



# Student Toolkit for Communicating the Smoke- Free/Tobacco-free Policy

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The UA Smoke-Free/Tobacco-free Campus Policy is meant to be a positive, health-related policy. Individuals noticing violations of the policy are expected to be non-confrontational and respectful of all members of our campus community including tobacco users when communicating the policy. Tobacco users are expected to adhere to the policy and likewise be respectful to ex-tobacco users and non-tobacco users. It is the intent of our policy that enforcement will be achieved primarily through education, awareness and a spirit of cooperation.

As we acclimate to the new policy and become more aware of campus boundaries, it's important to remain courteous and respectful when reminding fellow community members and guests of the university's tobacco-free campus policy. If, however, there are repeated reports of policy violation despite friendly reminders of the policy requirements, a resident assistant, professional hall staff, student organization leader, or advisor may be asked to have a more direct discussion with the student to help resolve the concern.

## Student to Student: Communicating the policy to your peers

### **If you find a student using tobacco products on campus grounds:**

This student may be new to campus, unfamiliar with the policy, or confused about where they are and are not permitted to use tobacco. **Remember to be courteous and respectful**, asking whether they are aware of our tobacco-free campus policy. You may choose to direct them to more information about the policy.

*Example: "I wanted to let you know that UAS is tobacco-free campus. I know that as a tobacco user, this policy must be a challenge for you. If you're interested in resources on tobacco cessation, visit Alaska's Tobacco Quit Line at [alaskaquitline.com](http://alaskaquitline.com) or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW. You can also visit the Health Clinic/Student Resource Center for samples of Nicorette gum and access to counseling services."*

**If you notice a recurrent violation occurring near a building entrance or adjacent parking area/structure:** You may report the violation to professional staff who can then inform the appropriate individual. This will help ensure adequate signage and track recurrent violations reported in the same location over time.

**If a student asks where they may use tobacco products:** Please explain that the use of tobacco products is prohibited on all UA property including university grounds. If they feel they need to use tobacco products, they will need to leave campus property. Non-university property such as sidewalks that border major streets, are not included in the Tobacco-free Campus policy. A UAS property map is available on the UAS website: <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/tobaccofree>.

The UA policy does allow tobacco use while inside personal vehicles as long as any refuse is disposed of properly.



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## For Resident Assistants, Student Leaders, and Professional Staff: Communicating the policy to students

Enforcement of the tobacco policy will be achieved primarily through education, awareness and a spirit of cooperation. It is likely that many students may still be unaware or uninformed about the specifics of the new policy. As a leader among students, you play a vital role in supporting the policy, educating students, and exemplifying social responsibility.

### **If you receive an initial report that a student is using tobacco products:**

#### **- Be respectful. Listen and have empathy for the student's situation.**

*"I know that as a tobacco user, this policy must be a challenge for you. If you're interested in resources on tobacco cessation, visit Alaska's Tobacco Quit Line at [alaskaquitline.com](http://alaskaquitline.com) or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW. You can also visit the Health Clinic/Student Resource Center for samples of Nicorette gum and access to counseling services."*

#### **- Explain the reason behind the policy: Be direct. Make a clear statement that this is an important policy to the university and it is an expectation that everyone adheres to this policy.**

*"The Tobacco-free Campus policy is part of the university's commitment to creating a healthy and sustainable environment for all members of our campus community. It is important for you to understand that violations to university policy are not acceptable and I appreciate your cooperation."*

#### **- Corrective Action:** All students are expected to adhere to campus policy. Enforcement will be through education and awareness, therefore focusing on social responsibility and educating fellow students.