

The University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) Tobacco Use Policy

Purpose

The University of Louisiana at Monroe is committed to promoting and maintaining a healthy work and academic environment. To enable the University to fulfill this commitment, it is necessary that a policy be implemented to bring the University to as close to tobacco free as practicably possible.

Scope

This policy applies to all University faculty, staff, students, visitors, and contractors.

Policy

The use of tobacco products is prohibited in all university buildings and leased spaces. This prohibition area applies to any area enclosed by the perimeter (outermost) walls of the building, including restrooms, storage areas, balconies, stairwells, and fenced in areas connected to a building as well as any other similar building features that are considered to be "within a building".

The use of tobacco products is prohibited within 25 feet of any building entrance, air intake duct and window. The Centers for Disease Control recommends that a minimum of a 20-foot perimeter be established.

Specific outside areas for tobacco use will not be established or identified.

Individuals who use tobacco products will be responsible for their proper disposal.

The use of tobacco products is prohibited in all University vehicles. This applies to all licensed and unlicensed vehicles owned, leased, and rented by the University.

The use of tobacco products is prohibited in outdoor areas where seating is provided.

The sale, distribution, or advertisement of tobacco products is prohibited in University buildings and public areas.

Vice presidents, deans, directors, and department heads are responsible for ensuring that staff, students, visitors, and contractors are made aware of this Policy, and that they comply with its requirements. Existing disciplinary policies may be used as appropriate.

The following information was obtained from Table 1-1 in U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Guide *Making Your Workplace Smokefree: A Decisions Maker's Guide*. Full version of this guide is available at http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/research_data/environmental/fullguide.pdf.

Health Consequences of Tobacco Use

Mortality and Morbidity

- Results in premature death
- Causes significant disease and disability

Cardiovascular Effects

- A cause of coronary heart disease
- A cause of cerebrovascular disease (stroke)
- A cause of atherosclerotic peripheral vascular disease

Cancer

- A cause of cancer of the oral cavity (lip, tongue, mouth, and pharynx)
- A cause of lung cancer
- A cause of laryngeal cancer
- A contributing factor for renal cancer
- A cause of esophageal cancer
- A cause of bladder cancer
- Associated with gastric cancer

Lung Diseases

- A cause of chronic bronchitis
- A cause of emphysema

Women's Health Effects

- A cause of intrauterine growth retardation, leading to low birth weight babies
- A contributing factor for cervical cancer
- A probable cause of unsuccessful pregnancies

Other Health Effects

- Addiction to nicotine
- Adverse interactions with occupational hazards that increase the risk of cancer
- Alteration of the actions and effects of prescription and nonprescription medications
- A probable cause of peptic ulcer disease

Health Consequences of Environmental Tobacco Smoke

- A cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers
- Associated with higher death rates from cardiovascular disease in non-smokers
- In children, associated with respiratory tract infections, increase prevalence of fluid in the middle ear, additional episodes of asthma, and increased severity of symptoms in children with asthma, and a risk factor for new onset of asthma in children who have not previously displayed symptoms
- Associated with increased risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)
- Associated with increased irritant effects, particularly eye irritation, among allergic persons