

**The Lutheran University Association, Inc.
d/b/a Valparaiso University**

TOBACCO FREE CAMPUS POLICY

Because Valparaiso University is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for the students, faculty, staff, and visitors on its campus, it hereby adopts the following smoke-free and tobacco-free policy.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

While not directed at the social and private lives of the employees, this policy is directed at the use of all combustible and noncombustible tobacco and any tobacco related products including, but not limited to, nicotine pouches, smokeless or chewing tobacco, herbal cigarettes, hookah, electronic cigarettes (e-cigs/vapes) (hereinafter collectively referred to as “tobacco products”), marijuana/THC products on Valparaiso University Property. However, tobacco products do not include any cessation product specifically approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in treating nicotine or tobacco dependence.

Valparaiso University is committed to providing a safe and productive campus environment for its students, faculty, hourly staff, salaried staff, and visitors. To accomplish this objective, appropriate policies are implemented from time to time, which are consistent with the spirit and intent of this commitment. With this in mind, Valparaiso University has developed this policy, the purpose of which is to establish and maintain a campus environment that is free from the effects of the use of tobacco products and discourages nicotine addiction.

The smoking of tobacco, hookahs, or marijuana/cannabis, and the use of Electronic Smoking Devices are forms of air pollution and constitute both a danger to health and a material public nuisance.

Accordingly, Valparaiso University 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, including ESDs, on the Valparaiso 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

The definitions related to this policy are as follows:

- A. “Electronic Smoking Device” (ESD) means any product containing or delivering nicotine or any other substance intended for human consumption that can be used by a person in any manner for the purpose of inhaling vapor or aerosol from the product. The term includes any such device, whether manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-pipe, e-hookah, dab rig, or vape pen, or under any other product name or descriptor.

- B. “Hookah” means a water pipe and any associated products and devices which are used to produce fumes, smoke, and/or vapor from the burning of material, including, but not limited to, tobacco, shisha, or other plant matter.
- C. “Smoking” means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe, hookah, or any other lighted or heated tobacco or plant product intended for inhalation, whether natural or synthetic, including marijuana/cannabis, in any manner or in any form. “Smoking” also includes the use of an electronic smoking device, which creates an aerosol or 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.
- D. “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, ingestion, or absorption; 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.

POLICY

The Smoke-free and Tobacco-Free Policy applies to all Valparaiso University facilities, property, and vehicles, owned or leased, regardless of location. Smoking and the use of tobacco products shall not be permitted in any enclosed place, including, but not limited to, all offices, classrooms, hallways, waiting rooms, restrooms, meeting rooms, community areas, performance venues, and private residential space within Valparaiso University housing, which includes all residence halls as well as the sorority housing complex. Smoking and the use of tobacco products shall also be prohibited outdoors on all Valparaiso University campus property, including, but not limited to, parking lots, paths, fields, sports/recreational areas, and stadiums, as well as in all personal vehicles while on campus. This policy applies to all employees, whether faculty, hourly or salaried staff, students, and visitors, and is effective on a 24/7 basis with no exceptions.

Valparaiso University will offer smoking cessation programs such as “Quit Now Indiana” to any employee or student who wishes to quit tobacco products. Full-time employees may access cessation benefits through their personal provider, Marathon Health Clinic, or through Quit Now Indiana.

TOBACCO PRODUCT PROMOTION

In further recognition of the incompatibility of Valparaiso University’s educational mission and the promotion of smoking/tobacco products:

No events held on campus will allow tobacco products, including all combustible and noncombustible forms of tobacco. No tobacco-related advertising or sponsorship shall be permitted on Valparaiso University property, at Valparaiso University -sponsored events, or in publications produced by Valparaiso University, except for advertising in a newspaper or magazine that is not produced by Valparaiso University and which is lawfully sold, bought, or distributed on Valparaiso University property.

For 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 indicia of product identical to or similar to, or identifiable with, those used for any brand of tobacco products or company which manufactures tobacco products, or smoking products.

No smoking products, tobacco products, or tobacco paraphernalia shall be sold or distributed as samples on university grounds, either in vending machines, the student union, or any area on campus.

DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

Copies of this policy shall be distributed to all faculty and staff and shall be included with information given to all admitted students. Information about the policy and how to comply with it shall also be posted on the Valparaiso University website. Announcements concerning the policy and any changes to it shall be printed in campus newspapers and posted on the Valparaiso University website to ensure that everyone fully understands the policy. Signs prohibiting smoking and the use of tobacco products shall be posted at all points of entry to the Valparaiso University campus and at all building entrances. No ashtrays shall be provided at any location on campus.

ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement of this policy within a University building, dormitory, or other enclosure shall be the responsibility of the University's administration/or and student life personnel.

Employee violators may be subject to disciplinary actions and/or procedures outlined in the Staff Handbook. Student violators may be subject to disciplinary actions and procedures outlined in the Student Guide to University Life. Visitor violators may be required to leave the campus. Enforcement of this policy outdoors shall be the responsibility of the Valparaiso University Police, who may report violators to the appropriate administrator and/or student life personnel for subsequent disciplinary action. First-time violators will receive a verbal warning not to smoke on campus.

Approved: May 7, 2008 (Provost and VP Administration and Finance)

Amended and Approved by President's Council: June 7, 2016

Amended and Approved by President's Cabinet: February 17, 2026