED: 3/5/26					

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the policy is to:

- (1) Promote the health and welfare of community members and visitors by prohibiting smoking, the use of tobacco and cannabis products, including electronic delivery systems (ENDS or vapes), on the William Paterson campus;
- (2) Enable nonsmokers to breathe smoke-free air, by recognizing that the need to breathe smoke-free air shall have priority over the desire to smoke; and
- (3) Encourage a healthier, more productive living/learning environment for all members of the campus community.
- (4) Explicitly prohibit cannabis in all forms across all campus spaces.

II. ACCOUNTABILITY

Chief Wellness Officer, Office of Student Development and Human Resources

III. APPLICABILITY

This regulation applies to all members of the University community, including; students, faculty, staff, contractors, vendors, and visitors.

Exceptions to Policy

Tobacco and cannabis use may be permitted for approved research purposes, in a controlled laboratory setting.

IV. DEFINITION(S)

Tobacco – Tobacco is defined as all tobacco-derived products including, but not limited to, cigarettes, electronic vapor products (such as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-hookahs, e-pipes, vapes, hookah pens, and personal vaporizers/mods), little cigars, cigarillos, and filtered cigars; traditional cigars or large (premium) cigars, hookah, chewing tobacco,

snuff, or dip; and dissolvable tobacco (sticks, strips, orbs). A tobacco product excludes any product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for sale as a tobacco cessation product, as a tobacco dependence product, or for other medical purposes, and is being marketed and sold solely for such an approved purpose.

Smoking - means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, or pipe. "Smoking" also includes the use of an electronic smoking device that creates an aerosol or vapor, in any manner or in any form.

Secondhand smoke - smoke from someone else's cigarette, cigar, or pipe that one breathes.

University community - includes its faculty, staff, students, contractors, volunteers, patients, customers, and visitors.

Cannabis- refers to all products derived from the cannabis sativa plant, including THC and marijuana.

V. POLICY

Effective January 1, 2022, the use of all tobacco products is prohibited on all property that is owned, operated, leased, occupied, or controlled by William Paterson University. Littering campus with remains of tobacco or smoking-related products is prohibited. The advertisement, distribution and sampling of tobacco products or tobacco merchandise are prohibited on the WPUNJ campus. Campus organizations are prohibited from accepting money or gifts from tobacco companies.

Property for purposes of this policy includes buildings and structures, grounds, parking structures, enclosed bridges and walkways, sidewalks, and parking lots. This regulation applies to all members of the University community, including contractors, vendors, and visitors. All those attending public events, such as conferences, meetings, public lectures, social events, cultural events, and sporting events using University facilities shall be required to abide by this policy; organizers shall communicate this policy to attendees and shall enforce the policy.

Consuming, including by smoking, vaping, or aerosolizing, tobacco products available for lawful consumption is prohibited in any area of any building, on the grounds of, or in any facility owned, leased, or controlled by the William Paterson University, regardless of whether the area or facility is an indoor place or is outdoors.

Cannabis (possession, use or distribution) is prohibited in ALL forms (vapes, edibles and smoking) for use, possession or distribution on all campus grounds and indoor facilities. This includes vehicles and outdoor spaces.

Medical Marijuana, while legally permitted in New Jersey, is prohibited on campus due to provisions in the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (See: Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989, Pub. L. 101–226, codified at 20 U.S.C. § 1145g; implemented by 34 CFR Part 86.).

Individuals under the age of 21 are prohibited from possessing any vape or tobacco products.

VI. Sanctions for Students

- (1) First Violation- Restorative- official warning, Online-Educational Program
- (2) Second Violation- intervention by Counseling, Health and Wellness Center, parental notification for cannabis violations
- (3) Third Violation- \$100 Fine, Campus life probation
- (4) Fourth Violation- \$200, suspension of extra-curricular leadership positions,
- (5) Fifth Violation- \$300 Fine for commuters, Loss of housing for residential students.

VII. Students in clinical, internships or external practicum settings.

Students in clinical or other external practicum/internship settings are also subjected to the specific academic program policies and to the policies of the setting in which they are placed.

VIII. Employees, vendors, contractors

Violations of this policy for employees, vendors or contracted employees shall be addressed in accordance with applicable University policies, State regulations, relevant collective bargaining agreements, and the principles of progressive discipline, where applicable.

To the extent that any violation under this policy involves a controlled substance on University property, such matters shall also be addressed in accordance with the University's Drug-Free Workplace Policy.

By Direction of the President and Cabinet:

Date 3/4/2026

Chief Wellness Officer