

William Paterson University Policy

University Policy

SUBJECT:	University Policy	TITLE:	Tobacco- and Smoke-Free Campus		
CATEGORY: Check One	Board of Trustees <input type="checkbox"/>	University <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Functional <input type="checkbox"/>	School/Unit <input type="checkbox"/>	
Responsible Executive:	President and Cabinet Members		Responsible Office:	Administration and Finance, Student Development	
CODING:	00-01-	ADOPTED: 12/23/20		AMENDED:	

LAST REVIEWED: xx/xx/xx

I. PURPOSE

To replace the current smoking policy, which is more than twenty years old, and is inadequate for supporting the goal of achieving a tobacco- and smoke-free campus in a reasonable manner. More specifically, the purpose of the policy is to:

- (1) promote the health and welfare of community members and visitors by prohibiting smoking and the use of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and vaping products, 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.

II. ACCOUNTABILITY

The Vice President of Administration and Finance along with the Vice President for Student Development are responsible for policy implementation, administration, and compliance.

III. APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to the entirety of the campus, as described in more detail below.

IV. DEFINITIONS

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, vape pens, hookah pens, and personal vaporizers/mods), little cigars, cigarillos, and filtered cigars; traditional cigars or large (premium) cigars, hookah, chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip; snus, 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.

Cannabis - A Schedule I Controlled Substance under federal law, defined as the parts, products, and derivatives of the plant Cannabis sativa, indica, ruderalis and hybrid strains, including Medical Marijuana, irrespective of state law to the contrary.

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

Tobacco-Free is a comprehensive term that means that no form of tobacco is allowed.

Smoke-Free eliminates the use of smoke-producing tobacco and other combustible products (i.e. dried leaves, cannabis).

Secondhand smoke—smoke from someone else’s cigarette, cigar, pipe, electronic smoking device, or cannabis product that one breathes.

University community—include its faculty, staff, students, contractors, volunteers, patients, customers, and any and all other visitors.

Property—for purposes of this policy includes buildings and structures, grounds, wooded areas, parking structures, enclosed bridges and walkways, sidewalks, and parking lots.

V. BACKGROUND

Support for smoke- and tobacco-free policies on school campuses has skyrocketed in recent years, with many institutions adopting comprehensive tobacco-free policies that include the use of e-cigarettes. These policies have the potential to be high-impact interventions, and are proven to decrease tobacco-use prevalence in students, reduce secondhand smoke exposure, change social norms around tobacco use, and increase favorable attitudes towards tobacco regulation among students. As of September 2020, in New Jersey there were 19 smoke-free campuses, of which 10 were fully tobacco-free (8 community colleges, and 2 four-year universities).

In their Position Statement on Tobacco on College and University Campuses (November, 2011), The American College Health Association encourages colleges and universities to achieve a 100% indoor and outdoor campus-wide tobacco-free environment. The American Lung Association and the American Heart Association both recommend that all colleges and universities completely prohibit tobacco use, specifically outdoors to reduce the social acceptability of tobacco use and encourage quitting. Additionally, local and federal governing bodies are supportive of such policies. New Jersey has recently increased the legal age for tobacco purchase to 21, and prohibited tobacco use at public parks and beaches.

The University is approaching the process through a cultural change over a twelve-month period that allows for the personal, health, and environmental changes to evolve into a tobacco-and smoke-free campus environment.

VI. POLICY

A. Requirements:

Effective January 1, 2022, the use of all tobacco products is prohibited on all property that is owned, operated, leased, occupied, or controlled by the 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.

This regulation applies to all members of the University community, including contractors, vendors, and visitors while on university property. 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.

Consuming, including by smoking, vaping, or aerosolizing, any cannabis item available for lawful consumption is prohibited in any area of any building, on the grounds and wooded areas 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.

Exceptions to Policy

Tobacco and cannabis use may be permitted for research purposes, in a controlled laboratory setting, or for traditional ceremonial activities of recognized cultural and/or religious groups upon review and written preapproval as specified by campus procedures.

Transitional Period

We recognize that this will be a difficult transition for many tobacco users. This policy is being announced in January 2021, one year prior to its full implementation, in order to give smokers time to adapt to its restrictions and to facilitate a smooth transition to a tobacco-free environment. From January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, The University will establish 14 Designated Smoking Zones where individuals may smoke tobacco products and e-cigarettes (the use of marijuana, or any other illegal substances is prohibited). Designated smoking areas will be located at least 25 feet from all entries, outdoor air intakes and operable windows. Smokers/tobacco users must stay within 10 feet of the ashtrays provided at these zones until they have completely finished smoking. A map of the 14 designated smoking areas accompanies this policy. On-and off-site smoking cessation programs shall be made available to assist and encourage individuals who wish to quit smoking. These resources will be provided and advertised to the university community in a variety of ways.

B. Responsibilities:

All University community members share the responsibility for adhering to and enforcing this policy. Individuals noticing violations of the policy should strive to be respectful to tobacco users when communicating the policy.

C. Enforcement:

An educational approach will be used to enforce this policy. This means mechanisms of education, peer support and encouragement, and only when necessary, supervisory oversight. There shall be no reprisal against anyone seeking assistance in enforcing this policy.

Campus community members, if they feel comfortable, may verbally remind violators of the Campus tobacco-free policy. Any individual found violating the Tobacco-Free Policy shall receive a verbal reminder from other community members, including supervisors, administrators,

trained student leaders (Peer Health Advocates), and Public Safety. Violators will be asked to dispose of the tobacco product. Tobacco users are responsible for disposing of all tobacco products in appropriate receptacles. Repeated violators may be subject to disciplinary action. Students will be referred to Student Development; staff and faculty will be referred to Human Resources.

All visitors are held to the same standards as students and employees while on University property and must abide by the Tobacco-Free Policy reflected in signage, event brochures, and other informational sources. Hosts of campus guests and organizers of on-campus events of any type shall communicate this policy to attendees and shall enforce the policy. Any visitor or guest who does not abide by College policy may be directed to leave campus.

VII PROCEDURES

The divisions of Administration and Finance and Student Development shall develop and implement a comprehensive communication strategy that builds understanding and adherence for the policy and its potential impact on the health of the WPUNJ community. Copies of this policy shall be distributed to all faculty and staff and shall be included with information given to all admitted and continuing students. Information regarding this policy shall be communicated to each guest of the University upon request. Information about the policy and how to comply with it shall also be posted on the WPUNJ website. Announcements concerning the policy and any changes to it shall be posted on the WPUNJ website to ensure that an up-to-date policy is easily accessible. No smoking decals will be displayed at each of the building entrances. For the period of January 2021-January 2022, all 14 Designated Smoking Areas will be marked clearly with signage. Additional decals will be available for departments and administrative units to post within their areas as needed.

The University will provide ongoing tobacco cessation support to the members of the community to ensure that the benefits of the new policy are maintained, and that the burden of enforcement is reduced. Assistance to faculty and staff to overcome tobacco or nicotine addiction shall be made available through the EAP program, employee health plans, and the additional resources identified in communications to the community. Assistance to students to overcome tobacco or nicotine addiction shall be made available through the Counseling, Health & Wellness Center and the additional resources identified in communications to the community.

By Direction of the President and Cabinet:

Date: 12/23/20

Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance & Vice President for Student Development