

Smoke-Free Campus Policy

1. Introduction

Teerthanker Mahaveer University (TMU) is committed to the health, safety, and well-being of its academic community and all those who visit or work within its premises. In line with global best practices and national public health priorities, the University has adopted a Smoke-Free Campus Policy that reflects its responsibility toward creating an environment that is conducive to learning, working, and living. By adopting this comprehensive smoke-free policy, TMU demonstrates its commitment to safeguarding human health, promoting sustainability, and contributing to the broader societal goal of reducing tobacco use.

2. Vision

To establish Teerthanker Mahaveer University as a **leader in preventive healthcare and wellness promotion** by promoting a tobacco-free and smoke-free environment that supports the holistic development of its students, staff, faculty, and visitors.

3. Objectives

The Smoke-Free Campus Policy has been framed with the following objectives:

- To protect the health of all members of the University community by eliminating exposure to harmful tobacco products and second-hand smoke.
- To align University practices with Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).
- To nurture a culture of healthy living, mutual respect, and social responsibility within the University.
- To provide education, awareness, and cessation support to individuals wishing to overcome tobacco dependence.

4. Scope of Application

This policy applies to all individuals within the University premises, including students, faculty members, staff, administrators, contractors, vendors, service providers, and visitors. It covers every indoor and outdoor area of TMU, including academic and administrative buildings, residential blocks, hostels, faculty housing, sports facilities, landscaped grounds, parking areas, and all types of University-owned vehicles. The prohibition is in effect at all times, ensuring that TMU remains smoke-free 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



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5. Definitions

For the purpose of clarity:

- **Smoking**- The act of inhaling, exhaling or possessing lighted tobacco including the use of cigarettes, cigars, pipes, e-cigarettes, vaping devices, hookahs, and any other substance in smokeless forms such as gutkha or khaini or device that generates smoke, vapor, or aerosol.
- **Campus** includes all land, buildings, and facilities owned, managed, and controlled by Teerthanker Mahaveer University.

6. Policy Provisions and Prohibitions

In accordance with this policy, sale or advertisement of tobacco products, smoking and the use of all tobacco products are strictly prohibited throughout the University premises. TMU does not designate any specific areas for smoking, thereby maintaining a 100% smoke-free environment. This strict stance highlights the University's firm commitment towards prioritizing health and wellness over convenience or compromise.

7. Rationale and Justification

The decision to adopt a smoke-free policy is guided by well-established scientific evidence regarding the harmful effects of smoking and tobacco use. Second-hand smoke exposure alone has been shown to cause severe health risks to non-smokers, including children, pregnant women, and individuals with pre-existing respiratory conditions. Moreover, smoking-related waste, such as cigarette butts, is a major contributor to environmental pollution.

As an University of higher learning, TMU recognizes its role not only in educating students but also in shaping responsible citizens who will contribute positively to society. By integrating this policy into its larger environmental and health strategies, the University sets an example for peer institutions and reaffirms its role as a socially responsible leader in education.

8. Promotion, Awareness, and Support

The University adopts a proactive, supportive, and educational approach to ensure the success of the Smoke-Free Campus Policy. Signages are prominently displayed at all major entry points, buildings, and public areas across the campus stating "This is a Smoke free Campus". Information about the policy is disseminated through official websites, newsletters, student handbooks, and digital platforms.

TMU also provides tobacco cessation support through the Tobacco Cessation Centre at Teerthanker Mahaveer Medical College & Research Center, where students and staff can access counselling, workshops, and free quitting programs. Awareness campaigns are organized regularly, with special focus on global initiatives such as World No Tobacco Day. These campaigns are integrated into academic and extracurricular programs, encouraging students to actively participate in creating a healthier campus environment.


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9. Enforcement Mechanism

The responsibility for enforcing this policy lies primarily with the Dean Students' Welfare (DSW) of TMU, who monitors compliance and coordinates with academic and administrative units. Students' Clubs are proactively working towards the awareness on this matter. Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to act as advocates for the policy by reminding peers, in a respectful manner, of the smoke-free status of the University.

Violations of the policy may result in verbal or written warnings, and repeated non-compliance can lead to disciplinary action as per University regulations. The enforcement process is designed not to be punitive, but educational and corrective, with the broader goal of cultivating a responsible and respectful culture.

10. Monitoring and Evaluation

The effectiveness of the Smoke-Free Campus Policy is subject to periodic monitoring and review. Surveys, feedback mechanisms, and compliance reports are utilized to measure awareness, adherence, and overall impact. The Dean Students' Welfare, TMU, prepares an annual compliance report which is reviewed by the University administration. Based on these evaluations, further improvements, awareness programs, and support services are designed to strengthen the policy's effectiveness.

11. Policy Communication and Accessibility

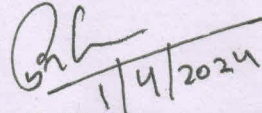
In keeping with the principles of transparency, the Smoke-Free Campus Policy is made publicly available on the University's website. Orientation programs for new students and induction programs of employees include dedicated sessions on this policy to ensure clarity and compliance from the beginning. Information is also provided through brochures, signages and awareness drives across the academic year.

12. Conclusion

By adopting this Smoke-Free Campus Policy, Teerthanker Mahaveer University affirms its strong dedication to protecting health, promoting sustainability, and promoting a culture of responsibility and respect. This initiative is not merely a prohibition but a commitment to creating an environment where individuals are empowered to live healthier lives, free from the harms of tobacco. It demonstrates the University's leadership in addressing pressing public health concerns while preparing its community to contribute positively to national and international wellness goals.

13. Policy Review and Improvement

The policy will be reviewed every three years to incorporate advancement in technology, regulatory changes, and feedback from the university community.


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