



Policy of Oberlin College's Tobacco-Free Campus

This policy offers guidance for faculty and staff regarding Oberlin College adopting a Smoke-Free Policy to create a healthier campus environment

Responsible Position for Policy: Vice President for Finance and Administration; Chief Human Resources Officer

Responsible for Policy: Department of Human Resources; Department of Finance

Division Responsible for Policy: Finance and Administration

Scope of Policy: All faculty, Staff, Students, and Visitors

Original Issue Date: July 2016

Last Revision Date: April, 2025

Log of Previous Revisions Date: (na)

I. Policy Purpose. Oberlin College is committed to fostering a healthy and safe environment for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors. As part of this commitment, Oberlin College maintains a 100% Smoke-Free Campus policy, which prohibits the use of all smoking and vaping products on campus property.

II. Policy Statement. Oberlin College strictly prohibits the use of all tobacco products by students, faculty, staff, and visitors on all college-owned or operated property, including buildings, facilities, vehicles, and outdoor areas. This policy is in effect at all times and applies to all individuals on campus property.

III. Policy Scope. This policy applies to all individuals on campus, including but not limited to students, faculty, staff, visitors, contractors, and vendors. It applies to all Oberlin College facilities, buildings, grounds, sidewalks, parking lots, vehicles, and any property owned, leased, or controlled by the college.

IV. Prohibited Products & Devices

The use, sale, advertising, or distribution of the following products is strictly prohibited on campus:

- Cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, and pipes
- Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), vape pens, and other vaping devices
- Hookahs and water pipes
- Smokeless tobacco products, including chewing tobacco and snuff
- Any other device that simulates or delivers nicotine, tobacco, or cannabis-derived substances through inhalation or other means

V. Exemptions and Special Provisions.

(A) Private Property: The policy does not extend to private property or areas of the City of Oberlin that are adjacent to the campus.

(B) The policy does not prohibit the use of FDA-approved nicotine replacement therapies (e.g., nicotine patches, gum, lozenges).

(C) Religious and cultural ceremonies involving tobacco must receive prior written approval from the administration.

VI. Implementation and Compliance.

(A) Notification and Signage:

(1) Green signage designating the college as Smoke-free has been posted at exterior entrances of campus buildings.

(B) Community Responsibility:

(1) All members of the campus community are expected to comply with this policy.

(2) Faculty, staff, and student leaders are encouraged to remind individuals of the smoke-free policy. (3)

Violations may result in disciplinary actions, including warnings, fines, or further sanctions as outlined in the student and employee conduct policies.

VII. Support for Smoking Cessation. Recognizing that quitting smoking can be challenging, Oberlin College provides resources to support individuals who wish to quit:

(A) Students:

Smoking cessation resources and support programs are available through Student Health Services, Student Health Promotion and Prevention Services, Counseling and Psychological Services.

(B) Staff and Faculty:

Cessation support is available through the college's health plan and Employee Assistance Program. Additional support services are available through the Department of Human Resources.

VIII. Historical Context. In 1993, Oberlin College implemented a policy restricting smoking to outdoor areas at least 30 feet away from building entrances, exits, and ventilation systems. The transition to a fully Smoke-Free Campus aligns with evolving public health guidelines and the College's commitment to wellness and sustainability.

Approval Process

Frequency of Review: Annual

Review Process: VP for Finance & Administration; CHRO; Legal Necessary Approval

Constituents: Executive Leadership Team