

Murray State Tobacco Policy

I. Tobacco Policy Statement

Murray State University (MSU) has a vital interest in maintaining a safe and healthy environment for our students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Research findings show that use of tobacco products in general constitutes a significant health hazard. In addition, tobacco use is a serious safety concern and has been specifically listed as a contributing factor in a number of university facility fires across the nation, many of which have resulted in fatalities or major facility damage.

Murray State University joins with the American College Health Association (ACHA) and other professional health associations in promoting tobacco-free environments. According to the ACHA-National College Health Assessment (ACHA-NCHA) conducted in spring 2012 on the Murray State campus, 82% of our college students described themselves as non-smokers (never smoked or have not smoked cigarettes in the last 30 days); 94% reported being non-smokers of hookah/water pipes (never used or have not used in the last 30 days); and 97% described themselves as non-users of smokeless tobacco (never used or have not used in the last 30 days).

The ACHA supports the health goals of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Healthy People 2020 (<http://www.healthypeople.gov/>) initiative to reduce the proportion of adults who smoke to below 12% by the year 2020 and to positively influence America's college students to help them remain or become tobacco-free. Efforts to promote tobacco-free environments 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 hazards.

II. Definitions

- A. For the purpose of this policy, the Murray State University campus shall be defined as that which is contained within the legal property boundaries of all property owned, leased to, or managed by the University. A campus map can be found at <http://www.murraystate.edu/Info/CampusMap.aspx>.
- B. For the purpose of this policy, "tobacco" and "tobacco products" are defined by the Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights (see <http://no-smoke.org/pdf/modeluniversitypolicy.pdf>) as any substance containing tobacco leaf, including but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, hookah, snuff, chewing tobacco, dipping tobacco, bidis, blunts, clove cigarettes or any other preparation of tobacco; and any

product or formulation of matter containing biologically active amounts of nicotine that is manufactured, sold, offered for sale, or otherwise distributed with the expectation that the product or matter will be introduced into the human body by inhalation. This does not include any cessation product specifically approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in treating nicotine or tobacco dependence.

- C. For the purpose of this policy, “Smoking” is defined by the Americans for Nonsmokers’ Rights (see <http://no-smoke.org/pdf/modeluniversitypolicy.pdf>) as inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted or heated tobacco or plant product intended for inhalation, including hookahs and other products, whether natural or synthetic in manner or in any form. Smoking also includes the use of an electronic smoking device which creates an aerosol or vapor, in any manner or in any form, or the use of any oral smoking device for the purpose of circumventing the prohibition of smoking in this policy.
- D. For the purpose of this policy, “members of the University community” include faculty, staff, and students.
- E. For the purpose of this policy, “visitors” are defined as volunteers, customers, contractors, and other individuals who come onto campus to, but not necessarily limited to, provide services, receive services, participate in an activity, purchase goods/services, or otherwise have a legitimate reason to have a presence on campus.

III. **Policy Principles**

- A. This regulation applies to all members of the University community, volunteers, customers, contractors, and visitors.
- B. The use of all tobacco products is prohibited on all property that is owned, operated, leased, occupied, or controlled by the University, except as otherwise provided below (see Section IV - Exceptions and Limitations). “Property” for purposes of this paragraph includes buildings and structures, grounds, bridges and walkways, sidewalks, parking lots, and vehicles, as well as personal vehicles that are within the property boundaries of Murray State University.
- C. Littering the campus with remains of disposable tobacco products is prohibited.
- D. Murray State will provide access to and promote cessation services for all members of the University community.

- E. This policy applies to all Murray State University campus locations—including, but not limited, to branch campus locations in Madisonville, Hopkinsville (including Fort Campbell), Paducah, and Henderson. This policy will not preempt local laws, rules, regulations, or policies that may provide additional restrictions. To view the MSU main campus boundaries:
<http://www.murraystate.edu/Info/CampusMap.aspx>.

IV. **Exceptions and Limitations**

- A. Tobacco use may be permitted for controlled research with prior approval of the appropriate Vice President or his/her designee. Smoke, like any other laboratory air contaminant generated, shall be controlled locally in a chemical hood or other exhaust system that provides 100% exhaust to the outside.
- B. Tobacco use may be permitted for educational, clinical, or religious ceremonial purposes with prior approval of the appropriate Vice President or his/her designee.
- C. Tobacco products may be permitted for performers in theatrical and/or artistic performances with prior approval of the appropriate Vice President or his/her designee. This includes not only student and faculty productions but also outside organizations and performances/performers who contract with Murray State University. Proper notification will be provided in performance promotional materials.
- D. Visitors (including Murray State employees and students who are not working and/or part of a University-sanctioned activity) who are legally on property that is owned by the Murray State University Foundation are exempted from this policy as long as: the property is not contained within the immediate footprint of the main campus; they are not in an enclosed area; they are at least 25 feet away from any structure; they are not in an area where any type of instruction is occurring; and an official University event is not occurring.
- E. The President of Murray State may provide additional and limited exemptions for specific purposes and locations based on unique circumstances that are not contrary to the spirit of this Policy. Such exemptions will be reported to the Board of Regents.

V. **Effective Date: August 5, 2015**

VI. **Policy Management**

Employee violations of this policy shall be reported to the appropriate supervisor. Student violations of this policy should be reported to the Office of Student Affairs. Visitor violations should be reported to the appropriate Murray State employee who has the authority to handle the situation. This may include, for example, the building manager, Director of Facilities, the Director of a program, or a Public Safety Officer, etc.

There shall not be reprisals against anyone reporting violations of this policy. The success of this policy depends on the cooperation and consideration of members of the Murray State Community as all students, faculty, and staff share in the responsibility for adhering to and enforcing this policy.

This Tobacco Policy will be reviewed at the end of the 2015-16 academic year and, thereafter, will be reviewed at least once every two years.

VII. **Compliance**

Violation of this regulation may result in corrective action through the appropriate process that includes the *MSU Student Life Policies, Rules and Procedures*; *MSU Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual*; or other regulations and policies. Visitors refusing to comply with the Tobacco Policy may be asked to leave campus or may be cited for non-compliance with University policies.

Approved by Board of Regents on February 27, 2015