

SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS**I. Reason for Policy**

Mercer County Community College has a vital interest in maintaining a healthy and safe environment for its students, faculty, staff and visitors. Furthermore, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has classified secondhand smoke as a "Group A" human carcinogen, which means there is no safe level of exposure.

**II. Definitions**

- A. Smoking – means the burning of, inhaling from, exhaling the smoke from, or the possession of a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe or any other matter or substance which contains tobacco or any other matter that can be smoked, or the inhaling or exhaling of smoke or vapor from an electronic smoking device.
- B. Campus grounds or property – means any land, building or structure, including partially enclosed structures, or any part of any such land, building, or structure, which is owned, leased, or occupied by the college; it includes, but is not limited to, parking lots, athletic fields, playgrounds, tennis courts, and any other outdoor area under the control of the college.

**III. Policy Statement****A. Smoking Restrictions**

- 1. Mercer County Community College is a smoke-free institution. Thus, the following restrictions are put into effect:
  - a. Smoking on campus grounds is prohibited.
  - b. Smoking is prohibited at all times in all college-owned or leased vehicles.
- 2. This policy shall be incorporated in the room reservations policy and procedure and other methods of granting permission for individuals and groups to use college space or facilities.

**B. Discipline/Fines**

Any employee or student who willfully violates this policy will be subject to discipline according to established procedures. The discipline will include a fine in the amount of \$25 for the first offense, \$50 for the second offense, and \$100 for each subsequent offense. Visitors who refuse to comply with this policy may be escorted off the premises by security staff.

Approved:

Board of Trustees  
February 18, 1982

Revised:

December 21, 1989  
July 19, 1990  
September 17, 1992  
May 18, 2006  
June 21, 2012  
December 13, 2012