

## **University of New Hampshire Tobacco Policy**

### **I. Preamble**

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) joins with the American College Health Association (ACHA) in supporting the findings of the Surgeon General that tobacco use in any form, active and passive, is a significant health hazard. UNH further recognizes that environmental tobacco smoke has been classified as a Group A carcinogen by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. In light of these health risks, UNH hereby adopts a tobacco policy that addresses prevention, reduction and cessation actions as they pertain to tobacco/smoking issues.

UNH supports the health goals of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) to reduce the proportion of adults who smoke to below 12% by the year 2010, and to positively influence our community by helping people to remain or become tobacco/smoke free. Efforts to promote a tobacco/smoke-free environment have led to substantial reductions in the number of people who smoke, the amount of tobacco products consumed, and the number of people exposed to environmental tobacco smoke. At the same time, the simple message of "smoke-free" can sometimes be misinterpreted to mean "smoker-free" or "anti-smoker". Our intent is to institute a policy that respects the rights of smokers and non-smokers. We acknowledge the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) statistics that an estimated 32 million smokers (about 70% of all smokers) report that they want to quit smoking completely. We recognize that the implementation of a tobacco/smoking policy will have an immediate effect on our smokers and have included prevention, education and cessation initiatives to support the non-use of tobacco products.

### **II. Policy**

In order to protect the health, safety and comfort of University students, faculty and other academic appointees, staff, and visitors, and consistent with state law (RSA 155:64-77), it is the policy of the University of New Hampshire to restrict smoking in facilities and on grounds owned and occupied or leased and occupied by the University. Where the needs of smokers and nonsmokers conflict, smoke-free air shall have priority. In addition, UNH supports education programs to provide smoking cessation and prevention initiatives to our students, faculty and other academic appointees and staff. This policy supercedes all other tobacco/ smoking policies at UNH.

### **III. Procedures**

#### **A. EDUCATION**

1. The UNH tobacco policy shall be included in the new employee and student orientation program, in the UNH Student Rights and Rules, in admissions application materials and other campus documents where appropriate.
2. UNH encourages employees and students not to smoke by offering educational information and providing information about smoking cessation classes offered through university departments or offices, health care providers, nonprofit organizations or other groups.
3. UNH Health Services, Office of Health Education & Promotion, will provide prevention and cessation programs to students upon request and offer other prevention and education initiatives that support non-use and address the risks of tobacco smoke.
4. USNH Embrace Life Fully (ELF) and other UNH faculty/staff assistance programs will offer prevention and cessation programs to faculty and staff.

## B. NONSMOKING AREAS

1. Inside all buildings owned and occupied or leased and occupied by UNH including Forest Park Apartments, the Kellogg Conference Center and public areas of the New England Center Hotel.
2. University vehicles.
3. Outdoor Areas:
  - a. Entrances and outside stairways to buildings, and outdoor passageways to entrances and stairways. Smoking will not be allowed within twenty (20) feet of a building or an air intake unit.
  - b. Courtyards or other areas where air circulation may be impeded by architectural, landscaping or other barriers.
  - c. Outdoor entry or service lines, such as for ticket purchases, event admissions, bus stops, ATMs, etc
  - d. Outdoor seating areas provided by food services.
  - e. Areas where there is fixed seating, such as Cowell Stadium.
  - f. Areas that are reserved for events that do not have fixed seating but for which the sponsor determines that the interests of nonsmokers need to be protected (e.g., outdoor concerts, university receptions and events, and groundbreaking ceremonies). Such areas are designated "no smoking" by posting signage at appropriate locations or providing proper advanced notification.

## C. SALES AND MARKETING

1. Advertisement of all tobacco products or their use shall be prohibited in all University of New Hampshire publications and on all University owned, occupied or leased properties.
2. Any sale or free sampling of tobacco products on campus shall be prohibited.

## D. IMPLEMENTATION

1. This policy relies on the consideration and cooperation of smokers and nonsmokers. All members of the UNH community, including visitors, are asked to observe this policy.

## IV. Responsibilities

A. The President, Vice Presidents, Deans, Directors and Department Heads shall:

1. Assure that this policy is communicated to everyone within their areas of responsibility.
2. Direct complaints and questions about the policy to the Environmental Health & Safety Office.

B. Any variation of this policy must be approved by the President upon the recommendation of the appropriate senior administrator reporting directly to the President.


## RESPONSIBILITIES

The President, Vice Presidents, Deans, Directors, and Department Heads shall:

- Assure that this policy is communicated to everyone within their areas of responsibility.
- Direct complaints and questions about the policy to the UNH Office of Environmental Health and Safety.

Any variation of this policy must be approved by the President upon the recommendation of the appropriate senior administrator reporting directly to the President.

## STATISTICS

- Tobacco use causes more than 440,000 deaths each year and is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. 
- Smoking is directly responsible for 87% of lung cancer cases and causes most cases of emphysema and chronic bronchitis.
- Cigarettes contain at least 43 distinct cancer-causing chemicals.
- Secondhand smoke involuntarily inhaled by nonsmokers is classified as a Group A carcinogen and is responsible for approximately 3,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the United States.
- Smoking is a major factor in coronary heart disease and stroke, and has been linked to a variety of other conditions including infertility and peptic ulcer disease.
- Studies have estimated that secondhand smoke also accounts for as many as 62,000 deaths from coronary heart disease each year in the U.S.

