



POLICY

Title: Tobacco and Cannabis-Free

Policy Statement

The possession and use of Tobacco and Cannabis is prohibited on University Property.

Reason for the Policy

This Policy is designed to articulate the rationale, general expectations, and restrictions associated with Tobacco and Cannabis, as defined herein, whether smoked, inhaled, or ingested.

Tobacco

Cigarette smoking causes more than 480,000 deaths in the United States each year, including an estimated 42,000 deaths from exposure to secondhand smoke. Smokeless tobacco can lead to nicotine addiction and cause cancer of the mouth, esophagus and pancreas. (Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

There has been an explosion in the use of E-cigarettes (electronic cigarettes) in our youth. E-cigarettes are not safe for youth, young adults, pregnant women, or adults who do not currently use tobacco products. E-cigarettes produce aerosolized nicotine and can also be used to deliver Cannabis and other drugs. Nicotine is highly addictive, toxic to developing fetuses and can harm brain development in adolescents and young adults. E-cigarette aerosol can contain harmful and potentially harmful substances. E-cigarettes can cause unintentional injuries due to fire, explosions and accidental ingestion of the liquid. (Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

Cigarette butts, primarily from filtered cigarettes, are believed to be the most common source of litter on the planet, and these non-biodegradable plastic filters contain harmful chemicals and carcinogens. (Source: US Department of Health and Human Services). Additionally, empty pods and cartridges are becoming an increasing source of litter.

To protect the public health, the University of Vermont has prohibited the smoking of tobacco products indoors and in proximity to our buildings for more than 30 years. Multiple studies have clearly shown the negative impact of tobacco use on our ecosystem, in addition to the well-known adverse health impacts on individuals. At the same time, tobacco-free policies, successfully implemented at hundreds of campuses nationwide, have proven effective in reducing exposure to secondhand smoke and reducing smoking, while recognizing personal responsibility for societal health and environmental concerns. As a natural outgrowth of UVM's commitment to the environment and to public health, this policy is now extended to include all tobacco products (with the exception of FDA approved smoking cessation products) and encompass all UVM properties.

Cannabis

About 1 in 10 marijuana users will become addicted. For people who begin using before the age of 18, that number rises to 1 in 6. Marijuana use directly affects the brain — specifically the parts of the brain responsible for memory, learning, attention, decision making, coordination, emotions, and reaction time. Marijuana use, especially frequent (daily or near daily) use and use in high doses, can cause disorientation, and sometimes cause unpleasant thoughts or feelings of anxiety and paranoia. Marijuana users are significantly more likely than nonusers to develop temporary psychosis (not knowing what is real, hallucinations and paranoia) and long-lasting mental disorders, including schizophrenia. It is important to remember that people of any age, sex, or economic status can become addicted to marijuana or other drugs. (Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Cannabis negatively affects academic performance. The academic impact of using Cannabis includes lower GPA and delayed graduation.

Immigration law treats all marijuana-related activity as a crime. Possession, use, and/or admission of Cannabis use by persons who are not U.S. Citizens can result in immigration consequences such as: revocation of status, deportation, denial of entry into the U.S., and inability to obtain future immigration benefits.

Applicability of the Policy

This Policy applies to University faculty, students, staff and external persons and entities present on University Property, including visitors and individuals providing goods or services to the University. Exceptions to this policy may be granted by the Vice President for University Relations and Administration for human subjects research that has been reviewed and approved through the appropriate University Institutional Review Board.

Definitions

Cannabis: A Schedule I Controlled Substance under federal law, defined as the parts, products, and non-Hemp derivatives of the plant *Cannabis sativa*, *indica*, *ruderalis* and hybrid strains, including Medical Marijuana, irrespective of state law to the contrary.

Hemp: the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of the plant with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration of not more than 0.3 percent by dry weight.

Medical Marijuana: Cannabis for which the user is a Registered Patient under Vermont law (18 V.S.A. Chapter 86 Subchapter 2).

Controlled Substances: Any of the substances listed in the schedules of the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, and/or any of the controlled or regulated drugs under state law.

Tobacco: A state controlled and regulated drug, as defined by 7 V.S.A. § 101 and this Policy, to include:

Tobacco Products include cigarettes, little cigars, roll-your-own tobacco, snuff, cigars, new smokeless tobacco, and other tobacco products;

Tobacco Substitutes include nicotine pods and juices, electronic cigarettes or other electronic or battery-powered devices, that contain and are designed to deliver nicotine or other substances into the body through the inhalation of vapor and that

have not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for tobacco cessation or other medical purposes. Products that have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for tobacco cessation or other medical purposes shall not be considered to be tobacco substitutes.

Tobacco and Cannabis Paraphernalia: includes any device used, intended for use, or designed for use in smoking, inhaling, ingesting, or otherwise introducing Tobacco or Cannabis into the human body, or for preparing the same for smoking, inhaling, ingesting, or otherwise introducing into the human body, including devices for holding Tobacco or Cannabis, rolling paper, wraps, cigarette rolling machines, grinders, pipes, water pipes, carburetion devices, bongs, hookahs, vaping devices, and empty pods or cartridges.

University Property: Any property owned, leased or operated by the University, including any motorized vehicle or watercraft. For the purpose of this Policy, the private domiciles of non-student employees located on the University campus are not considered University Property. Any employees with private domiciles on campus are required to abide by the terms of their lease/rental/use agreements and any expectations documents.

Procedures

None

Contacts

Questions concerning the daily operational interpretation of this policy should be directed to the following (in accordance with the policy elaboration and procedures):	
Title(s)/Department(s):	Contact Information:
For faculty, staff, and non-affiliated organizations:	
Office of the Vice President for University Relations and Administration	(802) 656-2992
For students:	
Dean of Students Office	(802) 656-3380
For research-based exceptions:	
Office of the Vice President for University Relations and Administration	(802) 656-2992

Forms/Flowcharts/Diagrams

- None

Related Documents/Policies

- [The Tobacco-Free UVM Health Initiative](#)
- [Cannabis: What Students Need to Know](#)

Regulatory References/Citations

- [Agricultural Marketing Act](#), 60 Stat. 1087 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.)
- [Controlled Substances Act](#), 84 Stat. 1236 (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.)
 - Drug Enforcement Administration, [Schedule of Controlled Substances](#)
- [Drug Free Schools and Communities Act](#), 34 C.F.R. 86 (20 U.S.C. 1011i)
- [Vermont Possession and Control of Regulated Drugs](#), 18 V.S.A. Chapter 84, Subchapter 1
- [Vermont Therapeutic Use of Cannabis Law](#), 18 V.S.A. Chapter 86, Subchapter 2
- [Vermont Tobacco Products Law](#), 7 V.S.A. Chapter 40

Training/Education

Training will be provided on an as-needed basis as determined by the Approval Authority or the Responsible Official.

About This Policy

Responsible Official:	Vice President for Operations and Public Safety	Approval Authority:	President
Policy Number:	V. 3.17.2	Effective Date:	August 26, 2019
Revision History:	V. 5.30.1 Effective August 1, 2015		