

CLEARING THE AIR

UCR Smoke/Tobacco-Free Quick Facts

1. Since when has the UC Riverside Smoke/Tobacco-Free policy been in effect?

The policy has been in effect since January 2, 2014.

2. Whom does the policy affect?

This policy affects students, faculty, staff and visitors at all University controlled properties.

3. What is considered a tobacco product and is therefore prohibited by the policy?

Cigarettes, cigars, snuff, snus, water pipes, pipes, hookahs, chew, and any other non-combustible tobacco product as well as all smoking devices (e.g., e-cigarettes, vaping devices, e-hookahs), and the use of unregulated nicotine products not regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for treating nicotine or tobacco dependence are prohibited

4. Why are e-cigarettes included in this policy?

The FDA does not consider e-cigarettes to be a safe nicotine delivery system or smoking cessation strategy and their use is prohibited on University property for purposes of this policy. However, other forms of FDA approved nicotine replacement therapy such as gum and patches are allowed.

5. Why is smokeless tobacco included in this policy?

- Smokeless tobacco spit is considered a biohazard and contains at least 24 carcinogenic chemicals.
- Spit tobacco often creates unwanted hazardous waste and byproducts, which campus maintenance staff members then have to dispose of.
- A dip of smokeless tobacco typically contains 3-5 times more nicotine than a cigarette. Research shows that smokers have difficulty switching from cigarettes to smokeless tobacco. Instead, many become dual users of both cigarettes and smokeless products – increasing the addiction.
- Smokeless tobacco use is a precursor to cigarette use. Specifically, adolescents who use smokeless tobacco are more likely to become cigarette smokers according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- Environmental concerns. Smokeless tobacco still uses the same tobacco manufacturing

methods that cause deforestation, soil erosion, and poverty.

6. Is there anywhere I can smoke or use tobacco?

Neither smoking nor the use of tobacco products are permitted within the boundaries of University controlled properties. Once outside the boundaries of University controlled properties, smoking and use of tobacco products is subject to local jurisdiction.

7. Can I smoke or use tobacco in my personal vehicle?

Smoking/use of tobacco is not permitted in your personal vehicle, whether parked or in motion, if the vehicle is located on UC property.

8. Is there a list of all UC controlled properties available?

UCR properties include those off the main campus (Palm Desert Center, Culver Arts Center, Natural Reserve sites), along with residential housing, UNEX and any University leased spaces. For a complete list, please visit <http://map.ucr.edu>.

9. Are there maps showing the boundaries of UC controlled properties?

Maps delineating the boundaries of all University controlled properties are available at <http://map.ucr.edu>.

10. How do smokers know what is not University property?

The University does not own the sidewalks and streets that border its campus (sidewalks and streets inside campus are University property). We ask that UCR faculty, staff, students, and visitors be courteous when going off campus to smoke or use tobacco products by disposing of tobacco products and packaging in appropriate receptacles and being aware of others nearby who may not wish to be exposed to secondhand smoke.

11. Are there designated smoking areas on campus?

Since January 2, 2014, the University of California, Riverside is a smoke/tobacco-free campus. Smoking areas or smoking shelters will not be designated on University property. Please see the campus map that identifies the campus boundaries and areas in which smoking/tobacco use is not allowed.

12. How should people know that the University is a smoke/tobacco-free campus?

Signage indicating that UCR is a smoke/tobacco-free campus will be posted in all high traffic building entrances/exits, parking lots, and at key points across campus.

13. How is this policy being communicated to campus groups and to potential visitors?

The forms of communication includes but is not limited to:

- Notification of policy to current and prospective students and employees through

communication available on University websites;

- Notification during the admission and enrollment process and/or during new hire orientation for faculty and staff;
- Informational meetings, postings, and electronic notifications
- Campus signage
- Various print and digital media
- Social media platforms
- Communications to outside groups using UCR facilities
- Contracts/Agreements
- Media exposure on and off campus

14. Why should I comply?

We hope civility and respect for others will guide all of us toward a 100% compliance of the smoke/tobacco-free campus. We realize this policy may be challenging for some smokers and tobacco users but we hope that smokers and tobacco users will respect the rights of their fellow members of the University community to breathe smoke-free air. We also hope non-smokers who remind violators of the smoke/tobacco-free policy will do so with courtesy and civility.

15. How is the policy being enforced?

Through the authority provided in [California Government Code 7597.1](#), the governing bodies of the University of California have the authority, in establishing policy for smoking and tobacco use, to set enforcement standards at local campuses.

Any non-affiliated person choosing to violate this policy may be asked to leave the campus and not permitted to return.

16. Who will enforce this policy?

UCR will provide resources to support managers, supervisors, students, faculty, and staff with methods to address policy enforcement and violations in a respectful manner. The enforcement plan includes, but is not limited to:

- Educational Pamphlet/Flyer
- Cards for distribution that include information on the Smoke/Tobacco-Free policy and cessation resources
- Scripts for talking to a smoker

Violations of the policy by students, faculty, or staff would be addressed in a manner consistent with any other policy violation. Violations by non-affiliates will or may be addressed by a UCPD response.

17. What should I do if I see someone smoking on University grounds?

Faculty, staff, and students who see individuals smoking on University properties may respectfully inform these individuals of the University policy prohibiting smoking/tobacco use anywhere on University properties.

