



# Smoking and Vaping Policy

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**Office of the Vice President for Administration and Finance**

Updated June 17, 2019

The purpose of this document is to define smoke-free areas to maintain a safe and healthy environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors of/to New Mexico Tech.

This document is continually being updated; we would appreciate any information and/or insight that would help us develop stronger policies for the health and safety of the NMIMT community.

**Table of Contents**

I. General..... Error! Bookmark not defined.

II. Smoke-Free Areas ..... 4

III. Smoking-Permitted Areas ..... 5

IV. Residential Life ..... 6

V. Education and Services for Students..... 7

VI. Cooperation and Compliance ..... 8

VII. Enforcement ..... 9

VIII. Cross-References ..... 10

**I. General**

Research has shown that environmental or second hand tobacco smoke increases the risk of cancer and other health hazards for non-smokers as well as smokers. New Mexico Tech (NMT) has a vital interest in maintaining a safe and healthy environment for its students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Consistent with these concerns and the New Mexico Clean Indoor Air Act, the following policy has been established to restrict smoking of tobacco, or any other plant, vaping e-cigarettes, and provide procedures for accommodating the preferences of both smokers and nonsmokers.

Smoking and vaping are prohibited in all buildings or vehicles owned or leased by NMT, as well as within 25 feet of an entrance or exit. Smoking and vaping are prohibited during organized indoor and outdoor events on University property.

## II. Smoke-Free Areas

Smoking and vaping are prohibited in or at:

- All enclosed buildings and facilities including classrooms, offices, food service venues, lavatories, and residence halls (in accordance with Housing & Residential Life policies);
- Within 25 feet of building entrances and exits and fresh air intake grills unless it is a specially designated smoking area;
- Partially or fully enclosed walkways, corridors, elevators;
- Vehicles owned, leased, or rented by New Mexico Tech;
- Within 50 feet of any area where flammable materials are handled or stored or where other significant fire hazard may exist; and
- Indoor or outdoor athletic or other indoor University-sponsored or designated events.

No Smoking signs with the international no-smoking symbol will be posted at major entrances of all NMT buildings. Ashtrays will not be provided in any NMT building or facility.

**III. Smoking-Permitted Areas**

Smoking and vaping are permitted outdoors on University property except during organized events which have been designated as “No Smoking.” Individuals choosing to smoke or vape outdoors must be 25 feet from doorways, open windows, enclosed walkways, and ventilation systems to prevent smoke from entering enclosed buildings and facilities, and to prevent public access from being denied to an individual with a respiratory medical condition. Anyone who chooses to smoke, vape, or use smokeless tobacco on campus must discard the waste in an appropriate, sanitary manner.

**IV. Residential Life**

Smoking of tobacco products, vaping, and use of items such as incense, potpourri, candles, cloves, sage, and the like are prohibited in all residence halls or apartments as well as within 25 feet of the buildings and air handling equipment (e.g. swamp coolers). Examples of areas that are prohibited include your room/apartment, lounges, stairwells, fully/partially enclosed walkways/corridors and elevators. Please refer to the Resident life policy manual for additional information.

**V. Education and Services for Smokers**

In light of numerous adverse health effects associated with active smoking, and the exposure to second hand smoke, the University encourages all employees to explore educational information about the hazards of smoking. In addition to consulting with your own health care providers, students, faculty, and staff may get assistance from the following University programs:

- Students may contact the New Mexico Tech Student Health Center for information and programs to quit smoking.
- Faculty and staff may obtain assistance in smoking cessation through the Employee Health Center, and our Employee Assistance Program.

## **VI. Cooperation and Compliance**

This policy relies on the mutual courtesy and cooperation of smokers and nonsmokers for its success. It is the responsibility of all members of the New Mexico Tech community to observe the provisions of this smoking policy.

Complaints, concerns, or disputes regarding implementation of the smoking policy should be referred to the immediate supervisor for resolution. If a resolution cannot be reached, the matter will be referred by the supervisor to the appropriate Department Head, Resident Assistant (RA), Director, or Vice President for mediation. Managers, Department Heads and unit directors are responsible for seeing that individuals in their areas are informed and comply with this smoking policy. Those having difficulty complying with these restrictions are encouraged to seek assistance from the resources listed in **Section V**.



## **VII. Enforcement**

The enforcement of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the Employee Handbook and/or Student Handbook. The Director of Residential Life maintains the authority to require public service acts, in addition to the monetary penalties, for New Mexico Tech students residing on campus.