

Tobacco-Free (Clear Passages) Policy

Policy

In keeping with St. Francis College's mission to promote holistic wellness, responsible citizenship and commitment to the environment, **it is St. Francis College's policy to provide a tobacco-free environment in all College facilities and outdoor areas. As you should be aware, the New York State Clean Indoor Air Act prohibits smoking in private colleges among other places.** See the New York State Clean Indoor Air Act (Public Health Law Article 13-E). It is also the policy of St. Francis College to prohibit the sale and advertising of tobacco products on campus and tobacco industry sponsorship of campus activities.

The overwhelming scientific evidence assembled by the US Surgeon General, Centers for Disease Control, Environmental Protection Agency, and World Health Organization indicates that tobacco use, smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke cause deadly diseases and are responsible for millions of deaths worldwide each year. Exposure to secondhand smoke, a Group A carcinogen (cancer-causing agent), causes immediate and permanent negative health effects; there is no safe level of exposure.

Purpose

The purpose of the tobacco-free policy is to ensure that all St. Francis College facilities and properties are tobacco-free in an effort to provide St. Francis College's students, faculty, administrators, staff and visitors with a healthy, safe and responsible working and learning environment.

There is no "right" to smoke under either New York state or US federal law. In fact, as of May 23, 2011, New York City banned smoking in parks and beaches. Prohibiting smoking and the use of tobacco products on campus preserves everyone's right to breathe clean, smoke-free air while allowing adults who smoke and use tobacco products to continue to do so off-campus. This decision supports the rights and privileges of both smokers and non-smokers alike.

Definitions

Tobacco Use: The act of using any tobacco product in any College facility or outdoor area, including, chewing tobacco, smokeless tobacco, electronic cigarettes (that involve the use of tobacco and tobacco products) and the act of smoking or carrying a lighted cigar, cigarette, clove cigarette, pipe or any other smoking material or device (e.g. hookah, bidis and kreteks).

College Facilities: Any facility or property that is owned, leased, used or occupied by St. Francis College, including but not limited to: entry ways, private offices, lounges, dining areas, recreational facilities, residence halls, storage areas, service shops, sidewalks, facilities operations areas, athletic facilities, all College vehicles (owned or leased), and personally

owned and rented vehicles when used to transport St. Francis College faculty, staff or students on any College-related business, academic or student life activities.

Outdoor Areas: Any College outdoor area that is open to access by the public or campus community, including but not limited to sidewalks, athletic fields, lawn areas and any College facility entrance or egress.

Responsibilities

St. Francis College will inform members of the campus community about the tobacco-free policy by widely distributing the policy on an annual basis, through such vehicles as the College website, mySFC, the *Cord*, human resource publications and other relevant communications. In addition, the policy will be shared with parents, alumni and visitors, with key components posted on signage around campus.

Enforcement of this policy will depend on the cooperation of all members of the campus community, both to comply and encourage others to do so. Faculty, staff and students who see individuals smoking or using tobacco products are asked to inform these individuals in a professional and courteous manner that College policy prohibits tobacco use anywhere on grounds.

Initial policy violations will be responded to with education, as described above. Repeated violations may be subject to appropriate disciplinary actions in accordance with the *Cord* for students and human resources policy guidelines for faculty, administrators and staff.

Visitors who violate the Tobacco-free Policy will be informed that St. Francis College is a tobacco-free campus. Visitors who continue to violate the policy following a warning will be escorted off campus.

Cessation

The campus promotes and provides evidence-based cessation resources which integrate research evidence with clinical and health promotion expertise.

Community Relations

St. Francis College encourages and partners with surrounding merchants, municipalities, landlords and tobacco control advocacy groups and other local stakeholders to enact community tobacco-free policies that will enhance the College's commitment to a tobacco-free norm.

Respect

for access to tobacco-free air
for all SFC community members



Education

about tobacco, about policies

Support

for smoking cessation