

CHAPTER 8: SMOKE AND TOBACCO-FREE CAMPUS

8.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish requirements for the prohibition of all forms of tobacco use, mechanical nicotine delivery devices, and smoke products on University Property.

The University encourages students, faculty, and staff to support and use available tobacco cessation programs.

8.2 POLICY STATEMENT AND APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all University personnel including faculty, staff, students, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors while on University Property.

8.3 SMOKE AND TOBACCO-FREE CAMPUS

The use of tobacco products (including but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco or all other tobacco products)) as well as smoking or use of any smoking device or mechanical nicotine delivery device is prohibited at all times on University Property. Therefore, in accordance with this policy, all areas of the University are designated as “Tobacco and Smoke-Free Areas”.

8.3.1 Advertising and Sales. The University prohibits the advertising, sale, or free sampling of tobacco products, smoking, and/or smoking devices on campus.

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

8.3.3 Public Events. Organizers and attendees at public events, such as conferences, meetings, public lectures, social events, cultural events and sporting events using University facilities will be required to abide by the Smoke and Tobacco-Free Campus policy. Organizers of such events are responsible for communicating the policy to attendees and for enforcing this policy.

8.3.4 Smoking and Tobacco Use Cessation Programs. The University is committed to the support of all students and employees who wish to stop smoking and/or using tobacco products. Assistance for students, faculty, and staff with overcoming addiction to smoking and tobacco products is available through the Office of Human Resources and Student Health and Wellness Center. Referrals to smoking and tobacco use cessation services are encouraged.

8.3.5 Compliance. Adherence to this policy is the responsibility of all University students, faculty, staff, contractors, and visitors. It is expected that all personnel, students, contractors, and visitors to campus 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.

8.3.6 Exceptions to Policy. Tobacco use may be permitted under the limited circumstance of research involving tobacco or tobacco products, provided the University employee obtains prior approval of the Chief of Staff and the Vice President for Research and Innovation, and a waiver is requested and granted in accordance with sponsored research requirements, if any. Smoke, like any other laboratory contaminant, shall be controlled. The designs for designated laboratories must be approved by the Environmental Health and Safety Department.

8.3.7 Enforcement. An individual who feels that there has been a violation of this policy may invoke the following actions:

1. The individual should attempt to resolve the problem informally by requesting that the individual comply with this policy.
2. If direct appeal fails and the behavior persists, the individual should contact the Office of Human Resources or the Office of the Vice President for 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.
 - Handbook of Operating Procedures, Section IV, Chapter 6
<https://www.utep.edu/hoop/section-5/ch-6.html> (<https://www.utep.edu/hoop/section-5/ch-6.html>)
 - Handbook of Operating Procedures, Section III, Chapter 4
<https://www.utep.edu/hoop/section-3/academic-policies-and-faculty-personnel-matter.html> (<https://www.utep.edu/hoop/section-3/academic-policies-and-faculty-personnel-matter.html>).
 - Handbook of Operating Procedures, Section II, Chapter 1
<https://www.utep.edu/hoop/section-2/student-conduct-and-discipline.html> (<https://www.utep.edu/hoop/section-2/student-conduct-and-discipline.html>)
4. 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.

8.4 DEFINITIONS

Bidis: A small, thin, hand-rolled cigarette made of unprocessed tobacco wrapped in leaves.

Kreteks: Unfiltered cigarettes of Indonesian origin, made with a blend of tobacco, cloves, and other flavors.

Mechanical Nicotine Delivery Devices: All devices that deliver a dose of nicotine either with or without combustion such as electronic cigarettes.

University Property: Defined as both interior and exterior space within the boundaries of all University owned, leased, operated, occupied, or controlled property and University campuses, including yet not limited to, all enclosed or partially enclosed areas such as walkways, breezeways and bus shelters, sidewalks, parking lots, and parking structures, whether attached or unattached and regardless of whether or not signs are posted. For purposes of this policy, University Property also includes all University vehicles including buses, vans, and all other University vehicles, whether leased or owned, and all indoor and outdoor athletic facilities, as well as the grandstands of outdoor facilities. University Property does not include personal vehicles.

University Tobacco and Smoke-Free Areas: Defined as all University Property (as defined above).

8.5 REFERENCES

Section II: Student Affairs, Chapter 1: Student Conduct and Discipline
(<https://www.utep.edu/hoop/section-2/student-conduct-and-discipline.html>)

Section III: Academic Affairs, Chapter 4: Academic Policies and Faculty Personnel Matters
(<https://www.utep.edu/hoop/section-3/academic-policies-and-faculty-personnel-matter/>)

Section V: Human Resources, Chapter 6: Discipline and Dismissal of Staff Employees
(<https://www.utep.edu/hoop/section-5/ch-6.html>)

8.6 DATES APPROVED

May 9, 2025
May 13, 2021

8.7 CONTACT INFORMATION

EH&S Department
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eh&s@utep.edu (<mailto:eh&s@utep.edu>)
www.utep.edu/ehs (<https://www.utep.edu/ehs>)

SECTION 9: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

Chapter 1: Environmental Health and Safety Policies (ch-1.html)

Chapter 2: Radiation Safety (ch-2.html)

Chapter 3: Biological and Chemical Safety (ch-3.html)

Chapter 4: Loss Prevention, Emergency Preparedness, and the Office of Emergency Management (ch-4.html)

Chapter 5: Occupational Safety and Health (ch-5.html)

Chapter 6: Environmental Compliance (ch-6.html)

Chapter 7: Workers' Compensation Insurance (ch-7.html)

Chapter 8: Smoke and Tobacco-Free Campus (ch-8.html)

Chapter 9: Inclement Weather Policy (ch-9.html)

Chapter 10: Concealed Handguns and Weapons Policy (ch-10.html)

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MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES ([HTTPS://WWW.UTEP.EDU/STUDENT-AFFAIRS/RESOURCES/MENTAL-HEALTH-RESOURCES-FOR-UTEP-STUDENTS.HTML](https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/resources/mental-health-resources-for-utep-students.html))

PUBLIC COURSE INFORMATION ([HTTPS://WWW.UTEP.EDU/RESOURCES/PUBLIC-COURSE-INFORMATION.HTML](https://www.utep.edu/resources/public-course-information.html))

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TEXAS VETERANS PORTAL ([HTTPS://VETERANS.PORTAL.TEXAS.GOV](https://veterans.portal.texas.gov))

TITLE IX REPORTING ([HTTPS://WWW.UTEP.EDU/TITLEIX/FILING-A-COMPLAINT.HTML](https://www.utep.edu/titleix/filing-a-complaint.html))

TITLE IX SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY ([HTTPS://WWW.UTEP.EDU/HOOP/SECTION-6/CH-3.HTML](https://www.utep.edu/hoop/section-6/ch-3.html))

UT SYSTEM ([HTTP://WWW.UTSYSTEM.EDU/](http://www.utsystem.edu/))

WEB ACCESSIBILITY ([HTTPS://WWW.UTEP.EDU/EOAA/POLICIES/ACCESSIBILITY-POLICY.HTML](https://www.utep.edu/eoaa/policies/accessibility-policy.html))

WEB PRIVACY POLICY ([HTTPS://WWW.UTEP.EDU/INFORMATION-RESOURCES/ISO/POLICIES/WEB-PRIVACY-POLICIES.HTML](https://www.utep.edu/information-resources/iso/policies/web-privacy-policies.html))

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