Allegany College of Maryland

TOBACCO / SMOKING POLICY

Approved by S&LA Advisory Policy Team 03/15/13
Approved by HR/F Advisory Policy Team 04/xx/13
Approved by President's Staff n/a
Approved by President's Advisory Team 5/7/13
Approved by All-College Staff 5/16/13
Approved by Board of Trustees 6/17/13
Implementation Date 8/19/13

Purpose and Background

It is a shared responsibility of the students, staff, and visitors of Allegany College of Maryland to promote a healthy, comfortable, productive, and safe campus environment. Reliable medical evidence reveals that smoking and tobacco use is hazardous not only to the health of those who use the products, but tobacco smoke is also hazardous to the health of nonsmokers who are exposed to smoke. Additional health concerns relative to the use of tobacco, tobacco products, and tobacco substitutes include oral cancer, allergic reaction/allergies by non-users who are exposed, communicable diseases which may be transmitted by contact with body fluids and sputum produced during oral tobacco use which can provide the vehicle for infection, and the lack of medical research into the risks, if any, to users and non-users of tobacco substitutes such as e-cigarettes.

Thus, it is the position of the College that the use of tobacco, tobacco products, or tobacco substitutes is harmful not only to the person consuming/using it but also to others. In an effort to promote health and to preserve the working/learning environment of the campus community, all students, staff, and visitors to Allegany College of Maryland are required to comply with the provisions of this policy. In all matters related to the implementation and enforcement of this directive, reasonable priority shall be given to the needs of nonsmokers/non-users.

Allegany College of Maryland's former policy restricted the use of tobacco, tobacco products, and tobacco substitutes to parking lots; this policy was approved by the Board of Trustees in November 2007. Due to ongoing health and enforcement concerns, a Smoke Free Task Force comprised of faculty and staff was appointed in Fall 2011; in Spring 2012, the Task Force recommended that Allegany College of Maryland campuses go tobacco-free.

POLICY

Policy Statement: No person shall use tobacco, tobacco product(s), and/or tobacco substitute(s) on any property owned, operated, or managed by Allegany College of Maryland including – but not limited to – buildings, parking lots, vehicles, and fields/lawns. This policy applies to all forms of tobacco, tobacco products, tobacco substitutes, and tobacco delivery devices – regardless of whether the delivery device is being used with tobacco or nicotine. Hereinafter, the use of the word "tobacco" in this policy and in any procedures, which are developed shall encompass all the products listed in "Definitions" below.

The only exceptions to this policy are (a) smoking/tobacco cessation products such as nicotine patches, gum, physician-prescribed medications, or similar approved product and (b) exceptions expressly permitted by the College President or designee.

Definitions:

- **Tobacco, tobacco, tobacco product(s), and/or tobacco substitute(s)**
  The intent of this policy is to be broadly applied to the following products:
  - Cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff, snus, dissolvable tobacco, other smokeless tobacco;
  - Nicotine;

- e-cigarettes, electronic nicotine delivery systems, hookahs, and other devices whose products are inhaled and/or which produce a vapor;
- any product which is designed to mimic the act of smoking without using actual tobacco or nicotine;
- any tobacco-, nicotine-, or smoking-related product which has an actual or potential effect upon a non-user;
- any tobacco-, nicotine-, or smoking-related product existing at the time the policy is adopted; and
- any tobacco-, nicotine-, or smoking-related product which may be developed in the future.

- **Vehicle**
  This policy applies to all vehicles operated, idling, or parked on campus including College-owned vehicles, College-owned golf carts, other College-owned motorized equipment, delivery/business vehicles, and personal vehicles.
- **Smoking Cessation Product**
  The intent of this policy is to encourage the students, staff, and visitors to quit using/consuming the products prohibited on campus by this policy; therefore, legitimate smoking cessation products are permitted. Preference will be given to any such product approved, endorsed, and/or provided by local, state, and federal agencies such as the Food & Drug Administration and the Allegany County Health Department.

Education: The College shall purchase or produce signage of sufficient quantity and quality to inform all persons on campus about the policy. Signage shall be posted in prominent locations on all campus locations/property, and information about the policy and smoking cessation opportunities shall be included in relevant publications *and electronic media*. When appropriate, the College will promote education to students, faculty, and staff about the health risks associated with tobacco and related products; when funding is available, the College will provide smoking cessation resources to students, faculty, and staff.

Allegany College of Maryland encourages all consumers/users of tobacco to quit; those who do not shall be responsible for locating an alternate location to consume/use tobacco, and the College accepts no liability for their choice to consume/use tobacco on non-College property.

Enforcement: All students, faculty, and staff share in the responsibility for adhering to and enforcing this policy. Informal enforcement may be used via courteous reminders for first time violators. Formal enforcement for students, faculty, and staff who repeatedly violate the policy or who fail to comply with informal measures may occur via the Code of Student Conduct (students) and the College HR Manual (employees). Campus visitors who fail to comply with informal measures may be asked to leave College property and may not be permitted to return.

Related Allegany College of Maryland policies maintain their full force and purpose (e.g., FERPA, HIPAA, Code of Student Conduct, Employee Handbook, Employee Complaint Policy, Safety Risk Policy, etc.). Nothing in this policy shall be deemed to permit or authorize the use of smoked/inhaled drugs including, but not limited to, marijuana; illegal drugs and/or the unauthorized use of legal drugs are not permitted on any property owned, operated, or managed by Allegany College of Maryland, nor is any person permitted to be on College property under the influence of drugs (or alcohol).