



Solutions to Perceived Concerns about a Tobacco-free Campus

Tobacco-free policies CAN be effectively enforced. The key is public awareness and good communication. Most people will comply with policies provided they know the policy exists. Simply remind people if they violate the policy. There is no intent to put employees, students or visitors in confrontational situations.

Enforcement efforts CAN be done efficiently. All students and staff may inform a violator of the policy and its importance to the campus. Everyone is expected to be respectful and comply with the campus policy. Signage about the policy should be placed throughout the campus.

A tobacco-free campus may attract MORE students and employees. A tobacco-free campus policy does not cause enrollment to drop. Based on other institutions that have gone tobacco-free, there is no evidence of any college suffering a reduction in student enrollment or employees due to a tobacco-free policy. In fact, 2/3 of students surveyed in Oregon said they would prefer to attend a smoke-free college/university.

Colleges CAN make decisions about tobacco use on their campuses. Just as college students are adults who can make their own decisions about tobacco use, colleges and universities have a right and the authority to make decisions about tobacco use on their own campuses. These institutions have an obligation to provide a safe environment for students, faculty, staff and visitors. This includes prohibiting the use of harmful products.

Tobacco-free policies promote a SAFE campus. Smoking not only harms the smoker, but secondhand smoke also harms non-tobacco users exposed to smoke. 1 in 5 students in an Oregon survey reported having experienced some immediate health impact from exposure to secondhand smoke. Tobacco policies don't take away a person's right to use tobacco; they just prohibit use on campus property. Campus alcohol and firearm policies also regulate the use of legal products for the protection of the larger university community.

High school students EXPECT a tobacco-free campus. All K-12 public schools in North Carolina are required to be a 100% tobacco-free campus. Students moving from local high schools to any North Carolina college will expect a tobacco-free campus.

Tobacco-free policies HELP faculty, staff and students become non-tobacco users. Most people who use tobacco are interested in quitting. A policy provides campus faculty, staff and students a chance to quit and receive information and assistance to help them do so. By providing several months between the policy adoption date and the implementation date, those who use tobacco have time to adjust by quitting or cutting down on their tobacco use.

THE BOTTOM LINE: A TOBACCO-FREE CAMPUS WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

For more information about Tobacco Free Colleges or for assistance in adopting and implementing tobacco-free policies and promoting cessation visit www.tobaccofreecollegesnc.com.

Sources: American Lung Association of Oregon. (n.d.). *Making your college campus tobacco-free: A guide for college leaders*. Portland, OR.