## REFERENCES & RESOURCES

**American Cancer Society<sup>®</sup>**  
800.ACS.2345 (Telephone)  
<http://www.cancer.org/>

**American College Health Association**  
410.859.1500 (Telephone)  
<http://www.acha.org/>

**American Lung Association of New Hampshire<sup>®</sup>**  
800.LUNG.USA (Toll Free)  
603.669.2411 (Telephone)  
<http://www.nhlung.org>

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
800.311.3435 (Public Inquiries)  
404.639.3311 (Telephone)  
<http://www.cdc.gov/health/tobacco.htm>  
<http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco>

**Embrace Life Fully (ELF)**  
USNH Office of Human Resources  
<http://usnhhr.unh.edu/wellness/wellness.htm>

**Office of the Surgeon General**  
301.443.4000 (Telephone)  
<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/tobacco/>

**Tobacco Prevention & Control Program (NH)**  
800.852.3345 x 6891  
800.TRY.2.STOP (Telephone)  
<http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/TPCP/CONTACT+INFO/>

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**  
877.696.6775 (Toll Free)  
202.619.0257 (Telephone)  
<http://www.hhs.gov/topics/smoking.html>

**UNH Health Services**  
12 Ballard Street  
Durham, NH 03824-2308  
603.862.1530 (General)  
603.862-3823 (Tobacco Education and Cessation Services)  
<http://www.unh.edu/health-services>



The University of New Hampshire (UNH) and the American College Health Association (ACHA) support the findings of the Surgeon General that tobacco use in any form, active or passive, is a significant health hazard. UNH recognizes that environmental tobacco smoke is classified as a Group A carcinogen by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As a result, UNH has adopted a tobacco policy addressing prevention, reduction, and cessation of smoking and use of tobacco.

## INTRODUCTION

- UNH supports the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) in their goal to reduce the proportion of adult smokers to below 12% by 2010.
- UNH supports the USPHS in helping people in our community remain or become tobacco and smoke-free. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 32 million smokers (about 70% of all smokers) wish to quit smoking completely.
- Efforts to produce a tobacco and smoke-free environment have led to a substantial reduction in the number of people who smoke, the amount of tobacco products consumed, and the number of people exposed to environmental tobacco smoke.
- This message should not be interpreted as “anti-smoker.” This policy serves to respect the rights of smokers and non-smokers.

The implementation of this tobacco and smoking policy will have an immediate effect on smokers at UNH.

## POLICY

- The UNH tobacco policy serves to protect the health, safety, and comfort of University students, faculty, staff, and visitors, and is consistent with state law (RSA 155:64-77).
- This policy supersedes all other tobacco and smoking policies at UNH, effective July 1, 2002.
- UNH has restricted smoking in facilities and on grounds owned and occupied or leased and occupied by the University.
- Whenever the needs of smokers and non-smokers conflict, smoke-free air shall always have priority.
- UNH supports education programs to provide smoking cessation and prevention initiatives to our students, faculty, and staff.



## EDUCATION

- The UNH tobacco policy shall be included in the following:
  - The new employee and student orientation program.
  - The UNH Student Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities.
  - Admissions application materials.
  - Other appropriate campus documents.
- UNH encourages employees and students not to smoke by providing information about smoking cessation classes offered through the University, health care providers, nonprofit organizations, and other groups.

- UNH Health Services, Office of Health Education & Promotion, will provide prevention and cessation programs to students upon request and offer other prevention and education initiatives that support non-use and address the risks of tobacco smoke.
- USNH Embrace Life Fully (ELF) and other UNH faculty and staff assistance programs will offer prevention and cessation programs to faculty and staff.

## NONSMOKING AREAS

- **Inside all buildings owned and occupied or leased and occupied by UNH including:**
  - The Kellogg Conference Center.
  - Forest Park Apartments.
  - Public areas of the New England Center Hotel.
- **University vehicles.**
- **The following outdoor areas:**
  - Entrances and outside stairways to buildings, and outdoor passageways to entrances and stairways.
  - Smoking will not be allowed within 20 feet of a building or an air intake unit.
  - Courtyards or other areas where air circulation may be impeded by architectural, landscaping, or other barriers.
  - Outdoor entry or service lines, such as for ticket purchases, event admissions, bus stops, ATMs, etc.
  - Outdoor seating areas provided by food services.



- Areas where there is fixed seating, such as Cowell Stadium.
- Areas reserved for events that do not have fixed seating but for which the sponsor determines that the interests of nonsmokers need to be protected. For example:
  - Outdoor concerts.
  - University receptions and events.
  - Groundbreaking ceremonies.

Such areas are designated “no smoking” by posting signage or by providing advanced notification.

## SALES & MARKETING

Advertisement of all tobacco products or their use shall be prohibited in all UNH publications and on all University owned, occupied, or leased properties. Any sale or free sampling of tobacco products on campus shall be prohibited.

## IMPLEMENTATION

This policy relies on the consideration and cooperation of smokers and nonsmokers. All members of the UNH community, including visitors, are asked to observe this policy.

