

East Mississippi Community College Tobacco-Free Policy

In order to promote a healthy environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors, East Mississippi Community College is tobacco-free on all campuses.

Section 1. Findings and Intent

Research findings show the use of tobacco products is one of the most significant hazards to serious health problems ranging from heart disease, stroke, and cancer in smokers and nonsmokers. This includes and is not limited to smoking, second-hand smoke or smokeless tobacco. By endorsing a tobacco-free policy, East Mississippi Community College joins the many colleges and universities nationwide in demonstrating its commitment to eliminating tobacco exposure, promoting healthy practices and choices for individuals. East Mississippi Community College is committed to promoting a culture of health and wellness for its constituents. Accordingly, East Mississippi Community College finds and declares that the purposes of this policy are (1) to protect the public health and welfare by prohibiting smoking, including the use of electronic smoking devices, on East Mississippi Community College campuses; (2) to guarantee the right of nonsmokers to breathe smokefree air; and (3) to encourage a healthier, more productive living/learning environment for all members of our campus community.

Section 2. Definitions

A. "Electronic Smoking Device" 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 plant 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 marijuana, 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.

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; but 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. Smoking and Tobacco Use

The Smokefree Policy applies to all East Mississippi Community College facilities, property, and vehicles, owned or leased, regardless of location. Smoking shall not be permitted in any enclosed place, including, but not limited to, all offices, classrooms, hallways, waiting rooms, restrooms, meeting rooms, community areas, performance venues and private residential space within East Mississippi Community College housing. Smoking shall also be prohibited outdoors on all East Mississippi Community College 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. No exemptions are allowed for theatrical productions, permission from the president or other authority, sports arena and/or events, or off-campus properties. This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, and other persons on campus, regardless of the purpose for their visit.

Section 4. Promotion and Sale of Tobacco Products

In further recognition of the incompatibility of East Mississippi Community College's educational mission and the promotion of tobacco products:

No tobacco-related advertising or sponsorship shall be permitted on East Mississippi Community College property, at East Mississippi Community College-sponsored events, or in publications produced by the East Mississippi Community College with the exception of advertising in a newspaper or magazine that is not produced by East Mississippi Community College and which is lawfully sold, bought, or distributed on East Mississippi Community College property. For the purposes of this policy, "tobacco related" applies to the use of a tobacco brand or corporate name, trademark, logo, symbol, or motto, selling message, recognizable pattern or colors, or any other indicia of product identical to or similar to, or identifiable with, those used for any brand of tobacco products or company which manufactures tobacco products, or smoking products.

Cigarettes, including ESDs, cigars, and pipes, including hookah pipes, shall not be sold or distributed as samples on university grounds, either in vending machines, the student union, or any area on campus.

Section 5. Dissemination of Policy; Signage

Copies of this policy shall be distributed to all faculty and staff and shall be included with information given to all admitted students. Information about the policy and how to comply with it shall also be posted on the East Mississippi Community College website. No Smoking signs shall be posted at all points of entry to the East Mississippi Community College campus and at all East Mississippi Community College building entrances. No ashtrays shall be provided at any location on campus.

Section 6. Transition Period

The revised tobacco-free policy is effective immediately. On-site smoking cessation programs shall be made available to assist and encourage individuals who wish to quit smoking. Questions and problems regarding this policy should be handled through existing departmental administrative channels and administrative procedures.

7. Enforcement

This policy shall be enforced by the Dean of Students for each campus. Violations witnessed shall be reported to the Dean of Students for each campus. Each violation of this policy is punishable by a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100) and/or appropriate campus disciplinary procedures.