
SMOKE-FREE POLICY

Category: General University
Responsible Office: Vice President for Health Sciences
Responsible Executive: Vice President for Health Sciences

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Summary

The University at Buffalo (UB) is committed to providing a healthy, comfortable, and safe smoke-free environment for its students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

The University at Buffalo (UB) supports an environment where its students, employees, and visitors are not exposed to secondhand smoke. Therefore, smoking is prohibited on all University-managed property, both indoors and outdoors. This includes but is not limited to:

- all buildings on the North, South, and Downtown campuses, classrooms, lecture halls, residences, residence halls, apartments, laboratories*, offices, work areas, study areas, reception areas, meeting rooms, lobbies, hallways, stairwells, elevators, eating areas, lounges, restrooms
- off-site locations such as the Anderson Gallery, UB Downtown Gateway, Educational Opportunity Center, Ira G. Ross Eye Institute, Jacobs Executive Development Center, and Baird Research Park
- fields, open land areas, parking lots and garages, athletic fields, tracks, bleachers/grandstands, outdoor paths, and roads
- all partially enclosed areas including, but not limited to covered and uncovered walkways, breezeways, bus stop shelters, loading docks, building entrances, and exterior stairways and landings
- all vehicles owned and leased by the University at Buffalo or its affiliated organizations.

Organizers of and attendees at public events, such as conferences, meetings, lectures, social events, cultural events, and/or athletic events using University-managed property will be required to abide by the University at Buffalo Smoke-Free Policy. Organizers of such events are responsible for communicating this policy to attendees.

BACKGROUND

Health risks associated with smoking are well documented. Research findings show that tobacco use, including smoking and breathing secondhand smoke, constitutes a significant health hazard. Smoking also contributes to institutional costs including fire damage, cleaning and maintenance, and costs associated with employee absenteeism, health care, and medical insurance.

*This does not include labs which have received a waiver from the Erie County Health Commissioner to conduct smoking research.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all members of the University community including but not limited to faculty, staff, students, volunteers, trainees, supplemental staff employed through contract agencies or outside trade unions, vendors, guests, and visitors.

DEFINITIONS

Secondhand Smoke - a mixture of the smoke given off by the burning end of a cigarette, cigar, cigarillo, pipe, beedi, kretek, water pipe, bong, and hookah, and the smoke exhaled from the lungs of smokers.

Smoking - burning any type of matter or substance that contains tobacco including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, pipes, beedies, kreteks, water pipes, bongs, and hookahs.

Tobacco-related - applies to the use of a tobacco brand or corporate name, trademark, logo, symbol, motto, selling message, recognizable pattern or colors, or any other indicia of product identical to or similar to, or identifiable with, those used for any brand of tobacco products or company which manufactures tobacco products.

University-managed property - property or facilities either owned, leased or controlled by the University or its related entities

University organizations - University organizations are institutionalized organizations for students and/or staff that receive funding directly from the University, and which are coordinated or directed by University staff. Affiliate organizations include those societies, clubs or the like which are formed because of the special interest of any particular group of students.

RESPONSIBILITY

Effective implementation of this policy depends on the courtesy, respect, and cooperation of all members of the University at Buffalo community.

All members of the University community

- Comply with this policy in a courteous, respectful, and cooperative manner.

Supervisors (University and vendors)

- Communicate this policy to their employees and volunteers.

Event Organizers

- Communicate this policy to event attendees.

PROCEDURE

Effective Date

The University at Buffalo shall be entirely smoke-free effective August 1, 2009:

- All designated smoking areas will be eliminated.
- All ash receptacles will be removed.
- New “No Smoking” signs or the international symbol for “No Smoking” will be placed at various locations on campus and in University-owned vehicles.
- Cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, pipes, beedies, kreteks, water pipes, bong, and hookahs will not be sold on University grounds.

Third-Party Vendors

- The sale of tobacco products on campus is prohibited. This includes the delivery of tobacco products to the campus by means of a delivery service of any kind.
- The free distribution of tobacco products to University organizations is prohibited.
- University organizations and affiliated organizations are prohibited from accepting money or gifts from tobacco companies, directly or indirectly. This includes sponsorship of parties by tobacco companies, distribution of free, reduced, or full price tobacco products, or any promotional items. This does not apply to research funding.
- Tobacco-related advertising or sponsorship is not permitted:
 - on University-managed property, including billboards or signage in stadiums or on campus, and at University-sponsored events
 - in publications produced by the University.
- Tobacco-related advertising is permitted in a newspaper or magazine not produced by the University and which is lawfully sold, bought, or distributed on University-managed property; this includes student-run newspapers.