18. How should managers/supervisors talk to employees about the policy?

We recommend that managers/supervisors remind employees of this policy and seek their cooperation with compliance. A “Supervisor Talking Points” document is available on the <http://tobaccofree.ucr.edu/resources.html> web page to assist in how to approach the topic.

19. What should managers/supervisors do if one of their employees violates the policy?

Supervisors are encouraged to communicate the University’s cessation assistance opportunities to employees and consult with Labor Relations prior to implementing disciplinary action.

A face-to-face meeting with the employee to discuss concerns is always the best place to start. The following tips can help:

- Emphasize that you don’t expect or require the employee to quit smoking/tobacco use, but that the employee must comply with the UCR smoke/ tobacco-free policy while on UCR property.
- If the employee indicates an interest in quitting, direct him or her to available resources.

20. I supervise several employees who smoke. How can they manage under the policy?

Should they choose to do so, employees may use their allotted work breaks to travel off-campus to smoke. However, employees will not be given additional break time for smoking. Supervisors must be clear with employees on this matter.

21. How will you protect individuals who are helping to enforce this policy?

There will be no reprisal against anyone seeking assistance in enforcing this policy in a courteous and respectful manner.

22. Do I have to quit using tobacco?

No. The policy does not require individuals to quit; however, the policy prohibits smoking and using tobacco products on all University controlled properties. In addition, the sale and advertising of tobacco and tobacco-related products, including any smoking devices (i.e. e-cigarettes, vaping devices, e-hookahs) are prohibited at all UC controlled properties.

23. What resources are available to help me stop using tobacco products?

The policy is an important campus health and safety initiative. The University will offer support to those affected in order to make it as easy as possible for our campus community.

The University of California, Riverside is committed to supporting the UCR community to stop using tobacco products. Assistance to students, faculty, and staff to overcome addiction to tobacco products is available through the UC health and benefits plans, the Faculty/Staff Wellness Program, Student Health Services, The Well, Faculty Staff Assistance Program (FSAP), and the Counseling Center.

Integrating comprehensive and effective cessation programs and smoke/tobacco-free policies with other worksite programs such as health promotion/wellness programs is key to facilitating and supporting successful behavior change and maximizing the health of the entire campus community.

24. What is the percentage of faculty, staff and students who smoke or use tobacco on campus?

Our campus wide survey shows that approximately 12% of survey respondents self-identified as current smokers/tobacco users and 10% self-identified as former smokers/tobacco users.

According to our Health Assessments, approximately 3%-9% of UCR faculty and staff self-report tobacco use.

25. If I choose to continue to smoke or use tobacco and do not have enough time to step off campus to smoke what am I supposed to do?

The University is aware that nicotine is a highly addictive drug and simply waiting till lunch-time or after work is difficult for some. We encourage the use of nicotine replacement products such as gum or lozenges for times when it is inconvenient to smoke. Please work with your health care provider to determine the appropriate product.

26. What about the University neighbors?

UCR asks that our students, faculty, and staff help maintain a positive relationship with our neighbors that border the campus. We encourage you to respect other's property by not littering and not congregating in areas to smoke. We will be reaching out to our neighbors and informing them of the upcoming policy and encouraging open communication if a problem arises.

27. A smoke/tobacco-free policy will force students, faculty, and staff to leave campus to smoke. What about the personal safety of these individuals, especially in the early morning or evening when it is dark?

UCR encourages all individuals to be mindful of their personal safety while on or off campus. Medications such as the nicotine patch, gum, lozenge, nasal spray or inhaler are options that can be considered to meet nicotine needs without leaving campus.

28. Don't I have a right to smoke or use tobacco products on campus?

Using tobacco is a personal choice, not a constitutional right. There is no constitutional right to smoke. In addition, 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.

29. Do smoke/tobacco-free policies really help?

Yes! According to the CDC, smoking bans and restrictions lead to a reduction in the amount of daily smoking among students and employees and an increase in the number of individuals who stop smoking. Smoke/tobacco-free campuses and workplaces reduce the risk of developing heart disease and lung cancer due to secondhand smoke exposure.

30. Does this policy negatively affect enrollment or employment?

In surveys of other colleges and universities who have established a smoke-free policy, there has not been a decline in student enrollment or applicants seeking employment. Surveys consistently show that most students would prefer to attend a tobacco-free college. One early leader, Clark College in Vancouver, Washington, has seen enrollment increase every quarter since going tobacco-free in 2003. In addition, a tobacco-free environment will make our campus a more attractive venue for events attended by the public. As the public's expectation for environments free of secondhand smoke continues to grow, community event organizers will favor tobacco-free campuses when choosing event locations.

31. Are there any other educational institutions that are smoke/tobacco-free?

Yes. There are at least 1,100 campuses in the US that are 100% smoke/tobacco-free, according to the American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation.

32. Are there any exemptions to the policy?

Tobacco use may be permitted under the following circumstances:

- Research involving tobacco or tobacco products, upon review and approval by the Office of Research Integrity in consultation with the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost.
- In traditional ceremonies of recognized cultural and religious groups upon review and approval by the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost of a submitted request for exception.

33. Who do I contact if I have additional questions about the policy?

For comments or questions regarding this policy, members of the campus community and the community at large are encouraged to visit the UC Riverside "Clearing the Air" website at www.tobaccofree.ucr.edu or contact tobaccofree@ucr.edu.