

South Seattle College

Tobacco-Free Charter

Rules and Procedures

Effective September 2023

Overview

South Seattle College is committed to sustaining a healthy, safe and caring community. To promote a safe and healthy educational and work environment for students, faculty, staff and visitors, South Seattle College will become a tobacco and smoke free campus, effective September 2023.

Background

The Surgeon General of the United States has determined that smoking remains the leading preventable cause of death and disease in the United States and that even low-level exposure to tobacco products and cigarette smoke, including exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke, is dangerous.

Evidence has shown that the use of smokeless tobacco and nicotine-delivery products, such as electronic cigarettes, can also cause adverse health effects. In 2015, the American Lung Association called for Food and Drug Administration (FDA) oversight of electronic cigarettes, which would require ingredient disclosure, warning labels and youth access restrictions.

Moreover, cigarette litter has been shown to be harmful to the environment.

Therefore, this Tobacco and Smoke Free Campus Charter has been adopted in order to promote the holistic health and wellness of all members of the South Seattle College community.

Rules and Procedures

The use or sale of tobacco products is prohibited on and within all South Seattle College owned, leased, or managed property and at off-campus events sponsored by South Seattle College. This includes all college sidewalks, parking lots, landscaped areas, sports fields and college buildings. This also includes our satellite campuses: Georgetown Campus, New Holly Campus, Vigor Campus, and Boeing Hangar. This also applies to state-owned vehicles that may be used by members of the South Seattle College community.

These tobacco-free rules and procedures include banning the use of cigarettes, cigars, pipes, hookah, all forms of smokeless tobacco, electronic cigarettes, clove cigarettes and other alternative products made primarily with tobacco. (E-cigarettes are not Food and Drug Administration [FDA] approved devices, and they are banned in public places in King County, Washington.)

Products approved by the FDA for the uses of mitigation, treatment or prevention of disease are permitted under this charter.

This charter applies to all students, faculty, staff, and visitors to the campus.

Definitions

Tobacco products refers to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, all forms of smokeless tobacco, clove cigarettes and any other smoking devices that use tobacco (e.g., hookahs), and nicotine-delivery devices that simulate the use of tobacco (e.g., electronic cigarettes, vaping).

Products approved by the Food and Drug Administration refers to nicotine-containing products approved by the FDA for tobacco cessation therapy, such as gums, patches, lozenges, etc.

Ceremonial Use of Tobacco

In accordance with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, exceptions to the Tobacco – Free Campus Charter may be made for Native American cultural activities. All ceremonial use exceptions must be approved in advance by the President of South Seattle College or a designee of the President of South Seattle College.

Related District Policy

The Seattle Colleges District, of which South Seattle College is a part, addresses the usage of illicit drugs and alcohol through its Drug-free Workplace policy. The South Seattle College Tobacco-free Campus charter is complementary to, but does not replace, the Seattle College District Drug-free Workplace policy. This Seattle Colleges District policy can be found by clicking on this [link](#).

Existing Rules and Regulations Dealing with Tobacco Products

The South Seattle College Tobacco-free Campus charter is complementary to, but does not replace, existing rules and regulations dealing with the sale and use of tobacco products at the city, county, state, and federal levels.

Improper Disposal

Smoking materials must be extinguished prior to entering upon any South Seattle College property without exception. All tobacco products in use must be disposed of appropriately prior to entering upon any South Seattle College property, which includes exiting a vehicle.

Improper disposal includes:

- Spitting smokeless tobacco products.
- Littering (i.e. discarding cigarette butts, throwing cigarette butts out of windows, leaving spit containers).
- Taking any action that creates fire hazards.

Advertising and Marketing of Tobacco Products

No advertising or sponsorship promoting the use of tobacco shall be permitted on South Seattle College property, at South Seattle College sponsored events, or in publications produced by South Seattle College, with the exception of advertising in a newspaper or magazine that is not produced by South Seattle College and which is lawfully sold, bought or distributed on campus property.

The distribution of free tobacco products and associated products (sampling) is prohibited on South Seattle College property.

Compliance

Courtesy and consideration should be exercised when informing others unaware of and/or in disregard of the charter. It is expected that civility and respect for others will guide employees, students and visitors in complying with the tobacco-free charter. South Seattle College expects smokers to respect the right of fellow South Seattle College community members to breathe smoke-free air. South Seattle College also expects non-smokers who remind violators of the tobacco-free rule to do so with courtesy and respect.

Compliance with this charter is the responsibility of all members of the South Seattle College community (faculty, staff and students). Members of the South Seattle College community are invited to assist with the implementation of this charter by respectfully informing tobacco users that South Seattle College is a tobacco – free institution.

The success of this charter depends on the thoughtfulness, consideration and cooperation of tobacco and non-tobacco users. Students, faculty, staff and visitors are requested to immediately inform Campus Safety personnel of repeat offenders and/or of disruptive or disrespectful behavior.

Violations of this charter may result in disciplinary or corrective action.

Visitors in violation may be asked to leave campus property.

Tobacco Cessation

South Seattle College recognizes that quitting tobacco use is a personal choice and can be a significant challenge. South Seattle College is committed to assisting members of our community in their tobacco cessation efforts. Tobacco cessation programs are an integral component in implementing this charter. A listing of resources for students and employees can be found on South Seattle College's website at www.southseattle.edu.