



SMOKING AND CANNABIS USE

Policy Area:	Administrative
Policy Number:	SMOPL_2208R_AD/VPS-APS
Policy Sponsors:	Vice President, Students and Associate Vice President, People Services
Policy Contacts:	Vice President, Students and Associate Vice President, People Services
Stakeholders:	Employees, Students, members of the OC Community and campus visitors including volunteers, contractors and guests
Authority:	<i>College and Institute Act</i>
Approval Authority:	OC Executive Team
Approval Date:	August 3, 2022
Effective Date:	August 4, 2022
Replaces:	Smoking Policy E.3.1 (2005) and Cannabis Policy E.3.6 (2018)
Last reviewed:	July 2022
Scheduled review date:	July 2027

Procedures: *Procedures for Smoking and Cannabis Use*

1. Policy Statement

- 1.1 Okanagan College (the "College") is committed to providing a safe, healthy and smoke-free environment for students, faculty, staff and visitors, and to ensure that smoking and consumption of tobacco products is contained to designated smoking areas.
- 1.2 The health and safety of members of the College community as well as visitors to campus is of utmost concern to the College. As such, the College follows regulations outlined in *WCB Occupational Health and Safety Regulations – Part Four: Environmental Tobacco Smoke - 4.81 Controlling exposure and 4.82 Designated areas.*
- 1.3 The College recognizes that smoking cannabis may be a medical accommodation; in such cases smoking cannabis is only permitted in designated smoking areas.

2. Scope and Application

- 2.1 The Policy applies to all activity that has a real and substantial connection to the College, whether it takes place on or off campus. This includes conduct that takes place:
- a) on College land and premises whether rented, leased or owned;
 - b) when using College-owned or operated property; or
 - c) off-campus when students and employees are participating in a College event, course or program-related activity.
- 2.2 This policy applies to College employees, students, volunteers, contractors and other individuals who work, study or carry out services for the College, and to guests.
- 2.3 This policy does not apply to the use of ceremonial tobacco or other smoking products in cultural ceremonies.

3. Definitions Used in this Policy

Ceremonial Use	Means the practice of burning substances such as sage, cedar, sweet grass, or other legal substances for the purposes of cultural, religious, or spiritual ceremonies, or for special events or learning purposes.
Designated Smoking Area	Means outdoor areas on College property with appropriate signage, primarily smoking gazebos.
Electronic smoking device	Means any product containing or delivering nicotine or any other substance that can be used by a person in any manner for the purpose of inhaling vapour or aerosol from the product; includes any such device, whether manufactured, distributed, marketed or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-pipe, e-hookah or vape pen, or under any other product name or descriptor.
Smoking	Means, for the purposes of this policy, carrying or inhaling any lit cigarette, cigar, pipe or other device in which tobacco, cannabis or any other substance is burning. Smoking also includes vaporizing, electronic or e-cigarettes, and chewing tobacco products.
Tobacco	Means any substance containing tobacco leaf, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, hookah (water pipe),

snuff, chew, dip, bidis, blunts, clove cigarettes or any other preparation of tobacco.

4. Principles

- 4.1 Okanagan College prohibits the smoking of any product in all College buildings and vehicles. On College property, smoking of any product is restricted to designated outdoor smoking areas.
- 4.2 Designated Smoking Areas can be found at all campuses. Maps identifying these designated locations is limited to tobacco and legal, nonregulated substances. The use or consumption of vaporized or flammable prescription drugs, non-medical cannabis, or illegal or controlled substances is not permitted.
- 4.3 The College adheres to all relevant local, provincial and federal regulations.
- 4.4 Smoking of any product within the College's student housing buildings is governed by the *Student Housing Handbook*.
- 4.5 Cigarettes, tobacco other tobacco products and cannabis products will not be sold on premises occupied by the College.
- 4.6 It is anticipated that in most instances violations of this policy can be remedied through education and/or informal reminders.
- 4.7 Where necessary, complaints may be filed in writing with the Regional Dean or with the Occupational Health & Safety department on the Kelowna Campus. Repeat violations may result in a complaint being filed under the *Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy* and/or the Standards of Conduct outlined in the *Code of Ethical Practices*.
- 4.8 Employees who would like free and confidential support or information on quitting smoking can access the *Employee and Family Assistance Program*.
- 4.9 Smoking cessation support may also be available for College employees through extended coverage as part of their employee benefits.

5. Cannabis Use, Cultivation and Promotion

- 5.1 Use of cannabis on College campuses is subject to the BC *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* (collectively, the "Act"), any other applicable laws and the terms of this policy.
- 5.2 Use of cannabis on College campuses and at events under the control of the College is prohibited, except for medicinal use as authorized by a qualified medical provider.
- 5.3 Smoking cannabis for medicinal purposes is restricted to areas designated by the College. Smoking includes consumption of cannabis with cigarettes, pipes, vaping or other similar devices.
- 5.4 Users of medicinal cannabis must provide evidence to support the medical use of cannabis when requested.

- 5.5 The cultivation of cannabis on College property is prohibited, unless authorized for academic purposes by the Provost and Vice President, Academic.
- 5.6 The promotion, advertising or sale of any cannabis product or service on College property is prohibited, unless authorized for academic purposes by the Provost and Vice President, Academic.

6. Related Acts and Regulations

BC Cannabis Control and Licensing Act
Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act (1996)
WCB Occupational Health and Safety Regulations – Part Four

7. Supporting References, Policies, Procedures and Forms

Code of Ethical Practices Policy
Health and Safety Policy
Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy

History / Revisions

Date	Action
2022-08-03	<i>Approved by OC Executive Team: Smoking and Cannabis Use Policy</i>
2022-06-22	<i>Approval authority delegated to Administration by the OC Board of Governors: Smoking Policy (E5.1)</i>
2018-10-11	<i>Approved by President: Cannabis Policy (E.3.6) (New)</i>
2005-06-28	<i>Approved by Board of Governors: Smoking Policy (E5.1) OC adopted from OUC Smoking Policy January 30, 2003</i>