

**University of Houston Sugar Land
University of Houston System at Cinco Ranch**

Tobacco-Free Campus Policy

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

University of Houston Sugar Land and UH System at Cinco Ranch are designated as tobacco-free campuses, under administration of the University of Houston and University of Houston MAPP Policy 07.02.02. This policy prohibits the use of all tobacco products in university buildings and on university grounds, including parking areas, sidewalks, walkways, university-affiliated parking facilities, and university-owned buildings, except in designated tobacco use areas. This policy applies to all employees, students, university affiliates, contractors and visitors and is applicable twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week. The purpose of this document is to:

- A. State the areas prohibiting tobacco use on campus, as well as outline the areas designated as tobacco use areas and specific exceptions to the policy.

Note: The designated tobacco use areas will be available during a phase-in period of not less than twelve (12) months. The ongoing need for any or all designated tobacco use areas will be reviewed annually, with the possibility of continued existence for twelve (12)-month intervals at a time.

- B. Document the responsibility of the University community to adhere to the tobacco-free campus policy.
- C. Provide information on enforcement activities regarding the tobacco-free campus policy.

According to the 2012 Surgeon General's Report, [Preventing Tobacco Among Youth and Young Adults](http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/preventing-youth-tobacco-use/full-report.pdf) (<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/preventing-youth-tobacco-use/full-report.pdf>), comprehensive tobacco-free campus policies have been proven to:

- Reduce the number of young people who begin smoking;
- Reduce the number of casual users who contribute to daily tobacco use;
- Reduce the amount of tobacco used by tobacco users,
- Increase the number of tobacco users who quit, and
- Result in a cleaner campus by organizing tobacco litter into tobacco use areas for a minimum of twelve (12) months and by eventually eliminating all tobacco litter.

In a broader context, benefits of a tobacco-free policy include reducing fire hazards and developing cleaner grounds and air that support the UH Sugar Land and UH System at Cinco Ranch sustainability ("Green") efforts.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Tobacco Products – All forms of tobacco, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookahs), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and any non-Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved nicotine delivery device.
- B. University Community – Students, faculty, staff, university affiliates, contractors and visitors.
- C. University Property – Property located within the State of Texas that is owned, operated, leased, occupied, or controlled by the University. For purposes of the Tobacco-Free Campus Policy, this includes but is not limited to all buildings, structures, vehicles, sidewalks, parking lots, walkways, and attached parking structures owned or controlled by the University.
- D. Designated Tobacco Use Areas – Pre-approved locations where tobacco use is permitted. Tobacco use is permitted in a limited number of tobacco use areas, designed for a period not less than twelve (12) months from the date of enactment of this policy.
- E. Signage – Appropriate campus signage includes permanent “Tobacco-free campus” signage at campus entrances and appropriate locations on the UH Sugar Land and UH System at Cinco Ranch campuses. Additionally, “Tobacco Use Permitted This Location” signs will be posted at each designated tobacco use area.

III. POLICY

- A. Areas Prohibiting Use and Purchase of Tobacco on Campus
 - 1. This policy prohibits the use, sale, advertising, and sampling of all tobacco products on the UH Sugar Land and UH System at Cinco Ranch campuses, including all buildings, vehicles, grounds, sidewalks, and parking areas owned and/or operated by the University of Houston System, except for University property outside of buildings and structures designated as tobacco use areas.

Note: The Tobacco-Free Campus Policy is part of the commitment to creating a healthy and sustainable environment for all members of the community, and is designed to be positive and health-directed. The University is not requiring faculty, staff, and students to quit using tobacco products, but does expect for the policy to be adhered to by all individuals on University property.
 - 2. This policy applies to all employees, students, university affiliates, contractors and visitors and is applicable twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week.
 - 3. Littering the campus with the remains of tobacco products or any other waste product is prohibited, except by using appropriately-labeled receptacles located in designated tobacco use areas for tobacco product disposal.

B. Tobacco Use Areas

1. Designated tobacco use areas will be available for a minimum of twelve (12) months from the date of policy enactment.
2. Designated tobacco use areas are located a minimum of 25 feet from any air intake, gate, entryway, arch, or doorway leading to or from adjacent buildings and structures.
3. No designated smoking areas are located within 25 feet from buildings, including adjacent sidewalks, parking lots, walkways, and attached parking structures.

Note: The designed tobacco use areas comply with Texas Administrative Code, Title 25 Health Services, Part 11, [Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas \(CPRIT\), Chapter 703, Grants for Cancer Prevention and Research, Section 703.20](#).

4. Designated tobacco use areas are located in strategic areas on the UH Sugar Land and UH System at Cinco Ranch campuses. Each designated area conforms with the following criteria:
 - a. Convenient and accessible for UH tobacco users and/or campus visitors;
 - b. Presence of tree(s) or other protective structure to provide shade (trees also filter tobacco smoke);
 - c. Presence of urns and signs designating "Tobacco Use Permitted This Location";
 - d. A bench or other seating, if possible;
 - e. Nearby shelter in case of rain, and
 - f. Visibility and safety after dark.
5. Tobacco use may be permitted under the following exceptions:
 - a. Sponsored research involving tobacco or tobacco products, provided that the University employee obtains appropriate prior approval, and a waiver is requested and granted in accordance with sponsored research requirements, if any. Smoke, like any other contaminant, will be controlled.
 - b. By artists or actors who are participating in University-authorized performances that require smoking as part of the artistic production.
 - c. Educational or clinical purposes with prior approval of the dean or director responsible for the facility, and in the case of smoking, the Teaching Centers Safety and Risk Manager.
 - d. Designated tobacco use areas: A limited number of designated tobacco use areas are established pursuant to the transition plan described in Section I.A.

C. Responsibilities

1. All members of the University community are responsible for adherence to this Tobacco-Free Campus Policy.
2. Students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors and visitors are responsible for complying with this policy while on the UH Sugar Land campus and the UH System at Cinco Ranch campus.
3. Public event organizers on campus are responsible for communicating the Tobacco-Free Campus policy to program attendees. Organizers and attendees at University public events are required to follow the Tobacco-Free Campus policy.
4. University community members are empowered to respectfully inform others about the policy in an ongoing effort to enhance awareness of, and encourage compliance with, this Tobacco-Free Campus Policy.

Effective implementation of this policy relies on the courtesy, respect, and cooperation of all University community members. If someone is seen using tobacco on University property outside of a designated tobacco use area, an individual may inform the tobacco user of the Tobacco-Free Campus policy and request that he/she comply.