I. 4.2.5 Tobacco and Smoke-Free Environment

Chapter 4 - General Personnel	Original Effective Date: June 2000
Section: 4.2 Employee Relations	Date Last Reviewed: September 2024
Responsible Entity: Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer	Date Last Revised: September 2024

II. Purpose

To provide a tobacco and smoke-free environment on The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio campuses and in facilities owned, leased, operated or otherwise controlled by UT Health San Antonio.

III. Scope

This policy applies to all employees, inclusive of staff and faculty, trainees, students, residents, patients, contractors, volunteers, and other visitors of UT Health San Antonio when they are on a UT Health San Antonio campus or in a facility owned, leased, operated, or otherwise controlled by UT Health San Antonio.

IV. Policy

A. General Policy

As part of its mission to promote public health, UT Health San Antonio is dedicated to providing a healthy and comfortable work and learning environment for everyone. To this end, the use of tobacco and smoking in all forms as defined by this policy is prohibited.

1. This ban on tobacco and smoking products covers the use of such products within any institutional facilities and on campus grounds, entryways, and parking lots and structures.
2. No tobacco or smoking products may be used in vehicles that are being operated on work locations that are owned, leased, operated or otherwise controlled by UT Health San Antonio. Further, tobacco use and smoking is prohibited in personal vehicles when transporting persons on authorized institutional business.
3. Advertising, selling or offering free samples of tobacco or smoking products on UT Health San Antonio property is prohibited.

4. Improper disposal of and/or littering with the remains of tobacco or smoking products or any other related waste product is also prohibited.

B. Responsibility and Enforcement

1. It is the responsibility of each individual to ensure that a healthy environment is provided by example and deed. The cooperation and support of this policy by the entire UT Health San Antonio community is essential to its success.
2. Information about this policy will be made available through signs posted in facilities, through online institutional policies, and in orientation materials and training of new members of the UT Health San Antonio community.
3. Visitors will be informed of this policy through signs posted in and around facilities, and it will be explained by their hosts. Visitors will be directed to the street or sidewalk off UT Health San Antonio property if they intend to use tobacco or smoke products.

V. Definitions

When used in this document, the following words have the meaning set forth below unless the context requires a different meaning.

Electronic Smoking Device – any product containing or delivering nicotine, or any other substance intended for human consumption that can be used by a person in any manner for inhaling vapor or aerosol from the product. The term includes any such device, whether manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-pipe, e-hookah, or vape pen or under any other product name or descriptor.

Institutional Facilities and Campus Grounds – for the purpose of this policy, this extends the smoking ban to the border of the public roadways.

Smoking – means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, or pipe, or any other lighted or heated tobacco or plant product intended for inhalation, including hookahs or marijuana, whether natural or synthetic, in any manner or in any form. "Smoking" also includes the use of an electronic smoking device that creates an aerosol or vapor, in any manner or in any form, or the use of any oral smoking device for the purpose of circumventing the prohibition of smoking in this policy.

Tobacco Products – includes all forms of tobacco, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, vaping, electronic cigarettes (i.e., e-cigarettes), and any non-FDA approved mechanical delivery devices.

Trainee – an individual holding an educational appointment through Academic & VISA administration regardless of compensation status or benefits eligibility.

VI. Related References

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

Texas Administrative Code, Title 25 Health Services, Part II, Chapter 703 Grants for Cancer Prevention and Research, Section 703.20

VII. Review and Approval History

The approving authority of this policy is the University Executive Committee.

Effective Date	Action Taken	Approved By	Effective Date
06/2000	Policy Origination		
11/2017	Policy Revision		
09/2024	Policy Revision	Executive Committee	10/07/2024