

UNH Tobacco Policy

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 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.

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 cigarettes (clove cigarettes, bidis, kreteks), electronic cigarettes, cigars and cigarillos, hookah smoked products or any lighted or heated tobacco/nicotine product, in facilities and on grounds owned and occupied or leased and occupied by the University. Where the needs of smokers and non-smokers 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 supersedes all other tobacco/smoking policies at UNH.

Procedures

1. Education

- a. The UNH tobacco policy shall be included in the new employee and student orientation program, in the Student Right, Rules, and Responsibilities, in admissions application materials and other campus documents where appropriate.
- b. 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.
- c. UNH Health & Wellness, Living Well Services, 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.
- d. USNH health and wellness programs and services will offer prevention and cessation programs to faculty and staff.

2. Nonsmoking Areas

- a. Inside all buildings owned and occupied or leased and occupied by UNH.
- b. University vehicles.
- c. Outdoor Areas:
 - (1) 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.
 - (2) Courtyards or other areas where air circulation may be impeded by architectural, landscaping or other barriers.
 - (3) Outdoor entry or service lines, such as for ticket purchases, event admissions, bus stops, ATMs, etc.
 - (4) Outdoor seating areas provided by food services.
 - (5) Areas where there is fixed seating, such as Wildcat Stadium.
 - (6) 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 ground breaking ceremonies). Such areas are designated "no smoking" by posting signage at appropriate locations or providing proper advanced notification.

3. Sales and Marketing

- a. 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.
- b. Any sale or free sampling of tobacco products on campus shall be prohibited.

4. Implementation

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

Responsibilities

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.

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

Alcohol and other chemical dependency problems can be treated successfully if they are identified as early as possible and if appropriate treatment programs are promptly instituted. When the capacity to make informed decisions regarding alcohol and other drug use has been impaired or compromised, prompt and appropriate intervention can help a majority of the individuals involved. The University is committed to encouraging and assisting its members (both individually and groups) who are experiencing these problems to obtain the help they need. The University is also committed to providing educational and counseling services aimed at preventing these problems from developing.