Distribution

This policy will be:

- included with orientation information given to all enrolled students
- communicated to all prospective hires, students, vendors, and contractors
- communicated to newly hired employees in the New Employee Orientation
- announced in various University publications and sites
- distributed to all managers and supervisors for distribution to employees
- distributed to all event sponsors.

Support and Education

The University understands the addictive nature of smoking and the reality that breaking the habit is extremely difficult for many people. The University will make every effort to assist and encourage those who wish to stop smoking and will offer smoking cessation programs, accessible tobacco treatment, and counseling. Employees should contact the Wellness and Work/Life Balance Office and students should contact Wellness Education Services for assistance with smoking cessation.

Compliance

Employees

Violations of this policy will be addressed through educational and corrective measures. Educational measures include smoking cessation programs, tobacco treatment, and counseling. Corrective measures are limited to those provided in the Compliance section of the original August 1994 Smoke-Free Policy included at the end of this policy. Enforcement for employees will not change from that provided in the original policy.

Students

Students will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs & Student Advocacy.

Visitors, Guests, Volunteers, Trainees, Vendors, and Supplemental Staff employed through contract agencies or trade unions

These individuals are expected to observe the University at Buffalo Smoke-Free Policy. Department heads, building coordinators, and sponsors/hosts of University events are responsible for notifying individuals of the policy, including the restrictions on the sale or distribution of tobacco products. Individuals who smoke will be requested to extinguish the cigarette, cigar, pipe, etc. and will be informed of the policy. Refusal to do so will constitute a violation of the policy and may result in removal from or denial of re-admittance to the building or event.

Contact Information

Wellness and Work/Life Balance
120 Crofts Hall
<http://hr.buffalo.edu>
716-645-5357

Wellness Education Services
114 Student Union
<http://www.student-affairs.buffalo.edu/shs/wes/>
716-645-2837

Office of Judicial Affairs & Student Advocacy
252 Capen Hall
<http://www.student-affairs.buffalo.edu/judicial/>
716-645-6154

Office of the Vice President for Health Sciences
201 Harriman Hall
vphs@buffalo.edu
(716) 829-2100

Related Information

Related Links:

Smoking cessation classes and resources are accessible through the New York State Smoker's Quitsite:

New York State Smoker's Quitsite

1-866-697-8487

<http://www.nysmokefree.com>

Other sources of information and/or assistance for those seeking to quit smoking include:

American Cancer Society

101 John James Audubon Parkway

Amherst, NY 14228

Tel: 716-689-6981

<http://www.cancer.org>

American Lung Association

766 Ellicott Street

Buffalo, NY 14203

Tel: 716-883-5864

<http://www.lungusa.org>

Roswell Park Cancer Institute

Elm and Carlton Streets

Buffalo, NY 14263

Tel: 716-845-8046

<http://www.roswellpark.org>

Erie County Health Department

95 Franklin Street, Room 979

Buffalo, NY 14202

Tel: 716-858-7695

<http://www.erie.gov/health/>

Presidential Approval

Signed by President John B. Simpson

John B. Simpson, President

12/1/09

Date

Smoke-Free Policy

August 1994

The University at Buffalo became totally smoke-free in August 1994.

Smoking is strictly prohibited in all University-owned and operated buildings, stadiums and outdoor events, and in all vehicles owned and operated by the University. Doorway areas and loading docks are considered part of the building.

Background

Health risks associated with smoking are well documented. Studies have indicated that exposure to secondhand smoke is a significant risk for the non-smoker. The University is responsible for providing a safe environment for its students, employees, and visitors. Consequently, a smoke-free policy has been implemented.

Support

Understanding the addictive nature of smoking and that breaking the habit is extremely difficult for many people, the University will make every effort to assist those who elect to stop smoking and will offer smoking cessation programs. Interested employees should contact the appropriate personnel office and students should contact the Living Well Center in the Student Union.

Compliance

It is the responsibility of all members of the University community to observe this Smoke-Free Policy and to remind others of their responsibility. Complaints relating to the implementation of this policy should be referred to the appropriate department head. If a resolution cannot be reached by the department/division head, the matter should be referred to either the appropriate personnel office or, in the case of students, to the Office of Judicial Affairs. Established rules and regulations regarding policy violations will be implemented according to one's University status (i.e., student or employee). In addition to being charged for violating the Smoke-Free Policy, unresponsive individuals may also be charged with failure to comply with the reasonable request of a University administrator. Should someone not comply with a reasonable request, Public Safety may be involved.

Visitors must observe this Smoke-Free Policy. Department heads, building coordinators, sponsors/hosts of University events are responsible for visitors' compliance with the University's Smoke-Free Policy. Visitors who smoke will be requested to extinguish the cigarette, cigar, pipe, etc. and will be informed of the policy. Refusal to do so will constitute a violation of the policy and may result in removal from or denial of re-admittance to the building or event.