

**University Policy 800.02  
TOBACCO-FREE POLICY**

**Responsible Administrator:** Vice President for Student Development and Services

**Responsible Office:** Office of Student Development and Services

**Originally Issued:** August 2008 (No Smoking Policy)

**Revision Date:** October 2013

**Authority:** Office of the President

**Policy Statement**

Clafin University is committed to providing a safe and healthy working and learning environment for the students, faculty, and staff on its campus. It hereby adopts the following tobacco-free policy.

**Findings and Intent**

The 2006 U.S. Surgeon General's Report, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke*, has concluded that (1) secondhand smoke exposure causes disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke; (2) children exposed to secondhand smoke are at an increased risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), acute respiratory problems, ear infections, and asthma attacks, and that smoking by parents causes respiratory symptoms and slows lung growth in their children; (3) exposure of adults to secondhand smoke has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system and causes coronary heart disease and lung cancer; (4) there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke; (5) establishing smokefree workplaces is the only effective way to ensure that secondhand smoke exposure does not occur in the workplace, because ventilation and other air cleaning technologies cannot completely control for exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke; and (6) evidence from peer-reviewed studies shows that smokefree policies and laws do not have an adverse economic impact on the hospitality industry (The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services). *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006). According to the 2010 U.S. Surgeon General's Report, *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease*, even occasional exposure to secondhand smoke is harmful and low levels of exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke lead to a rapid and sharp increase in dysfunction and inflammation of the lining of the blood vessels, which are implicated in heart attacks and stroke. (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services). *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: The Biology and Behavioral Basis for Smoking-Attributable Disease: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2010).

Numerous studies have found that tobacco smoke is a major contributor to indoor air pollution, and that breathing secondhand smoke (also known as environmental tobacco smoke) is a cause of disease in healthy nonsmokers, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and lung cancer. The National Cancer Institute determined in 1999 (Monograph #10) that secondhand smoke is responsible for the early deaths of approximately 53,000 Americans annually.

Based on a finding by the California Environmental Protection Agency in 2005, the California Air Resources Board has determined that secondhand smoke is a toxic air contaminant, and that exposure to secondhand smoke has serious health effects, including low birth-weight babies; sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS); increased respiratory infections in children; asthma in children and adults; lung cancer, sinus cancer, and breast cancer in younger, premenopausal women; heart disease; and death.

According to the World Health Organization, scientific evidence has firmly established that there is no safe level of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke, a pollutant that causes serious illness in adults and children, and that implementing 100% smoke-free environments is the only effective way to protect the population from the harmful effects of exposure to secondhand smoke.

The Americans with Disabilities Act, which requires that disabled persons have access to public places and workplaces, deems impaired respiratory function to be a disability.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has determined that the risk of acute myocardial infarction and coronary heart disease associated with exposure to tobacco smoke is non-linear at low doses, increasing rapidly with relatively small doses such as those received from secondhand smoke or actively smoking one or two cigarettes a day, and has warned that all patients at increased risk of coronary heart disease or with known coronary artery disease should avoid all indoor environments that permit smoking.

Unregulated high-tech smoking devices, commonly referred to as electronic cigarettes, or "e-cigarettes," closely resemble and purposefully mimic the act of smoking by having users inhale vaporized liquid nicotine created by heat through an electronic ignition system. After testing a number of e-cigarettes from two leading manufacturers, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) determined that various samples tested contained not only nicotine but also detectable levels of known carcinogens and toxic chemicals, including tobacco-

specific nitrosamines and diethylene glycol, a toxic chemical used in antifreeze. The FDA's testing also suggested that "quality control processes used to manufacture these products are inconsistent or non-existent." ([n.a.], "Summary of results: laboratory analysis of electronic cigarettes conducted by FDA," *Food and Drug Administration (FDA)*, July 22, 2009;

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/PublicHealthFocus/ucm173146.htm>

Accessed on: October 22, 2009, E-cigarettes produce a vapor of undetermined and potentially harmful substances, which may appear similar to the smoke emitted by traditional tobacco products. Their use in workplaces and public places where smoking of traditional tobacco products is prohibited creates concern and confusion and leads to difficulties in enforcing the smoking prohibitions.

