



**THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY**
WASHINGTON, DC

Responsible University Official:
Vice President of Human Resources
Responsible Office: University
Human Resources
Last Revised Date: November 19,
2013

SMOKE FREE

Policy Statement

It is the policy of The George Washington University to promote a smoke-free environment in all university owned and managed buildings and owned and leased vehicles. It is also the policy of the university to promote a smoke-free environment at its Foggy Bottom, Mount Vernon, and Virginia Science and Technology campuses generally, including in and on university owned outdoor spaces as well as on public space that abuts buildings in the Foggy Bottom campus that are used by the university for academic, athletic, recreational, residential, and administrative purposes.

Reason for Policy

The university is dedicated to maintaining a safe and healthy work and academic environment, improving indoor and outdoor air quality, and promoting the comfort of university students, faculty, staff, and guests. Research findings show that tobacco use, including smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke, constitutes a significant health hazard. In addition to causing direct health concerns, smoking contributes to institutional costs, including fire damage, cleaning and maintenance costs, and costs associated with employee absenteeism, health care, and medical insurance.

Who is Governed by this Policy

Faculty, staff and students

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Policy

Effective August 1, 2013 smoking or inhaling any tobacco or other smoking product, by any method, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, e-cigarettes, and hookah is prohibited as follows:

- A. In university owned or managed academic, athletic, recreational, and administrative facilities;
- B. In university owned or managed residential facilities, including residence halls and townhouses;
- C. In university owned and leased vehicles;
- D. In university parking garages and loading docks of university facilities;
- E. In any university owned outdoor space including, but not limited to, Kogan Plaza, University Yard, and all athletic fields;
- F. In public space that abuts buildings in the Foggy Bottom campus that are used by the university for academic, athletic, recreational, residential, and administrative purposes;
- G. In the Mount Vernon campus; and
- H. Within a minimum of twenty-five feet (25 ft.) of buildings used by the university for academic, athletic, recreational, residential, and administrative purposes on the Virginia Science Technology campus.

Please refer to the [maps](#) found on smokefree.gwu.edu for more detail on smoke-free areas. The university reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to designate certain areas where smoking is permitted on the campuses.

The success of this policy depends on the thoughtfulness, consideration, and cooperation of smokers and non-smokers. It is the responsibility of all members of the university community to comply with this policy. Members of the university community should inform visitors and service providers about this policy, as appropriate. This policy applies even in the absence of posted “No Smoking” signs. Any individual may voice objections to smoking in any smoke-free area without fear of retaliation.

Employees with questions or concerns about violations of this policy should contact their immediate supervisor or department head or University Human Resources. Students with questions or concerns about violations of this policy should contact the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. If necessary, the matter will be referred by these offices to University Human Resources, the Office of the Provost, or the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, as appropriate, for resolution.

Contacts

Contact	Telephone	Email
University Human Resources	202-994-8500	fssc@gwu.edu
Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities	202-994-6710	students@gwu.edu
Office of the Provost	202-994-8500	fssc@gwu.edu

Related Information

[Smoke-Free GW](#)

[University Human Resources](#)

Faculty Handbook

Employee Handbook

[Guide to Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)

[Guide to Student Conduct](#)

[DC Code, Title 7, Chapter 17, Restrictions on Tobacco Smoking, § 7-1703 et seq.](#) (Foggy Bottom and Mount Vernon Campuses)

[VA Code, Chapter 28.2, Virginia Indoor Clean Air Act, § 15.2-2826](#) (Virginia Science and Technology Campus)

Document History

- **Last Reviewed Date:** July 6, 2018
- **Last Revised Date:** November 19, 2013

- **Policy Origination Date:** August 1, 2013

Who Approved This Policy

Louis H. Katz, Executive Vice President and Treasurer

Steven Lerman, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Beth Nolan, Senior Vice President and General Counsel

This policy, as well as all [university policies](#), are located on the [Office of Compliance's](#) home page.