THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

CO-CE-PO-03
Nicotine & Tobacco-Free Campus Policy

I. Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the implementation of a policy on the prohibition of tobacco use on the campuses of The University of Texas at Arlington (UTA or University).

II. Application of Policy

This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, and visitors on UTA's main campus, all satellite locations, and all other locations as listed in Section III.B.2.e.

III. Policy

A. Background and Rationale

Each year, approximately 440,000 people die prematurely of diseases caused by smoking, accounting for one out of every five deaths in the United States (CDC 2009). Use of nicotine, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, cigars, pipes, electronic cigarettes, and other tobacco products lead to disease and death. In addition to causing direct health hazards, smoking and smokeless nicotine and tobacco use contribute to institutional costs in other ways, including fire damage, cleaning and maintenance costs and costs associated with employee and student absenteeism, health care, and medical insurance. Therefore, this policy is designed to include all nicotine and tobacco products. Because there is no safe tobacco product, the only logical action is to promote a campus that is tobacco free. It is the policy of UTA to promote the health, well-being and safety of students, faculty, staff and visitors while on the campus. Nicotine and tobacco use and second-hand smoke have been identified by the Surgeon General to be the cause of preventable diseases. UTA encourages students, faculty and staff to support and use tobacco cessation programs. UTA welcomes students of all ages through a variety of campus programs. In order to support the health and welfare of visitors of all ages the campus will be free of nicotine and tobacco use and second-hand smoke.

B. Nicotine and Tobacco Products Prohibited on all UTA Properties

1. Effective August 1, 2011, the use of nicotine and tobacco products (including cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco, electronic cigarettes and other tobacco products) by students, faculty, staff, and visitors are prohibited on all UTA properties. Limited and appropriate individual exceptions may be considered by the president of the institution or by the president's designee who, in considering whether to grant the

exception, will review any sponsored research requirements and ensure that the exception is in support of the mission of the institution.

2. The use of nicotine and tobacco products (including cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco, electronic cigarettes, or other tobacco products) is prohibited:

    a. In all interior space on UTA campuses.

    b. On all outside property or grounds of UTA campus including partially enclosed areas such as walkways, breezeways and bus shelters ("campus" includes the main campus, all satellite locations, and all other buildings or facilities leased off the main UTA campus).

    c. In UTA vehicles, including buses, vans, and all other university vehicles.

    d. In all indoor and outdoor athletic facilities, as well as the grandstands of outdoor facilities.

    e. In any building or structure owned, leased or controlled by UTA where prohibited by the terms of grant or other sponsored research (including the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)) requirements unless a waiver is granted by the grantor. This prohibition includes sidewalks, parking lots, walkways and attached parking structures immediately adjacent to the structure where the CPRIT or grant funded project is taking place.

3. Unless prohibited in Section III.B.2.e., the use of nicotine and tobacco products (including cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco, electronic cigarettes, or other tobacco products) is allowed for use in personal vehicles, provided:

    a. The windows are closed; and

    b. All tobacco waste products are properly disposed of.

4. The University prohibits the campus-controlled advertising, sale, or free sampling of nicotine and tobacco products on campus.

5. Littering the campus with remains of nicotine and tobacco products or any other disposable product is prohibited.

6. Organizers and attendees at public events, such as conferences, meetings, public lectures, social events, cultural events and sporting events using UTA facilities will be required to abide by the nicotine and tobacco-free policy and procedure. Organizers of such events are responsible for communicating the policy to attendees and for enforcing this policy.

7. Campus organizations are prohibited from accepting money or gifts from nicotine and tobacco companies.

C. Education and Awareness

The implementation of this policy is augmented by an education and awareness campaign that may include but not be limited to:

1. Notification to prospective students and staff/faculty hires;
2. Informational meetings, postings, and e-mail notifications;
3. Publication in staff/faculty human resources manuals, student guides and handbooks, and appropriate web sites;
4. Educational campaigns employing classmates and colleagues;
5. Ongoing smoking cessation programs; or
6. Establish culture of compliance through peer oversight.

D. Communication of Policy

Signs bearing the message "Nicotine and Tobacco-free Campus" will be posed at each of the UTA vehicular and pedestrian entrances (as applicable), and each building will display a decal that states "Nicotine and Tobacco Free Facility". However, nicotine and tobacco-free zones apply on the grounds around all UTA, whether or not signs are posted. No ashtrays or smoking shelters will be provided on campuses of UTA.

E. Nicotine and Tobacco Use Cessation Programs

University is committed to support all students and employees who wish to stop using nicotine or tobacco products. Assistance to students, faculty, and staff to overcome addiction to nicotine and tobacco products is available through Human Resources and Student Health Services. Referrals to cessation services are encouraged.

F. Compliance

Adherence to the policy cited above is the responsibility of all UTA students, faculty, staff, and visitors. It is expected that all students, faculty, staff, and visitors to campus will comply with this policy. Members of our campus community are empowered to respectfully inform others about the policy in an ongoing effort to enhance awareness and encourage a culture of compliance. An individual who feels that there has been a violation of this procedure may invoke the following actions:

1. The individual should attempt to resolve the problem informally by requesting that the individual comply with the procedure.

2. If direct appeal fails and the behavior persists, the individual should contact the Office of Talent, Culture & Engagement or the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs for referral to the appropriate administrative official.

3. Repeat offenses by the same person shall be dealt with through already established administrative/disciplinary policies and procedures. Violations could result in referral to the appropriate university officials for disciplinary action in accordance with established student, staff, and/or faculty codes of conduct and procedures.

IV. Relevant Federal and State Statutes

25 Tex. Admin. Code § 703.20 *Certification of Tobacco-Free Policy for Grant Recipients*

Tex. Penal Code § 48.01 *Smoking Tobacco*

V. Relevant UT System and UTA Documents

UT System Board of Regents' *Rules and Regulations* Rule 80111 *Smoke Free or Tobacco Free Policies*

VI. UTA Office Responsible for Policy

Responsible Officer: Vice President of Talent, Culture & Engagement

Sponsoring Department: Office of Talent, Culture & Engagement

VII. Dates Approved or Amended

March 25, 2013

June 20, 2022

October 15, 2026