

ACHA Guidelines

Position Statement on Tobacco on College and University Campuses

The American College Health Association (ACHA) acknowledges and supports the findings of the Surgeon General that tobacco use in any form, active and/or passive, is a significant health hazard. ACHA further recognizes that environmental tobacco smoke has been classified as a Class-A carcinogen. In light of these health risks, ACHA has adopted a NO TOBACCO USE policy and encourages colleges and universities to be diligent in their efforts to achieve a campuswide tobacco-free environment.

ACHA joins with other professional health associations in promoting tobacco-free environments. According to the ACHA-National College Health Assessment (ACHA-NCHA) conducted in spring 2004, 79% of college students described themselves as non-smokers (never smoked or have not smoked in the last 30 days); 97% described themselves as non-users of smokeless tobacco (never used or have not used in the last 30 days). ACHA supports the health goals of the U.S. Public Health Service to reduce the proportion of adults who smoke to below 12% by the year 2010 and to positively influence America's college students to help them remain or become tobacco-free. Additionally, ACHA actively supports the Healthy Campus 2010 goals to reduce cigarette smoking by college students to below 10.5% and smokeless tobacco use to below 1.0% by the year 2010.

Efforts to promote tobacco-free environments have led to substantial reductions in the number of people who smoke, the amount of tobacco products consumed, and the number of people exposed to environmental tobacco hazards. ACHA acknowledges that achieving a tobacco-free environment requires strong leadership and support from all members of the

campus community. Because the improvements to health can be so significant, ACHA recommends the following steps be taken to address policy, prevention, and cessation as it pertains to tobacco issues:

1. Develop a strongly worded tobacco policy that reflects the best practices in tobacco prevention, cessation, and control.
2. Inform all members of the campus community by widely distributing the campus tobacco policy on an annual basis.
3. Offer and promote prevention and education initiatives that actively support non-use and address the risks of all forms of tobacco use.
4. Offer and promote programs and services that include practical, evidence-based approaches to end tobacco use.
5. Prohibit the campus-controlled advertising, sale, or free sampling of tobacco products on campus or in campus-controlled situations, properties, and environments.
6. Prohibit the sponsorship of campus events by tobacco-promoting organizations.
7. Prohibit tobacco use in all public areas of the campus, including but not limited to:
 - a. Classrooms, lecture halls, auditoriums, laboratories
 - b. Museums, libraries, gymnasiums, stadiums/coliseums
 - c. Building entrances, waiting areas, halls, restrooms, elevators, stairs

- d. Health facilities, counseling centers, child care centers
 - e. Buses, vans, all other campus vehicles
 - f. Within 20 feet of all campus buildings
 - g. Meeting rooms, private offices
 - h. Dining facilities
8. Prohibit tobacco use in all residence halls, dormitory facilities, and other campus-owned, affiliated, and sanctioned housing, including but

not limited to: lounges, hallways, stairwells, elevators, restrooms, laundry rooms, and shared and private rooms.

- 9. Clearly identify all tobacco-free areas with signs.
- 10. Prohibit the use of smokeless/spit tobacco in all facilities.
- 11. Support and provide a process for frequent and consistent enforcement of all tobacco-related policies, rules, and regulations.