

Smoking Policy

Western Connecticut State University Tobacco and Vape-Free Policy

Western Connecticut State University (WCSU) is committed to providing a healthy and nurturing environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors on campus. We have adopted a tobacco and vape-free policy effective June 30, 2023.

Section 1. Tobacco and Vaping Products Are Prohibited on Western Connecticut State University's Campus*

As of June 30, 2023, the WCSU campus shall be entirely vape- and tobacco-free. The Tobacco and Vape-Free Policy applies to all Western Connecticut State University facilities, property, and vehicles, owned or leased, regardless of location. Smoking and the use of tobacco or vape products shall not be permitted anywhere, including, but not limited to, all offices, classrooms, hallways, waiting rooms, restrooms, meeting rooms, community areas, performance venues and private residential spaces within Western Connecticut State University housing. Vaping and the use of tobacco products shall also be prohibited outdoors on all Western Connecticut State University campus property, including, but not limited to, parking lots, paths, fields, sports/recreational areas, and stadiums, as well as in all personal vehicles while on campus. Littering the campus with the remains of tobacco and vape products or any other related waste is prohibited. This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, and other persons on campus.

**Ceremonial use, such as during Indigenous smudging rituals, may be approved on a case-by-case basis.*

Section 2. Definitions

A. "Electronic Delivery Smoking Device" or ENDS, means 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 the purpose of 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.

B. "Hookah" means a water pipe and any associated products and devices which are used to produce fumes, smoke, and/or vapor from the burning of material including, but not limited to, tobacco, shisha, or other matter.

C. "Smoking" means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe, hookah, or any other lighted or heated tobacco or plant product intended for inhalation, including cannabis, whether natural or synthetic, in any manner or in any form. "Smoking" also includes the use of an electronic smoking device which 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.

D. “Tobacco Product” means any substance* containing tobacco leaf, including but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, hookah tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, dipping tobacco, bidis, blunts, clove cigarettes, or any other preparation of tobacco; and any product or formulation of matter containing biologically active amounts of nicotine that is manufactured, sold, offered for sale, or otherwise distributed with the expectation that the product or matter will be introduced into the human body by inhalation, ingestion, or absorption.

**This does not include any cessation product specifically approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in treating nicotine or tobacco dependence.*

Section 3. Dissemination of Policy; Signage

Copies of this policy shall be distributed to all students, faculty, and staff. Information about the policy and how to comply with it shall also be posted on the Western Connecticut State University website. Announcements concerning the policy and any changes to it will be posted on the Western Connecticut State University website. Signs prohibiting smoking and the use of tobacco and vape products shall be posted on campus and at building entrances.

Section 4. Enforcement of Policy

WCSU recognizes that quitting vaping and tobacco is complex and difficult. We have founded this policy on education and outreach, not punishment or discrimination. The goal is to foster behavior and culture change over time, through continued community support and voluntary compliance.

The responsibility for communication and enforcement of this policy rests with all members of the university community. It applies equally to students, employees and visitors. Individuals found in violation may be given a warning and informed of resources available to help them reduce dependency.

All members of the Western Connecticut State University community share the responsibility to respect this policy. Its success depends upon the consideration and cooperation of everyone. We share the responsibility of supporting a tobacco- and vape-free campus through education, community support, and voluntary compliance.

Employees and members of the faculty are encouraged to contact their Primary Care provider or the Employee Assistance Program for information concerning cessation support, products and programs. Students are encouraged to reach out to CHOICES and Health Services for cessation support, products and programs. Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Vice President for Student Affairs or Human Resources.

This policy shall be effective on June 30, 2023.

Sent to Student Government Association for Comment and Review 10/7/22: No comment

Sent to Student Life Committee for Comment and Review 10/24/22: Policy edited to add “discrimination” Section 4, paragraph 1, sentence 2.

Sent to University Senate for Comment and Review 10/19/22

Passed by University Senate on 12/12/22 and approved by President Beran