Tobacco Policy

I. Introduction

The University of Kentucky has a vital interest in maintaining a safe and healthy environment for our students, employees, patients and visitors. Research findings show that use of tobacco products in general constitutes a significant health hazard. The health care and health education programs of the University perform an important function by demonstrating and promoting healthy lifestyles through activities such as curtailment of the use of tobacco products. 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 damage.

II. Definitions

A. “Smoking” means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, or pipe.

B. “Tobacco Products” means all forms of tobacco, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), electronic cigarettes, and smokeless tobacco products.

C. “Members of the University community” include its faculty, staff, students, volunteers, patients, customers and visitors.

III. Policy

A. This regulation applies to all members of the University community.

B. For areas located within Fayette County, Kentucky, 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, parking structures, enclosed bridges and walkways, sidewalks, parking lots, and vehicles, as well as personal vehicles in these areas. To view the Lexington campus boundaries: http://www.uky.edu/TobaccoFree/files/map.pdf. To determine the status of other University property located within Fayette County, please contact the Office of Real Estate Services at (859) 257-8649.

C. For areas not located within Fayette County, Kentucky, smoking is prohibited in all owned, operated, leased, or controlled University buildings and structures, parking structures, enclosed bridges and walkways, and vehicles except as otherwise provided below (see Section IV - Exceptions and Limitations). Smoking is also prohibited outside buildings and structures within 20 feet of entrances,
exits, air intakes, and windows, unless further restricted by division policy. Tobacco users are responsible for disposing of all tobacco products in appropriate receptacles.

IV. Exceptions and Limitations

A. Tobacco use may be permitted for controlled research with prior approval of the dean or director responsible for the facility, the Provost or appropriate executive vice president, and in the case of smoking, the University Fire Marshal. 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 dean or director responsible for the facility, the Provost or appropriate executive vice president, and in the case of smoking, the University Fire Marshal.

C. Tobacco use may be permitted on properties the University owns, but leases or otherwise conveys an interest (e.g. an easement) to a non-University party, according to the provisions of the applicable lease or agreement, and with the prior approval of the Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration.

D. Tobacco use in facilities that are not owned, leased, or controlled by the University, such as County Cooperative Extension Offices, are subject to the tobacco policies applicable to those particular facilities, and are exempt from this regulation.

V. Delegation

Authority for enforcement of this policy is vested with the Provost, or the appropriate executive vice president or vice president, in conjunction with the Associate Vice President for Human Resources or the Dean of Students, or their designee.

VI. Compliance

Violation of this regulation may result in corrective action under the Student Code of Conduct, Human Resources Policies and Procedures, or other applicable University Regulations or Policies. Visitors refusing to comply may be asked to leave campus.

VII. References and Related Materials

KRS: 61.165(4)

Governing Regulation: Part I - The University of Kentucky (Definition)

Revision History


For questions, contact: Office of Legal Counsel