According to the American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation, more than a thousand colleges and universities in the United States have adopted smokefree or tobacco-free policies and this number is rising steadily. The American College Health Association "encourages colleges and universities to be diligent in their efforts to achieve a 100% indoor and outdoor campus-wide tobacco-free environment." The United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has created the Tobacco-Free College Campus Initiative (TFCCI) to promote and support the adoption and implementation of tobacco-free policies at universities, colleges, and other institutions of higher learning across the United States.

### **Statement of Purpose**

This policy promotes a safe and healthy environment at Claflin University. Accordingly, Claflin University Management finds and declares that the purposes of this policy are (1) to protect the public health and welfare by prohibiting smoking and the use of tobacco products on the Claflin University campus; (2) to guarantee the right of nonsmokers to breathe smokefree air, while recognizing that the need to breathe smokefree air shall have priority over the desire to smoke; and (3) to encourage a healthier, more productive living/learning environment for all members of our campus community.

### **DEFINITIONS**

- A. "E-cigarette" means 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, and the use or inhalation of which simulates smoking. 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.

- B. "Smoking" means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, or pipe, including a hookah pipe, or any other lighted or heated tobacco or plant product, including marijuana, 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 in any form, or the use of any oral smoking device for the purpose of circumventing the prohibition of smoking in this Policy.
  
- C. "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; 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.

Beginning in August 2008, smoking became prohibited in all campus buildings (including residential halls) and University owned and leased cars at Claflin University; smoking was permitted in designated outside areas of the campus. Then approximately three years later, on August 13, 2011, Claflin University became a smoke-free campus; specifically, smoking was not permitted on the campus, including any designated areas. On October 16, 2013, two years after designation as a smoke-free campus, the University will become a tobacco-free campus. The specifics of this transition are detailed throughout the remainder of this policy.

### **Applicability**

This Tobacco-Free Policy applies to all Claflin University facilities and vehicles owned and leased by the University. Smoking and the use of tobacco products otherwise shall not be permitted in enclosed places including residential halls as well as on outside grounds to include parking lots. This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, and other persons on campus, regardless of the purpose for their visit.

### **PROCEDURES**

Copies of this policy shall be distributed to all faculty and staff and shall be included with information given to all admitted students. Announcements shall also be printed in campus newspapers to insure that everyone understands the policy. Signs prohibiting smoking and the use of tobacco products shall be posted at all points of entry to the university campus and at all university building entrances. No ashtrays shall be provided at any location on campus. No

tobacco products or paraphernalia shall be sold or distributed as samples on university grounds, either in vending machines, the student union, or any area on campus.

This policy is being announced on October 1, 2013 prior to its implementation in order to give smokers time to adapt to its restrictions and to facilitate a smooth transition to a tobacco-free environment. Smoking cessation information 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.

The success of this policy will depend on the thoughtfulness, consideration, and cooperation of smokers and nonsmokers. While all faculty and staff share in the responsibility for adhering to and enforcing this policy, students share in the responsibility for adhering to this policy.

Beginning October 16, 2013, employees and students observed using tobacco products on University property will be issued a \$25 ticket which must be paid within 30 days of issuance.

Students who receive a second ticket will be referred to the University's Office of Counseling. Subsequent tickets will be reported to the Vice President for Student Development and Services and may result in disciplinary action.

Employees who receive a second ticket will be referred to the Office of Human Resources for assistance. Upon receipt of a third ticket by an employee, the Office of Human Resources will notify the employee's immediate supervisor and appropriate Vice President. Subsequent tickets will be reported to the President's designee and the employee may be subject to disciplinary action ranging from a written warning, up to and including suspension to termination.

Volunteers/Visitors who use tobacco products on campus will be reminded of the University's Tobacco-Free Policy. If visitors continue to violate the policy, the incident will be reported to the Campus Security for enforcement purposes up to and including volunteers/visitors being asked to leave the campus.

## **RESOURCES**

For persons who elect to stop smoking, a free service featuring phone and internet counseling to stop smoking is available through the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. Information on this service can be obtained by calling 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669).

**In further recognition of the incompatibility of Claflin University's educational mission and the promotion of tobacco products, effective October 16, 2013:**

No tobacco-related advertising or sponsorship shall be permitted on university property, at university-sponsored events, or in publications produced by the university, with the exception of advertising in a newspaper or magazine that is not produced by the university and that is lawfully sold, bought, or distributed on university 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 product identical to or similar to, or identifiable with, those used for any brand of tobacco products or company that manufactures tobacco products.

