



LET'S CLEAR THE AIR!

Proud to be a tobacco- and smoke-free campus

Student Toolkit

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Communicating about the Tobacco-Free Policy

The Tobacco-Free Campus policy is part of our ongoing effort to ensure a healthy, productive, respectful environment in which to work, learn, and live. Our University buildings have been smoke-free for many years, and the expansion to a tobacco-free campus is effective July 1, 2015.

The success of this policy relies on the thoughtfulness, consideration, and cooperation of each individual. In an effort to achieve maximum compliance with the new policy, all faculty, staff, students, alumni, and volunteers are encouraged to help carry out the policy at their facilities and sponsored activities. It is the intent of this policy that enforcement will be achieved primarily through education, awareness, and a spirit of cooperation.

As we acclimate to the new policy and become more aware of campus boundaries, it's important to remain courteous and respectful when reminding fellow students about the University's Tobacco-Free Campus policy. If, however, there are repeated reports of policy violation despite friendly reminders of the policy requirements, a resident assistant, professional hall staff, student organization leader, or advisor may be asked to have a more direct discussion with the student to help resolve the concern.

Student to Student: Communicating the policy to your peers.

Pocket policy cards are available from the University Wellness Initiative office at wellness@syr.edu or 315-443-5472. These cards may be given to anyone seen using tobacco products on University property as a reminder.

Keep the "SMOKE" acronym in mind any time you choose to approach someone who is using tobacco products on campus.

S: "Smile" Introduce yourself.

M: "Make" the assumption that the person doesn't know the policy.

O: "Offer" resources for tobacco cessation.

K: "Kindly" remind the person of the tobacco-free policy.

E: "Enforce" the policy: Ask the person to stop using the tobacco on campus.

Below are some examples of situations you may encounter when sharing information about the policy on campus. We have prepared sample scripts or examples of nonconfrontational dialogue you may consider using when approaching someone to inform them of our new policy and encourage compliance.

EXAMPLE SCRIPT #1

Situation: You see a fellow student using tobacco or tobacco-related products on campus grounds:

*Please keep in mind, this student may be new to campus, unfamiliar with the policy, or confused about where they are and are not permitted to use tobacco and tobacco-related products. **Remember to be courteous and respectful**, asking whether they are aware of our tobacco-free campus policy. You may choose to hand them the pocket policy card to facilitate your conversation or direct them to more information about the policy.*

Conversation starter: “Hi my name is _____, I am a student at SU, and I wanted to let you know that SU is a tobacco-free campus...meaning that tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco and e-cigarettes, are not permitted on SU property. I know that as a tobacco user, this policy must be a challenge for you. If you’re interested in checking out some resources for tobacco cessation, go to the website on the pocket card, or contact Health Services at 315-443-9005 to discuss additional resources available to students. Thanks for your cooperation.”

EXAMPLE SCRIPT #2

Situation: “Where am I allowed to smoke?”

Response: “Smoking and other tobacco products are not allowed anywhere on the SU campus, including inside buildings, residence halls, and on University grounds. This is a new policy meant to promote respect for all members of the campus community as well as a safe and healthful work environment. If you need to smoke or use tobacco products, please step off the campus property to do so.”

Campus maps of both North and South Campus as well as additional information about the policy are available at wellness.syr.edu/tobacco-free. Maps are found under the FAQ section.

- Tobacco-Free Main and North Campus.pdf
- Tobacco-Free South Campus.pdf

EXAMPLE SCRIPT #3

Situation: “Why should I comply? I don’t agree with the policy.”

Response: “Respect for others and a culture of health and wellness are what guide us in establishing and maintaining a tobacco-free campus. While this policy may be challenging for tobacco users at first, we hope that all members of the University community will respect each other and the environment.”

QUESTIONS? For more information about the policy, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), and tobacco-cessation resources, visit wellness.syr.edu/tobacco-free