

Model Tobacco-Free Policy for College/University in Georgia

[Name of College/University] is committed to providing a healthy, comfortable, and productive learning environment for the students, faculty, staff, and visitors of this campus.

The 2006 U.S. Surgeon General's Report, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke* has concluded that (1) secondhand smoke exposure causes disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke; (2) children exposed to secondhand smoke are at an increased risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), acute respiratory symptoms and slow lung growth; and (3) establishing smoke free workplaces is the only effective way to ensure that secondhand smoke exposure does not occur in the workplace, because ventilation and other air cleaning technologies cannot completely control for exposure of non-tobacco users to secondhand smokeⁱ. The 2010 U.S. Surgeon General's Report, *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease* concluded even occasional exposure to secondhand smoke is harmful and low levels of exposure to secondhand smoke effect the blood vessels, which are implicated in heart attacks and stroke. Moreover, the report states there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smokeⁱⁱ.

In 2018, the U.S. Surgeon General issued an advisory on the electronic cigarette epidemic among youth and young adults. The recent increase in electronic cigarette uses among youth and young adults, fueled by new types of electronic smoking devices and flavors is a major public health concern. The aerosol from electronic smoking devices is not harmless. The 2018 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine publication states that there is conclusive evidence that most electronic smoking devices contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances and increase airborne concentrations of particulate matter and nicotine in indoor environmentsⁱⁱⁱ.

Lastly, the *Georgia Smoke free Air Act of 2005* states that most public places are to be smoke free. The act also states, under "290-5-61-.09 Enforcement

(3) The enactment of any other local law, rules, and regulations of state or local agencies, and local ordinances prohibiting smoking that are more restrictive than the Act are enforceable.

(4) The Act shall not be construed to permit smoking where it is otherwise restricted by other applicable laws.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 16-12-2, 31-2-4, 31-5-9, 31-12A-10, 31-12A-11, 31-12A-12, 31- 12A-13.

In light of these findings, [Name of College/University] shall be entirely tobacco-free effective [date]. This policy applies to students, staff, faculty, visitors and vendors.

Use and Sale of Tobacco¹ Products

1. The use of all tobacco products, including flavored tobacco products or products that resemble the use of tobacco are prohibited on college/university property which includes but not limited to all buildings, facilities, grounds, and spaces leased, owned or controlled by [Name of College/University].
2. Tobacco products are any products containing, made, or commercial tobacco or nicotine, whether synthetic or natural, that is intended for human consumption including but are not limited to cigarettes, e-cigarettes, e-cigar, e-pipe, e-hookah, vape pen, candy cigarettes, cheroots, stogies, periques, chewing tobacco, refuse scraps, clippings, cuttings and sweepings of tobacco, hookah, blunts, blunt wraps, prewrapped blunt cones & tubes, cigars, cigarillos, bidis, snuff, cavendish; plug and twist tobacco, cigarette packages or smokeless tobacco containers, lighters, ashtrays, key chains, t-shirts, coffee mugs, and any other items containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products.
3. Tobacco use includes chewing, smoking, absorbing, dissolving, dipping, inhaled, snorting, sniffing, or ingesting by any other means, or any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product including use of electronic smoking devices or other combustible tobacco products shall not be permitted in any enclosed place, including, but not limited to, all offices, classrooms, hallways, waiting rooms, restrooms, meeting rooms, community areas, performance venues and private residential space within university housing 24 hours per day/7 days a week.
4. Tobacco use shall also not be permitted in, parking lots, paths, fields, amphitheaters; or in, and within bleachers and grandstands used for spectators at sporting and other public events, as well as in all personal vehicles while on campus; college/university buses and other college/university-related vehicles owned, leased, rented, contracted for, or controlled by (Name of College/University) used for the provision of academic, extracurricular programs and administration 24 hours per day/7 days a week.
5. Tobacco products shall not be sold on college/university grounds, either in vending machines, the student union, or any area on campus. This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, visitors, and vendors 24 hours per day/7 days a week.

Promotion of Smoking and Tobacco Products

In further recognition of the incompatibility of [Name of College/University's] educational mission and the promotion of tobacco products, effective [date], no tobacco-related advertising or sponsorship shall be permitted on college/university property, at college/university sponsored events, or in publications produced by the college/university. For the purposes of this policy, "tobacco related" applies to the use of a tobacco brand or corporate name, trademark, logo, symbol, or motto, selling message, recognizable pattern or colors, or any other indicia of product identical to or like, or identifiable with, those used for any brand of tobacco products or company which manufactures tobacco products.

Signage

Copies of this policy shall be distributed to all faculty, staff, and students. Information about the policy and how to comply with it shall be posted on the College/University website.

¹ The term tobacco in this tobacco-free policy refers to commercial tobacco and not the sacred and traditional use of tobacco by some American Indian communities.

Announcements concerning the policy and any changes to it shall be printed in campus newspapers and posted on the College/University website to ensure that everyone understands the policy. Signs prohibiting tobacco products and tobacco use shall be posted at all points of entry to the [Name of College or university] campus and at all [Name of College or University] building entrances.

Transition Period

This policy is being announced three months prior to its implementation to give faculty, staff, and students time to adapt to its restrictions and to facilitate a smooth transition to a tobacco-free environment. Questions and concerns regarding this policy should be handled through existing departmental administrative channels and administrative procedures.

Opportunities for Cessation

The administration will identify and or offer evidence-based programs and services for students who are ready to quit tobacco use. The administration will identify and/or offer evidence-based programs and services for college/university staff that use tobacco products to support them in complying with the policy that prohibits tobacco use on college/university grounds and during college/university related events.

Enforcement for Students

Consequences for students engaging in the prohibited behavior will be provided in accordance with the school's behavior management plan. Students who violate the college/university's tobacco use policy will be referred to the appropriate campus authority for screening, information, counseling, and referral.

Enforcement for Staff, Visitors, and Vendors

Consequences for employees who violate the tobacco use policy will be in accordance with personnel policies and may include verbal warning, written reprimand, or termination. Visitors and vendors using tobacco products will be asked to refrain while on campus or leave the premises. If they refuse, law enforcement officers will be contacted to escort the person off the premises or cite the person for trespassing in case the person refuses to leave the campus property. In the case of a violation within the college or university building, the person is in violation of the Georgia Smokefree Air Act of 2005 (O.C.G.A. 31-2a-1 et seq.).

Enforcement at Outdoor Sponsored Events on and off Campus Grounds

All outdoor sponsored events on and off campus grounds (ex. athletic events, meetings or functions by community groups renting college/university property) must be tobacco free. This policy must be clearly stated in all contracts, correspondence and verbal and written announcements to all attendees, visitors, vendors, and contractors.

The success of this policy will depend on the thoughtfulness, consideration, and cooperation of all students, faculty, and staff. We share in the responsibility for adhering to and enforcing this policy.

Policy Evaluation

The tobacco-free policy shall be assessed by the school administration or its designee evaluator at regular intervals, but at least once a year, to determine whether policies, policy enforcement, communication, education, staff training, and cessation programs are effective. Policies and programs shall be updated and revised accordingly.

This Policy shall be effective on [date].

Signature of Chief Administrator

Date

Revised August 2021

Adopted from the tobacco-free college model policy of the American for Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation

ⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006.

ⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: The Biology and Behavioral Basis for Smoking-Attributable Disease: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2010

ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Surgeon General releases advisory on E-cigarette epidemic among youth*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2018