

# UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE

**POLICY#: 101.12**

**SUBJECT: TOBACCO/SMOKING POLICY**

**APPLIES TO: ALL EMPLOYEES, STUDENTS AND VISITORS**

**ISSUED BY: OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: 01/01/86**

**REVIEW/REVISION DATE: 09/01/2002**

Whereas, The University of Southern Maine (USM) joins with the American College Health Association (ACHA) in supporting the findings of the Surgeon General that tobacco use in any form, active and passive, is a significant health hazard. USM further recognizes that second-hand smoke has been classified as a Group A carcinogen by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. USM acknowledges the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) statistics that 70% of all smokers report that they want to quit smoking completely. The implementation of a new tobacco policy will have an immediate effect on individuals who smoke and therefore USM has included prevention, education and cessation initiative in planning for this policy change.

Our intent is to institute a policy that respects the rights of smokers and non-smokers while accomplishing the following: reduce exposure to second-hand smoke, provide an environment supportive of tobacco-free lifestyles, reduce risk of accidental fire, and reduce the environmental impact of cigarette litter.

Therefore, in order to protect the health, safety and comfort of University students, employees, and visitors, and consistent with state law (Title 22, Chapter 1580-A and 1542), it is the policy of the University of Southern Maine to restrict smoking in facilities and on grounds owned, leased, or rented by the University. Where the needs of smokers and non-smokers conflict, smoke-free air shall have priority. In addition, USM supports education programs to provide smoking cessation and prevention initiatives to our students and employees.

## **EDUCATION**

- The USM community and its visitors shall be made aware of the new tobacco policy through every appropriate means. Organizers of public events using USM facilities are responsible for communicating and abiding by this policy.
- USM encourages employees and students not to smoke by offering educational information, and providing information about smoking cessation classes offered through university departments or offices, health care providers, nonprofit organizations or other groups.

- USM Health Services and Counseling Services will provide prevention and cessation programs to students upon request.
- USM Health Promotion Coordinator will provide prevention and cessation programs to employees, retirees and their dependents upon request.

## **SMOKE-FREE AREAS**

- Inside all facilities owned, leased, or rented by USM, including residence halls.
- Inside all USM owned vehicles and any vehicle with multiple occupants on University business.
- On campus grounds, except in designated smoking areas. Outdoor smoke-free areas shall include, but are not limited to; all entryways, stairways, bus-stop areas, ATM's, areas where there is fixed seating, athletic fields, partially enclosed areas such as breezeways, and walkways between sections of buildings.

## **SALES AND MARKETING**

- The sale and free distribution of tobacco products on any USM campus is prohibited.
- Campus organizations are prohibited from accepting money or gifts from companies who are primarily engaged in the sale and promotion of tobacco products.
- Tobacco advertisements are prohibited in all University-run publications.
- All contracts with off campus vendors shall provide that the University's name or logo will not be used in connection with tobacco promotions.

## **ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

- The President, Vice Presidents, Deans, Directors and Department Heads shall assure that this policy is communicated to everyone within their areas of responsibility.
- The Office of Community Standards will be responsible for student violations.
- Supervisors will be responsible for employee violations.

- The policy relies on the consideration and cooperation of smokers and nonsmokers.
- All members of the USM community, including visitors, are asked to observe this policy.
- Direct questions and concerns about the policy to the office of Vice President of Student and University Life.