



POLICY 1.16 – Policy on Smoking, Vaping & Tobacco Use

Policy Category: General

Subject: Smoking, Vaping & Tobacco Use

Approving Authority: Board of Governors

Responsible Officer: Vice President, Operations & Finance

Responsible Office: Human Resources

Effective Date: July 1, 2019

Supersedes: April 25, 2019; June 21, 2018, July 1, 2016; October 1, 2015; June 24, 2003

A. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 1.0 Western intends to exercise leadership by moving toward a smoke, vape and tobacco free environment. Those who choose to study, work, live or visit Western, will benefit from a healthier, safer and cleaner campus.
- 2.00 The purpose of this Policy is to restrict smoking, vaping and tobacco use on main campus.
- 3.00 This policy applies to all members of the University community and visitors. The University community includes employees, students, agents, contractors, volunteers and other individuals who work for or on behalf of the University.

B. DEFINITIONS

- 1.0 The following definitions shall apply to this policy:
 - (i) **Campus** means all University owned and operated spaces, including but not limited to offices, student residences, classrooms, labs, study spaces, libraries, recreational facilities dining halls, campus eateries, buildings, building entrances, loading docks, university vehicles and outdoor areas.
 - (ii) **Smoke or Smoking:** The act of inhaling, burning, exhaling or carrying of any lighted or heated plant product intended for inhalation, whether natural or synthetic, including tobacco and cannabis. This includes the use of any electronic smoking device that creates an aerosol or a vapor in any manner or in any form or the use of any oral smoking device.
 - (iii) **Smoke and Tobacco-Free:** The attainment of no smoking, no use of smokeless tobacco products, no use of electronic smoking devices (e.g., electronic cigarettes), no smoking or vaping of cannabis, and no smoking of other plant-based products.

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(iv) **Tobacco:** Any one of the following:

- A product containing, made, or derived from the leaves of cultivated tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*) or from synthetic nicotine that is intended for human consumption, whether smoked, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, heated, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, shisha, snuff, and all other forms of smokeless and oral tobacco. Products for treating nicotine or tobacco dependence are permitted by the Policy.
- An electronic device intended for nicotine or other vaporized liquids that are delivered to the person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited to, cigars, pipes, hookahs, and electronic smoking devices (e.g., electronic cigarettes).

C. POLICY

- 1.0 Smoking, vaping and tobacco use on main campus is not permitted.
- 2.00 Violators of this policy will be informed by the Dean, Budget Head, Manager and/or Supervisor that they are in violation, given a copy of this policy, and informed that such behaviour must cease.
- 3.00 Continued violation of this policy will lead to disciplinary action as outlined in the policies applicable to the various University groups or as provided for within applicable provincial legislation or municipal by-laws.

D. EXEMPTIONS

- 1.0 Western University recognizes Indigenous peoples' rights to use traditional medicines such as tobacco, sweet grass, sage and cedar (among others) under the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act*. Therefore, the burning of traditional medicines by Indigenous peoples is exempt from this Policy. This exemption is in alignment with Indigenous peoples' distinct rights to observe their cultural and ceremonial practices on campus and in compliance with applicable legislation. The burning of traditional medicines is automatically permitted at Indigenous Services located at Western Student Services (WSS) building 2100. Exemptions for other Western properties may be granted by contacting the University's Fire Safety Manager.
- 2.00 This Policy does not apply to the use of nicotine replacement therapy products (e.g. patches and gum).
- 3.00 This Policy does not apply to smoking devices or tobacco that have been approved for use in University teaching or research.

E. SUPPORTS

Various smoking cessation supports are available for students, staff and faculty. For more information visit the [Smoke-free Campus website](#).

F. RELATED DOCUMENTS/RESOURCES

[Map of City-Owned Sidewalks](#)

[Ready to Quit](#)

[Questions about a smoke free Western](#)

[Smoke Free Ontario](#)