

Tobacco-Free UK:

A Healthy Place to Live, Work and Learn

Frequently Asked Questions of UK Students

1. What is the main reason for the tobacco-free policy being established at UK?

The University of Kentucky has a vital interest in maintaining a safe and healthy environment for our students, employees, patients and visitors. Research findings show that use of tobacco products in general constitutes a significant health hazard. The health care and health education programs of the University perform an important function by demonstrating and promoting healthy lifestyles through activities such as curtailment of the use of tobacco products. In addition, tobacco use is a serious safety concern and has been specifically listed as a contributing factor in a number of university facility fires across the nation, many of which have resulted in fatalities or major damage. In addition, Kentucky spends over \$1 billion per year treating people who get sick from using tobacco products.

2. How will this policy be enforced?

The successful implementation of the Policy will engage everyone in **creating a culture of compliance**. Employees and student leaders will be trained to provide clear, compassionate yet firm messages to communicate the policy. Using scripted messages, employees and students will courteously remind any employee, patient, student, visitor, vendor or contractor violating the Policy that the University prohibits the use of all tobacco products on the University of Kentucky property. This policy will be enforced like any other student conduct/employee regulation violation.

3. What is the procedure for reporting an individual who is violating the policy?

Undergraduate or graduate students who violate the Policy will be reported to the Dean of the appropriate college or the Dean of Students. Students who violate the Policy in student housing areas will be reported to the Office of Residence Life. Students who violate the Policy will be subject to corrective action according to the applicable disciplinary code (i.e., the Student Code of Conduct and/or the Health Care Colleges Code of Student Professional Conduct).

4. Why can we not have designated smoking areas on campus?

The goal of this policy is to make UK a healthy place to live, work and learn. Also, designated smoking areas have been found not to work; tobacco users don't stay in those areas (e.g., NKU's current policy and the UK HealthCare policy before we went tobacco free last year). Given the rationale for going tobacco-free, designated areas don't make sense.

5. How can UK both support growing tobacco at its extension sites and this tobacco-free policy?

Considerable research is being conducted by the College of Agriculture on other uses of tobacco besides cigarettes. See link for more details: <http://www.ca.uky.edu/KTRDC/>

6. How will UK-owned or leased properties in areas other than Fayette County be enforced?

For areas not located within Fayette County, Kentucky, smoking is prohibited in all owned, operated, leased, or controlled University buildings and structures, parking structures, enclosed bridges and walkways, and vehicles. Smoking is also prohibited outside buildings and structures within 20 feet of entrances, exits, air intakes, and

windows, unless further restricted by division policy. Tobacco users are responsible for disposing of all tobacco products in appropriate receptacles.

7. Can a student turn in a faculty or staff member using tobacco? How could this affect the student-faculty relationship?

Compliance to the tobacco-free policy is the responsibility of all parties. Violation of this regulation may result in corrective action under the Student Code of Conduct, Human Resources Policies and Procedures, or other applicable University Regulations or Policies. *This policy will not affect the student-faculty relationship any more than any other policy on campus. It is expected that it will take time for the policy to become a part of the "normal culture" on campus.*

8. How is UK educating students about the policy?

- More than 6,000 flyers about the policy were passed out last semester, and 4,000 more flyers about the policy were passed out at the UK Bookstore, KWEEK Events, placed on bulletin boards around campus and in Fraternity and Sorority housing, in Halls & the Stalls, and on the Dining Services Table Tents. All freshmen received the flyer at the Summer Advising Conferences.
- Information about the policy is in the KBook and the UK Handbooks.
- There is a message about the policy on the UK Athletics Web site and radio interviews have been done (or will be done) by WUKY and WRFL radio.
- Wildcat Student TV will soon have a slide/commercial on Channel 49.
- Specific academic colleges also received information about the policy for their various publications. Information about the policy was given to all UK 101 Instructors to pass on to all of their students.
- Two brochures are being created that outline the policy and boundaries, and the resources available. These will be available throughout campus, in the Visitor Center, given to all College Deans and Ambassadors, and placed in all on-campus housing mailboxes.
- The Tobacco-Free Task Force has worked with the Kernel to educate students through several policy-related articles.
- All information about the Policy can be found at www.uky.edu/Tobaccofree

9. Where can students smoke? What are the boundaries?

Students can smoke any where off campus. A map has been created (and will be included in the brochure) that outlines the specific boundaries of UK property. This map will also be available online in the next few weeks (along with updated information) at the following Web site: www.uky.edu/TobaccoFree.

10. How can UK justify prohibiting smokeless tobacco when it does not affect the health of those around the individual using the product?

Smokeless tobacco products are harmful and are not a safe alternative to smoking. First, there is a significant burden placed on others when the tobacco user faces health-related injuries and preventable diseases (i.e., oral cancers). More than \$1 billion per year is spent on treating people who get sick from using tobacco products in Kentucky. The use of tobacco products constitutes a significant health hazard, leading to premature death and chronic, debilitating disease, and UK is taking the lead on creating a healthier Kentucky.

11. What resources are available for students that want to quit or need to manage their cravings while on campus?

UK offers many resources to students, employees and visitors. For a full list of the resources available please go to www.uky.edu/TobaccoFree.