

Georgia Model College/University Tobacco-Free Campus Policy

_____ University is committed to providing a healthy, comfortable, and productive learning environment for the students, faculty, and staff of this campus.

The 2006 U.S. Surgeon General's Report, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke* has concluded that (1) secondhand smoke exposure causes disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke; (2) children exposed to secondhand smoke are at an increased risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), acute respiratory symptoms and slows lung growth in their children; (3) exposure of adults to secondhand smoke has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system and causes coronary heart disease and lung cancer; (4) there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke; (5) establishing smoke free workplaces is the only effective way to ensure that secondhand smoke exposure does not occur in the workplace, because ventilation and other air cleaning technologies cannot completely control for exposure of non tobacco users to secondhand smoke; and (6) evidence from peer-reviewed studies that smoke free policies and laws do not have an adverse economic impact on the hospitality industry. (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006.)

In addition, the 2009 Institute of Medicine Report: *Secondhand Smoke Exposure and Cardiovascular Effects: Making Sense of the Evidence* states that study results consistently indicate that exposure to secondhand smoke increases the risk of coronary heart disease by 25 to 30 percent.

Lastly, the *Georgia Smoke free Air Act of 2005* states that most public places are to be smoke free. The act also states, under "290-5-61-.09 Enforcement

(3) The enactment of any other local law, rules and regulations of state or local agencies, and local ordinances prohibiting smoking that are more restrictive than the Act are enforceable.

(4) The Act shall not be construed to permit smoking where it is otherwise restricted by other applicable laws.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 16-12-2, 31-2-4, 31-5-9, 31-12A-10, 31-12A-11, 31-12A-12, 31-12A-13.

In light of these findings, _____ University shall be entirely tobacco-free effective _____ [date]. This policy applies to students, staff, faculty, visitors and vendors. The Tobacco Free Policy applies to all _____ University facilities and vehicles, owned or leased, and operated regardless of location.

All tobacco products or products that resemble the use of tobacco are prohibited. Tobacco products are defined to include but are not limited to cigarettes, e-cigarettes, candy cigarettes, chewing tobacco, blunts, blunt wraps, pre wrapped blunt cones & tubes, cigars, cigarillos, bidis, pipes, cigarette packages or smokeless tobacco containers, lighters, ash trays, key chains, t-shirts, coffee mugs, and any other items containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products. Tobacco use includes smoking, chewing, dipping, or any other use of tobacco products shall not be permitted in any enclosed place, including private residential space within university housing. Tobacco use shall also not be permitted in, amphitheaters; or in, and within bleachers and grandstands used for spectators at sporting and other public events. This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff and visitors.

Enforcement for Students

Consequences for students engaging in the prohibited behavior will be provided in accordance with the school's behavior management plan. Students who violate the college/university's tobacco use policy will be referred to the appropriate campus authority for screening, information, counseling and referral

Enforcement for Staff and Visitors

Consequences for employees who violate the tobacco use policy will be in accordance with personnel policies and may include verbal warning, written reprimand, or termination. Visitors using tobacco products will be asked to refrain while on school property or leave the premises. If they refuse, law enforcement officers will be contacted to escort the person off the premises or cite the person for trespassing in case the person refuses to leave the school property. In the case of a violation within the building of a school, the person is in violation of the Georgia Smokefree Air Act of 2005 (O.C.G.A. 31-2a-1 et seq.). Signage will be prominently posted in all visitors' areas and college and university staff and officials will communicate policy to visitors upon arrival and infractions.

Enforcement at Outdoor School Sponsored Events on Campus Grounds

All outdoor school sponsored events on campus (ex. athletic events, meetings or functions by community groups renting college/university property) must be tobacco free. This policy must be clearly stated in all contracts, correspondence and verbal and written announcements to all attendees and contractors.

Opportunities for Cessation

The administration will identify and or offer programs and services for students who are ready to quit tobacco use. The administration will identify and or offer programs and services for college/university staff who use tobacco products to support them in complying with the policy that prohibits tobacco use on university grounds and during university related events.

Copies of this policy shall be distributed to all faculty and staff and shall be included with information given to all admitted students. Announcements shall also be printed in campus newspapers to insure that everyone understands the policy. No Tobacco/Smoking signs shall be posted at all building entrances. No ashtrays shall be provided at any location on campus. Cigarettes shall not be sold on university grounds, either in vending machines, the student union, or any area on campus.

This policy is being announced three months prior to its implementation in order to give tobacco users time to adapt to its restrictions and to facilitate a smooth transition to a tobacco free environment. On-site tobacco cessation programs shall be made available to assist and encourage individuals who wish to quit smoking. Questions and problems regarding this policy should be handled through existing departmental administrative channels and administrative procedures.

The success of this policy will depend on the thoughtfulness, consideration, and cooperation of tobacco users and non tobacco users. All students, faculty, and staff share in the responsibility for adhering to and enforcing this policy.

In further recognition of the incompatibility of _____ University's educational mission and the promotion of tobacco products, effective _____ date, no tobacco-related advertising or sponsorship shall be permitted on university property, at university sponsored events, or in publications produced by the university. For the purposes of this policy, "tobacco related" applies to the use of a tobacco brand or corporate name, trademark, logo, symbol, or motto, selling message, recognizable pattern or colors, or any other indicia of product identical to or similar to, or identifiable with , those used for any brand of tobacco products or company which manufactures tobacco products.

Signature of Chief Administrator

Date: _____