

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
Manual of Policies and Procedures

POLICY NO: IV:02:04

DATE: February 1993

REVISION DATES: May 1997, Dec 2006, Aug 2011, Feb 2016

SUBJECT: Tobacco Use

APPROVED: John M. Beehler, President

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to regulate the use of tobacco products and electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) or electronic devices utilized for inhaling vapors.

BACKGROUND

Health hazards attributed to tobacco smoke have long been associated with serious, of ten fatal, cardiopulmonary diseases affecting the smoker. Evolving research also indicates that the use of electronic devices designed to produce a vapor for inhaling by the user (“vaping”) is also detrimental to the user’s health. Tobacco smoke and vapors produced by electronic devices are not limited to the smoker/user, but also includes those who inhale Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS, also referred to as “second hand smoke”) or environmental vapors emitted from the devices used or that are exhaled by the user. It is the purpose of this policy to protect the non-smokers at Jacksonville State university from environmental exposure to secondhand smoke and/or vapors.

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health considers ETS to be a potential occupational carcinogen in conformance with the OSHA carcinogen policy (29 CFR 1910.104). NIOSH further states that “workers should not be involuntarily exposed to tobacco smoke.” Other agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), also classify tobacco smoke as an actual carcinogen or a potential carcinogen. The EPA states that ETS is a known cause of lung cancer and respiratory symptoms that has been linked to heart disease. The State of Alabama Department of Public Health also strongly supports efforts to eliminate involuntary exposure to ETS. The City of Jacksonville’s Ordinance Number 447 mandates a smoke-free environment in workplaces and public places within the city limits, and prohibits smoking within 10 feet of an enclosed area.

Evolving evidence also indicates that vapors produced by e-cigarettes or other electronic devices present a similar risk. Regulation of electronic smoking devices by the Food and Drug Administration is being considered.

In view of this, the following policy is adopted:

POLICY

It is the policy of Jacksonville State University to provide non-smoking students, faculty, and staff with a tobacco- and smoke-free, and vapor-free environment in which to work and study. While the University is sensitive to the needs and rights of smokers and using e-cigarettes or electronic vapor generators, our primary concern must be for the protection of the non-smoking population.

Smoking and vaping in all University facilities is prohibited. Smoking/vaping areas may be designated near the exterior of University buildings. These areas must be located a sufficient distance from doorways, windows, and ventilation systems to prevent smoke from entering enclosed buildings and facilities. These designated smoking areas must be at least 25 feet from an enclosed area. Smoking areas may not be located near a covered walkway or thoroughfare. Designated smoking areas must be relocated if it is determined that nonsmokers are being exposed to smoke. Ash trays at building entry points have been provided for cigarette disposal prior to entering the facility and do not indicate an approved smoking area. Building Managers are responsible for designating smoking areas for their facilities.

SMOKELESS TOBACCO

PURPOSE

The use of smokeless tobacco on campus has resulted in significant damage to University property and additional cleaning expense. There is also a growing concern about the health hazards associated with smokeless tobacco products. In view of the above concerns, the following policy is adopted:

POLICY

It is the policy of Jacksonville State University that the use of smokeless tobacco will **not** be permitted in any facility on campus. Supervisors will be responsible for the enforcement of these policies in their areas.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Environmental Health and Safety is responsible for this policy.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed biennially.