Policy

Minnesota State University, Mankato prohibits smoking, tobacco use, e-cigarette use, and tobacco sale (including the use or sale of smokeless tobacco products and e-cigarettes) on property or in vehicles it owns, operates or leases.

Procedures

Definitions:

Smoking: Inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted or heated tobacco or other product intended for inhalation, in any manner or in any form. Smoking also includes the use of an e-cigarette which creates a vapor, in any manner or any form, or the use of any oral device for the purpose of circumventing the prohibition of smoking in this Policy.

Tobacco Products: Smokeless tobacco consists of the use of snuff, chewing tobacco, smokeless pouches, or other forms of loose leaf tobacco.

E-cigarette: any electronic oral device, such as one composed of a heating element, battery, and/or electronic circuit, which provides a vapor of nicotine or any other substances for inhalation. The term shall include any such device, whether manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-pipe, or under any other product name or descriptor, but does not include any product specifically approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in medical treatment, such as an asthma inhaler.

Policy Exceptions

1. An exception for instructional purposes allows for the use of tobacco products in laboratory and classroom instruction/experiments or artistic purposes. All research, educational, and/or artistic purposes that involve the use of tobacco on campus must be approved in advance by the President or his/her designee. Such use must be preceded by reasonable advance notice to the public.

2. This policy does not apply to tobacco products used in connection with the practice of cultural activities by American Indians that are in accordance with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, 42 U.S.C. sections 1996 and 1996a or other ceremonial use. The use of tobacco products for these activities must be approved in advance by the President of the University or his/her designee. Such use must be preceded by reasonable advance notice to the public.
Cessation Programs and Services
To support Minnesota State Mankato students and employees who wish to reduce and/or quit using tobacco products, a variety of tobacco cessation resources are available on the university website.

Policy Rationale

Minnesota State Mankato is committed to promoting a clean, safe, and healthy living, learning, and working environment for all students and employees of the University. In addition, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) Board of Trustees passed a resolution, dated March 16, 2010, stating:

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees encourages each college and university to consult with its employees and students about additional steps the institution should take to:
1. Educate employees and students about the danger of tobacco use to themselves and others;
2. Provide information to employees and students about smoking cessation resources available; and
3. Further restrict tobacco use.