



Manual of Policy and Procedures

TOBACCO USE REDUCTION AND PREVENTION POLICY	Number	Page
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		Date
		November 30, 2016

PURPOSE

The Vermont State Colleges (“VSC”) are committed to maintaining a healthy and safe working and learning environment for all of its students, faculty, and staff. Cigarette smoking causes more than 480,000 deaths in the United States each year, which includes 42,000 deaths from exposure to secondhand smoke.¹ Secondhand smoke is a serious health hazard and a human carcinogen with no known safe level of exposure. Even brief exposure to secondhand smoke can have adverse health effects, especially for those with asthma or other lung-related conditions. No one should have to risk his or her health in order to enter, exit, or stand outside any VSC building. In addition, the evidence shows that many people start to smoke in college and that tobacco-free policies are effective in decreasing smoking rates in society.² Accordingly, the purpose of this policy is to reduce harm from tobacco use and secondhand smoke, to provide an environment that encourages persons to become and/or remain tobacco-free, and to promote a culture of wellness.

DEFINITIONS

“Tobacco” is defined as any manufactured product containing tobacco or nicotine, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, dipping tobacco, shisha, pipes, water pipes (hookah), dissolvable tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, other electronic or battery-powered vaping devices, and all forms of smokeless tobacco. However, “tobacco” does not include any product that has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, pursuant to its authority over drugs and devices, for sale as a tobacco use cessation product or for other medical purposes and is being marketed and sold solely for that approved purpose.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/fast_facts/ (viewed November 2, 2016).

² See generally <http://www.ttac.org/services/college/facts/alarm.html> (viewed November 2, 2016)

“VSC property” is defined as property owned, leased, or operated by the VSC and its member institutions, including, but not limited to, campus buildings, campus grounds, residential buildings, parking areas, walkways, recreational and supporting facilities.

SCOPE

Tobacco use is prohibited on all VSC property, both indoors and outdoors, as well as in vehicles owned by the VSC or its member institutions.

EDUCATION, SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

It is the responsibility of all members of the VSC’s communities to comply with this policy. Compliance efforts will focus on education and collaboration with each member institution’s community.

Educational information and smoking cessation services, programs, and resources will be made available to students, faculty and staff through student health services and Human Resources offices. This policy will be posted in employee and student handbooks, on VSC websites, and in other relevant publications. Key components of the policy will be posted on signage around the VSC and its member institutions.

It is expected that peer support, supervisory oversight, and voluntary compliance will lead to behavioral and cultural change. However, repeat offenders of the policy may be subject to existing disciplinary or other applicable procedures. Students who disregard instructions to comply with this policy may be referred for discipline in accordance with the student discipline procedures at the applicable member institution. Employees who disregard instructions to comply with this policy should be brought to the attention of the appropriate supervisory personnel and, if necessary, referred to the Director of Human Resources for the VSC or the applicable member institution. Visitors who refuse to comply with this policy may be asked to leave VSC property.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy shall go into effect at the Office of the Chancellor and at each member institution no later than July 1, 2019.

Signed by: _____
Jeb Spaulding, Chancellor