SMOKING (AND VAPING) POLICY

SLT 4.6

Date of Last Update:
May 05, 2025

Approved By:

- Senior Leadership Team

Responsible Office:
Human Resources

POLICY STATEMENT

Grand Valley State University acknowledges the findings of the Surgeon General that tobacco use in any form, active and/or passive, is a significant health hazard. Further, environmental tobacco smoke has been classified as a Class-A carcinogen and there is no known safe level of exposure to environmental tobacco smoke. GVSU has determined that it is in the best interest for the health of its community to ban the use of tobacco products in any form at any location owned or controlled by the university.

Eliminating opportunities for exposure to secondhand smoke protects the overall health of non-smokers. By updating this policy, Grand Valley State University is taking action to remove exposure to the harmful effects produced by smoking for the benefit of all members of the University Community.

Pursuant to this policy, no person* (a) shall smoke or vape or (b) otherwise use any product derived from or containing tobacco on any property owned or controlled by the university or in any vehicle owned, leased, or rented by the university. Products derived from or containing tobacco may not be sold on any property owned or controlled by the university. For the purposes of this policy, to “smoke” means to inhale, exhale, burn or carry any lighted or heated product including but not limited to tobacco or other plant material intended for inhalation, whether natural or synthetic. To “smoke” also includes the use of a pipe or hookah or any electronic smoking device which creates, in any manner, an aerosol or vapor, in any form or any other oral smoking device. Products derived from or containing tobacco include without being limited to cigarettes, (including clove, bidis, kreteks), electronic cigarettes, aerosol or vapor nicotine delivery devices, cigars/cigarillos, pipe tobacco, hookah-smoked products, and oral tobacco (spit and spitless, smokeless, chew, snuff).

*Traditional Native American spiritual, ceremonial, and cultural tobacco use is permitted on campus with prior approval by the requestor's supervisor. If the use is for religious purposes, requestors should refer to the Religious Accommodation policy.

Individuals who smoke and who wish to quit are encouraged to take advantage of the following smoking cessation resources. Smoking cessation supports are available at the Campus Health Center,Alcohol & Other Drug Services (for students), local pharmacies, primary health care providers, and the local health departments. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to call ahead to inquire about fees. Prior to use of the campus health center, prospective patients may want to check with their health insurance provider to see if costs of any smoking cessation supports can be covered. Additional supports may be available through The Truth Initiative

Tobacco/Vape-Free College Program Grant awarded to GVSU in 2024. This student led program will support Faculty, Students, and staff through the transition with educational and advocacy activities, to include free smoking cessation products.**All FDA approved nicotine replacement therapy products will be permitted when used for purposes of smoking cessation.**

Additional resources:

- Nicotine eCheckup - AOD - Alcohol & Other Drugs Services - Grand Valley State University (gvsu.edu)
- Free Patches, Gum & Lozenges - 802Quits
- Where To Get Help When You Decide To Quit Smoking - NCI (cancer.gov)
- Quitting smoking / vaping | Truth Initiative
- Tobacco Prevention - Ottawa County, Michigan (miottawa.org)
- Cessation Resources (kentcountyhealthconnect.org)
- How to Quit | Smoking & Tobacco Use | CDC

Policy Enforcement

This policy assumes that with notice to our community, individuals present on campus will voluntarily adhere to this policy and enforcement will not be needed. Concerns about an individual's compliance with this policy should be addressed through existing procedures, depending on that individual's status as a student, faculty, staff, or visitor.

For additional information on the effects of cigarette smoking please visit: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.