

Policy 4.06 Tobacco

The largest urban university in the country, The City University of New York is committed to promoting the health and well being of its faculty, students and staff. (BTM,2011,01-24,003,_A)

The harmful effects of tobacco use are well known, and have been confirmed increasingly by scientific research in the 16 years since the Board last considered the subject. Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death in the world today—and in New York City. Smoking-related deaths from cancer, heart and lung diseases, and other conditions account for more than 440,000 premature deaths each year, about one in five deaths in the United States. The U.S. Surgeon General has determined that exposure to secondhand smoke is dangerous to health and that reducing exposure will save lives and reduce health expenditures. Research further shows that any exposure to secondhand smoke—even outdoors—has harmful biological consequences. Further, removing all smoking opportunity facilitates quitting, and research demonstrates that 70 percent of smokers wish to quit. Expanding the University's policy would therefore achieve a dual effect: motivating current smokers to cease smoking, and safeguarding CUNY students, faculty, and staff—more than 85 percent of whom are nonsmokers—from the toxic effects of secondhand smoke. (BTM,2011,01-24,003,_A)

Therefore, effective no later than September 4, 2012, the following shall be prohibited at The City University of New York: (i) the use of tobacco on all grounds and facilities under CUNY jurisdiction, including indoor locations and outdoor locations such as playing fields; entrances and exits to buildings; and parking lots; (ii) tobacco industry promotions, advertising, marketing, and distribution of marketing materials on campus properties; and (iii) tobacco industry sponsorship of athletic events and athletes. (BTM,2011,01-24,003,_A)

This policy promotes basic values of 21st-century American higher education: cultivating respect for others, emphasizing the importance of health and wellness, supporting environmental sustainability, and preparing students for professional success in increasingly tobacco-free workplaces. (BTM,2011,01-24,003,_A)