



LHU Policy No – LHU-52
Original Date – February, 2016
Last Review Date – May, 2020
Last Update Date – May, 2020
Next 5-Year Review Date – May, 2025

Smoking and Tobacco Policy

Purpose and Background

Lock Haven University recognizes that smoking and tobacco present a health and safety hazard which can have serious consequences for the University Community and the safety of Lock Haven University property.

Definition

For the purposes of this policy, "smoking and tobacco" shall mean all uses of tobacco, including cigars, cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, pipes, and smokeless tobacco.

Policy

Lock Haven University will be in compliance with the Pennsylvania Clean Indoor Air Act.

Therefore, all campus buildings, including residence halls, are smoke-free buildings. Smoking is not permitted indoors. Electronic smoking devices such as e-cigarettes and similar devices are also prohibited from being used in all campus buildings, including residence halls and University owned vehicles.

Outdoor smoking is permitted. However, no smoking is allowed within 20 feet of a building entrance.

Compliance

The success of this policy will depend upon the thoughtfulness, consideration and good will of all members of the Lock Haven University Community.

In the event that an issue arises with the implementation or compliance of this Policy, faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to work out a compromise among themselves. If this effort proves unsuccessful, the individual case will be handled by the immediate supervisor or in the case of a student, the facilities manager. If the

matter cannot be resolved at this level, it may be referred to Human Resources or Student Conduct.

Issued: February 2016

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Background Information:

The PA Clean Indoor Air Act prohibits smoking in public buildings, but because electronic smoking devices such as e-cigarettes, vape pipes, hookah pens, etc. do not contain tobacco, these are not specifically banned by the Act. The proposed University smoking policy adds this restriction by including e-cigarettes and similar devices to the list of items that may be used only in outdoor areas.

The potential health hazards associated with electronic smoking devices are not completely understood at this point, but it is known that they contain harmful chemicals and the amount of nicotine they contain is not regulated. Some studies of the vapor created by these devices suggest that they deliver a high level of nanoparticles which can be linked to lung inflammation, asthma, heart disease, and other ailments. The solvents (like glycerin and propylene glycol) in which the nicotine and flavorings are dissolved can be found in the vapor and can transform into other chemicals such as formaldehyde and acetaldehyde. Some studies exist describing the health effects of these devices for the user; even fewer have studied the “second-hand” effect. Most health experts agree that these devices have not been sufficiently tested for safety.

In addition, the PA Clean Indoor Air Act does not address smoking outdoors around the entrances to buildings. There is no defined distance from building entrances where smoking is prohibited in the Act. Currently, the residence halls on campus have a policy that dictates a 20-foot perimeter from the building entrances where smoking is prohibited. The proposed policy extends that same restriction to all campus buildings.