

POLICY**TOBACCO USE**

Smoking in educational facilities in Minnesota is governed by the Clean Indoor Act, Sections 144.411 through 144.417. It...*"prohibits smoking in those places of work where the close proximity of workers or the inadequacy of ventilation causes smoke pollution detrimental to the health and comfort of nonsmoking employees..."* It provides that...*"the proprietor or other person in charge of a public place shall make reasonable efforts to prevent smoking in the public place..."*

Philosophy

Ridgewater College is committed to creating a clean, safe, and healthy learning and working environment; and recognizes its responsibility to promote the health, welfare and safety for students, employees and visitors. We continually strive to strengthen and improve the positive impact we have on our students and community: transforming their lives, as well as our own, through our work. The success of this policy will depend upon the cooperation of all faculty, staff and students to comply with this policy, and to encourage others to comply with the policy, in order to promote a clean, safe, and healthy environment in which to work and study.

To protect the health of the college community and the public, smoking, tobacco use, and tobacco sales (including the use or sales of smokeless tobacco products and electronic cigarettes) are prohibited on college owned, operated, or leased property. The policy is applicable to all campus persons, including students, faculty, staff, administrators, outside contractors and the general public. To the extent possible, Ridgewater College will provide access to cessation programs to help students and employees who presently use tobacco products. Information on cessation resources can be viewed anytime at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hpcd/tpc/quit.html> or by calling 651-201-5000.

Definitions:

Tobacco Use: Tobacco use is defined to include burning or the act of smoking any cigarette, pipe, cigar, cigarillo, or other smoking equipment (whether filled with tobacco or any other type of materials) or the use of smokeless tobacco (snuff, dip, chew, smokeless pouches, or other forms of loose leaf tobacco), and any other tobacco product in any form.

Facility/Grounds: Any building or structure, athletic playing field, parking lot or any other outdoor property owned, leased or contracted by Ridgewater College; vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by Ridgewater College.

Enforcement:

All Ridgewater College students and employees are expected to share the responsibility for informing others of this policy. Problems unresolved with students will be referred to the Dean of Student Services and will be subject to discipline in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Violations of this policy by employees will be handled through their supervisor and will be subject to discipline in accordance with the appropriate bargaining agreement.

Exceptions:

Tobacco use in private vehicles in college parking areas is permitted as long as tobacco users demonstrate respect for individuals and the environment. Tobacco use or products for instructional purposes in laboratory and classroom instruction/experiments, or artistic purposes is permitted, but all research, educational, and/or artistic purposes that involve the use of tobacco on campus, must be approved by the President or his/her designee, and such use must be preceded by reasonable advance notice to the public. This policy does not apply to specific activities used in connection with the practice of cultural activities including those of American Indians that are in accordance with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, 42 U.S.C. sections 1996 and 1996a. All ceremonial use exceptions must be approved in advance by the President of the College or his/her designee.

History:

05.06.02 Adopted

04.14.08 Revised; Implemented 08.25.08

11.26.13 Revised