



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Tobacco-Free Campus Policy?

Effective August 1, 2013, ACPHS is a tobacco-free institution. This policy prohibits community members from using tobacco products on campus facilities. The sale or free distribution of tobacco products on campus is also prohibited.

Under this policy, what is defined as a “Tobacco Product”?

All forms of tobacco, including but not limited to, cigarettes (commercial or handmade), oral tobacco (spit and spit less, chew, snuff), cigars, cigarillos, pipes, water pipes (hookah), electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco products, or any other smoking material or device.

Why is the use of e-cigarettes not permitted?

The policy prohibits all forms of tobacco and any nicotine delivery device that has not been approved by the FDA for cessation (the FDA has the authority to regulate e-cigarettes as a “tobacco product” under the Tobacco Control Act). The FDA does not consider e-cigarettes to be a safe nicotine delivery system or smoking cessation strategy and their use is prohibited on College property for purposes of this policy. However, other forms of approved nicotine replacement therapy such as gum and patches are approved. See FDA information on [e-cigarettes](#).

When does the Tobacco-Free Campus policy go into effect?

This policy goes into effect August 1, 2013.

Why is ACPHS becoming a Tobacco-Free Campus?

The College has a responsibility to its students, faculty, staff and visitors to provide a safe and healthy environment. The College recognizes the negative health effects that tobacco use, or exposure to its use, has upon our community members. Therefore, to help limit the negative effects of tobacco use and promote a culture of health and wellness, the entire campus community will support a tobacco-free environment.

What other Colleges and Universities are Smoke or Tobacco-Free?

More than 1,100 Colleges and Universities have instituted a 100% Smoke-Free Campus policy. Of these 1,100, more than 750 have instituted a 100% Tobacco-Free Campus policy. A complete list of participating institutions is available from the [American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation](#).

Where does the Tobacco-Free Campus policy apply?

Smoking and use of any tobacco product is strictly prohibited on any facility or property owned, leased, used or occupied by the College; including all college vehicles. This applies to personally owned and rented vehicles when located on campus facilities or used to transport faculty, staff or students on any College related business, academic or student life activities.

Can I smoke in my own personal vehicle while on campus?

No. All parking structures and parking lots owned, leased, or rented by the College are covered by the Tobacco-Free Campus policy.

Does the Tobacco-Free Campus policy apply to College sanctioned events or sporting activities occurring at off campus property?

No. The Tobacco-Free Campus policy applies only to College owned, operated, leased, occupied, or controlled property. Events or activities scheduled elsewhere are bound by the policies or rules of the event coordinator or property manager.

Are there restricted and designated smoking areas available?

No. While designated areas limit exposure to smoke, they do not protect those who work, live or must pass the area on a frequent basis. Exposure to smoke in and near the designated areas is bothersome to many students and employees, especially those with allergies, asthma and heart disease.

To whom does the Tobacco-Free Campus policy apply?

This policy applies to all faculty, staff, students, contractors, vendors, volunteers, and visitors.

How is the policy being communicated to campus constituents and visitors?

Efforts to publicize the Tobacco-Free Campus Initiative began in May 2012 with a series of email communication informing the campus of the forthcoming policy. Throughout the remainder of the 2012-13 and subsequent fiscal years, the policy will continue to be communicated through ads and announcements in multiple campus publications as well as postings in buildings across campus. Policy communications are ongoing beyond the implementation date and include ads, posters,



flyers, banners, e-mails, article series (ePulse, Alumni Alert, Alumni News Magazine), Facebook, website and policy information cards. Permanent signs are also posted at designated points in and around campus identifying ACPHS as a Tobacco-Free Campus.

How are employees who use tobacco managed under the new policy?

Employees can utilize their allotted meal and/or break time to travel off campus. Employees will NOT be given additional meal or break time for smoking or tobacco use.

How is the policy being enforced?

Effective implementation of this policy depends on the courtesy, respect, and cooperation of all members of the College community. All community members share the responsibility of adhering to and enforcing the policy and have responsibility for communicating the policy to visitors in a courteous and considerate manner.

The primary goal is to achieve voluntary compliance with the Tobacco-Free Campus policy by educating community members about the existence of the policy, the rationale for the policy, and the availability of tobacco cessation support services both on and off campus. Students and employees refusing to comply with this policy may be referred to the Student Code of Conduct or the Office of Human Resources for resolution.

Visitors who violate the policy will be educated that the College is a tobacco-free campus. Visitors who refuse to comply with the policy following this education will be asked to leave campus.

What should I do if I see someone smoking or using another type of tobacco product?

Faculty, staff and students who see individuals smoking on College grounds are asked to inform these individuals politely that College policy prohibits tobacco use anywhere on College grounds. This can be done verbally through conversation, or by handing the individual one of the policy reminder cards available at the Office of Human Resources and the Division of Campus Life. If someone becomes agitated or hostile upon being approached, please do not escalate the situation. Simply walk away and contact **University Heights Association (UHA) Office of Public Safety at (518) 244-3177**. Individuals who do not feel comfortable approaching someone violating the policy can submit the area and type of violation to the Clean Space Campus Committee via email at tobaccofree@acphs.edu.

How should supervisors discuss this new policy with employees?

Periodic reminders during scheduled department meetings and at key implementation times are important. Supervisors are encouraged to communicate College tobacco cessation assistance opportunities to members of their department.

What resources are available to help those who would like to quit using tobacco?

The College will provide programming to educate the College community of the policy and offer access to cessation programs for those who wish to quit the use of tobacco products. Please visit the www.acphs.edu/cleanspace for on-campus, off-campus and on-line resources to assist you in your quit efforts. Additional Information can also be found at the [American Lung Association](#), [American Cancer Society](#), and [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

Isn't this a violation of individual and civil rights?

No. Using tobacco is a personal choice, not a right under either state or federal law. Prohibiting tobacco use on campus provides access to a clean environment and smoke-free air while allowing adults who smoke to continue to do so off-campus. This decision supports the rights and privileges of both tobacco users and non-tobacco users alike.

What about the safety of students who choose to smoke and must go off campus?

Safety is a concern for all students, tobacco users and non-users, both on and off campus. The College cannot restrict who goes off campus or when students choose to go off campus. This is why the College utilizes University Heights Association (UHA) Office of Public Safety and liaisons with local authorities to implement crime prevention strategies that help keep everyone safer. Students who choose to go off campus to use tobacco products would not be at any greater risk than students who choose to go off campus to study, eat, etc. The College encourages all students to adopt an attitude of awareness and to take precautions when going off campus.

Can I use tobacco if I go onto our neighbor's property?

We ask that our students, faculty and staff help maintain a positive relationship with our neighbors that border the campus. Neighboring institutions such as Albany Law School, Albany Medical Center, Sage, Albany Stratton VA Medical Center, and College Suites have instituted their own smoke or tobacco-free policies. We encourage you to respect other's property by not littering and not congregating in areas to smoke and thus creating a cloud that others must walk through. We will be reaching out to our neighbors and informing them of the upcoming policy and encouraging open communication if a problem arises.

Do I have to quit smoking or stop using tobacco to live/work/study at ACPHS?

No. The Tobacco-Free Campus policy is not requiring tobacco users to quit but is more about maintaining a healthy environment and eliminating exposure to tobacco and secondhand smoke.

Who do I contact if I have additional questions about the policy?

Additional questions or concerns on the Tobacco-Free Campus policy should be addressed via e-mail to the Clean Space Campus Committee at tobaccofree@acphs.edu. We will respond to all e-mail inquiries within a timely manner.

