

SMOKING AND TOBACCO USE

POLICY

Ridgewater College (hereinafter “the College”) is committed to providing a smoke and tobacco-free environment for students, employees, and visitors. The College prohibits the use of smokeless tobacco, smoking and the use of nicotine delivery devices on college premises. Use of tobacco products and nicotine delivery devices in college-owned or state-owned vehicles is also prohibited.

The use, sale, free distribution, or advertising of tobacco products (in any form) and electronic delivery devices (more commonly referred to as e-cigarettes) are always prohibited in and on all college-owned, leased or operated property, including but not limited to any buildings, grounds, walkways, arenas, playing fields, owned vehicles, and other motorized equipment. No designated smoking areas or ashtrays will be provided.

The policy is applicable to all campus persons, including students, faculty, staff, administrators, outside contractors, and the general public. To the extent possible, the 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:

Smokeless Tobacco: Chewing tobacco (leaves) or tobacco powder (snuff) that allows the nicotine to be absorbed through the mucous membrane of the oral cavity or digestive tract.

Smoking: Inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted or heated tobacco or other product intended for inhalation (such as marijuana), in any manner or in any form. Smoking also includes the use of an e-cigarette which creates a vapor, in any manner or any form, or the use of any oral device for the purpose of circumventing the prohibition of smoking in this Policy.

Nicotine Delivery Device: Any electronic oral device, such as one composed of a heating element, battery, and/or electronic circuit, which provides a vapor of nicotine or any other substances for inhalation. The term shall include any such device, whether manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-pipe, or under any other product name or descriptor, but does not include any product specifically approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in medical treatment, such as an asthma inhaler.

College Premises/Property: Any building or structure, athletic playing field, parking lot or any other outdoor property owned, leased, or contracted by the College; as well as vehicles owned, leased, or contracted by the 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 Students 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. Vendor and contractor violations will be reported to the Ridgewater College Business Office for appropriate reinforcement of contract expectations.

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45 Exceptions:

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

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56 *History:*57 *05.06.02 Adopted*58 *04.14.08 Revised; Implemented 08.25.08*59 *11.26.13 Revised*60 *11.20.2023 Proposed; Reviewed and Revised for Equity Compliance*61 *05.14.2024 Revised*