

## **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to describe Montana Tech's ban on the use of tobacco on Montana Tech's campuses, including all facilities operated under the control of Montana Tech.

## **II. DEFINITION**

For the purposes of this policy, "tobacco" is defined to include any commercial tobacco product, including but not limited to any lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, bidi, hookah, and all forms of smokeless tobacco.

## **III. BACKGROUND**

Tobacco use and secondhand smoke have been identified by the Surgeon General to be the cause of preventable diseases. Additionally, in 2009, the Montana legislature decreed that the "right to breath smoke-free air has priority over the desire to smoke" (Montana Code 50-40-102). It is the policy of Montana Tech to promote the health, wellness, and safety of all employees, students, guests, visitors, and contractors while on campus. Because there is no safe tobacco product, the only logical action is to promote a campus that is free from tobacco. In order to support the health, wellness, and safety of employees, students, guests, visitors, and contractors, the campus will be free of tobacco-use effective July 1, 2010.

## **IV. POLICY**

- A. The use of commercial tobacco (including cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco and all other tobacco products) by students, faculty, staff, guests, visitors, and contractors is prohibited on all properties owned or leased by Montana Tech, including:
  - a. all interior space on Montana Tech's campuses and property leased by Montana Tech, excluding offices on other college campuses\* ;
  - b. all outside property or grounds on Montana Tech's campuses, including areas such as walkways, breezeways, bus shelters, parking lots, and patios;
  - c. all outside property leased by Montana Tech;
  - d. all vehicles leased or owned by Montana Tech;
  - e. all indoor and outdoor athletic facilities, as well as in the grandstands of outdoor facilities.
- B. Campus-controlled advertising, sale, or distributing of tobacco is prohibited on Montana Tech's campuses.
- C. Littering any university property, whether owned or leased, with the remains of tobacco products is prohibited.

---

\* Montana Tech employees working on other college campuses are bound by the policies of those campuses.

- D. Tobacco-industry sponsorship of campus groups, events, individuals, and departments is prohibited. This includes funding scholarships, sponsoring faculty positions, and recruiting for employment.
- E. Organizers and attendees at public events, such as conferences, meetings, public lectures, social events, cultural events, and sporting events using Montana Tech facilities are required to abide by Montana Tech's tobacco-free policy. Organizers of such events are responsible for communicating the policy to attendees and for enforcing this policy.

## **V. COMMUNICATION OF POLICY**

Signs bearing the message "Tobacco-Free Campus" will be posted at each vehicular and pedestrian Montana Tech entrance, as applicable. Each building will display a decal that states, "Tobacco-Free Campus". However, the tobacco-free policy applies regardless of signage.

This policy will be reproduced in the staff handbook, the student handbook, the annual catalog, and on the Montana Tech website.

## **VI. TOBACCO USE CESSATION PROGRAMS**

Tobacco users are 7 - 10 times more likely to quit when they can access effective services to help them. Montana Tech is committed to supporting students and employees who wish to stop using tobacco.

Students and employees wanting to quit can access the Montana Quit Line at 1-800-784-8669 (1-800-QUIT-NOW). Employees on the MUS medical benefits plan can also contact the MUS Employee Benefits Department at 1-877-501-1722 or visit the MUS benefits website at [www.mus.edu/choices](http://www.mus.edu/choices) to explore eligibility for the Tobacco Cessation Benefit.

## **VII. COMPLIANCE**

All college employees, students, visitors, guests, and contractors are required to comply with this policy, which shall remain in effect at all times. Violation of this policy may be cause for disciplinary action in accordance with employee and student conduct policies.

## **VIII. EXCEPTIONS**

- A. Instructional purposes allow for the use of tobacco products in laboratory and classroom instruction/experiments, or for artistic purposes. All research, educational, and/or artistic purposes that involve the use of tobacco on campus must be approved in advance by the Chancellor of Montana Tech or his/her designee. Such use must be preceded by reasonable advance notice to the public.

- B. Specific activities used in connection with the practice of cultural activities by American Indians that are in accordance with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, 42 U.S.C. sections 1996 and 1996a allow for the use of ceremonial tobacco. All ceremonial use exceptions must be approved in advance by the Chancellor of Montana Tech or his/her designee.
- C. Montana Tech employees travelling alone in cars leased from outside corporations (ex., Hertz) for the purposes of conducting university business are bound by the policies described in the terms of the lease. If more than one Montana Tech employee is travelling in the same vehicle, the policy defaults to that described in section 4.A.d of this policy.
- D. Montana Tech employees staying alone in hotel rooms while on university business are bound by the tobacco policies of the hotels in which they are staying. If more than one Montana Tech employee is staying the same hotel room, the policy defaults to that described in section 4.A.a of this policy.