

Portland State University Smoking/Tobacco Policy

Introduction

In 2007 the PSU Tobacco Policy Committee conducted an extensive evaluation of the PSU smoking/tobacco policy. The evaluation consisted of a review of the literature, state law (ORS 433.835-433.990), web-based survey responses from the campus community, along with the policies, procedures, and trends in other Oregon state colleges and universities, including a sample of five urban institutions in other states. The committee concluded that a more comprehensive policy was needed.

Portland State University is committed to maintaining a greener and healthier campus environment for all PSU community members. With this policy, our hope is to protect all who live, work, study or visit the campus from a major health concern: secondhand smoke. In the 2006 report, the U.S. Surgeon General concluded that secondhand smoke causes premature death and disease in both children and adults who do not smoke. Further, secondhand smoke exposure in adults has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system and causes coronary heart disease and lung cancer. While the scientific evidence indicates that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke, our intention is to substantially reduce the risk to nonsmokers across the PSU campus.

Policy

Smoking¹ of any kind is prohibited in all university buildings, balconies, patios, awnings, overhead walk ways, covered walk ways between buildings, stairwells, vehicles², parking garages and any other enclosed areas³ owned or leased by Portland State University.

Smoking is prohibited in any area of University Housing, both private and common, including entryways. This policy applies to all residents, guests and staff.

The sale, distribution, and/or advertisement of any tobacco products are prohibited in PSU facilities and publications.

¹ The term 'smoking' means any inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted cigar, cigarette, clove, bidis, kreteks, cigarillos, hookahs, or any other tobacco product in any manner or form.

² vehicles includes passenger vehicles and all other state-owned mobile equipment, including light and heavy duty trucks, cargo and passenger vans, buses, golf carts and any other mobile equipment.

³ Per Oregon Senate Bill 571 471.75(i)(2) - "Enclosed area" means all space between a floor and a ceiling that is enclosed on [all] three or more sides by [solid] permanent or temporary walls or windows, exclusive of doors or passageways, that extend from the floor to the ceiling [including all space therein screened by partitions that do not extend to the ceiling]. In June 2007 the state Legislature passed SB 571 to revise the Oregon Smokefree Workplace Law. The administrative rules are in the process of being written. The text of the bill can be accessed at <http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0500.dir/sb0571.en.pdf>.

Leasing agreements between PSU and community partners will incorporate the smoking policy into the rules and regulations attached to the lease agreement.

Smoking is prohibited within 25 feet from entrances and exits, air intake vents, operable windows of buildings, or where otherwise prohibited by signage. The rights of non-smokers to a smoke-free environment will always take precedence over the desire of smokers to smoke in non-smoking areas. Individuals who use tobacco products are responsible for their proper disposal.

Smoking of noncommercial tobacco products for ceremonial purposes is permitted in spaces designated for traditional ceremonies in accordance with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (42 U.S.C. 1996).

PSU provides and/or promotes cessation services/resources for all members of the college/university community.

The smoking policy applies to all employees, students, clients, consultants, vendors, contractors, guests, and visitors. This policy will be reviewed and evaluated on a yearly basis and revised as needed.

Effective January 2010

The Urban Plaza will be an entirely tobacco free area. This area includes all open space between the College of Urban & Public Affairs and the Academic & Student Recreation Center. This change is based on PSU's intention to mirror the living room of the PSU campus to that of the living room (Pioneer Square) of Portland, which is smoke free.

Compliance

Consideration, respectfulness and a cooperative spirit are essential components in ensuring the success of this policy and creating a healthy community. It is the responsibility of all PSU community members to adhere to this policy and utilize courteous communication when discussing this policy with others.

Questions or Comments

Regarding any questions or concerns you may have, please contact one of the following departments for assistance:

- **Signage**, Facilities, 503-725-3738
- **Problem resolution/compliance**, Campus Public Safety, 503-725-4407
- **Effect on students**, Office of the Dean of Students, 503-725-4422
- **Effect on faculty**, Office of Academic Affairs, 503-725-3422
- **Effect on staff**, Manager, Employment and Employee Relations; Human Resources 503-725-4926