

Tobacco Policy (updated 06/21/2023)

General. North Carolina Wesleyan University is committed to providing a safe, healthy and respectful environment and campus for all students, faculty, staff and visitors. The University has long prohibited smoking inside or near any building, and effective July 15, 2015, North Carolina Wesleyan University will be a tobacco free campus. Beginning on that date, the use and possession of any tobacco, tobacco products as well as smoking substitutes, such as electronic cigarettes and vapor products, will be prohibited on any property owned or operated by North Carolina Wesleyan University.

Policy. The use, distribution, possession or sale of tobacco or tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, vapor devices or any other device that simulates smoking as well as smoking (as defined below), is prohibited on all campus grounds, including inside personal vehicles located on campus grounds.

All staff, faculty, students, contractors, vendors, and visitors are expected to comply with this policy.

The University also prohibits littering the campus with remains of any tobacco products.

University controlled advertising, sale, or free sampling of tobacco products is prohibited on campus or University owned or University controlled property.

Exceptions. This policy will not apply to chewing gum or patches approved by the FDA for use as smoking cessation aids, but will apply to any electronic cigarettes or vapor products, regardless of their use in cessation programs. Questions regarding acceptability of a particular cessation aid should be referred to the Dean of Students or Director of Human Resources.

Definitions.

Campus or Campus Grounds - University-owned, leased or controlled properties, and University-owned, leased or rented vehicles. This includes but is not limited to the interior and exterior of all buildings (including residence halls), University sidewalks, parking lots, landscaped areas, common areas and recreational areas owned, operated or controlled by the University.

Smoking – Inhaling, exhaling, burning, carrying or possessing of lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, water-pipe or hookah or any product used to consume in a similar manner; and the use of an unlit cigarette, cigar, pipe, water-pipe or hookah, or the use of an electronic cigarette/e-cigarette, cigar, pipe or any other device intended to simulate smoking tobacco, including vapor/vaping devices.

Tobacco – Any tobacco product, object or device including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, electronic cigarettes, cigars as well as smokeless, spit or spit less, dissolvable, or inhaled tobacco products, including but not limited to: dip, chew, snuff or snus, in any form (orbs, sticks, pellet, etc.). For the purpose of this policy use of substances such as clove, bidi, kretek or any such similar substance is prohibited.

Violations of the policy. The responsibility for the enforcement and communication of this policy rests with each member of the University community.

Visitors, contractors and other individuals on University property who are in violation of this policy should be reminded of the policy and asked to comply by immediately ceasing smoking, (or otherwise using tobacco) and discarding the tobacco. If the individual refuses to comply they may be asked or required to leave the University property.

All staff, faculty, and students in violation of the policy should be reminded of the policy and asked to comply. Employees who fail to comply with this policy should be reported to the Director of Human Resources. Students who fail to comply with this policy should be reported to the Dean of Students. These persons or their designees will follow up with the employee or student regarding the policy and available resources.

Continuing violations may also result in appropriate University disciplinary action up to and including dismissal in accordance with established student, staff, and/or faculty codes of conduct and procedures.