



SMOKE-FREE POLICY

Policy Area:	Administrative		
Policy Number:	SMFPL_2508N_AD/VPS-APS		
Policy Sponsors:	Provost and Vice President, Academic and Associate Vice President, People Services		
Policy Contacts:	Provost and Vice President, Academic and Associate Vice President, People Services		
Applies to:	Employees, Students, members of the OC Community and campus visitors		
Authority:	<i>College and Institute Act</i>		
Approval Authority:	Executive Team		
Approval Date:	August 13, 2025		
Effective Date:	September 1, 2025		
Replaces:	Smoking and Cannabis Use Policy (2022)		
Last reviewed:	August 2025	Scheduled review date:	August 2030

Procedures: *Procedures for Smoke Free*

1. Policy Statement

Okanagan College (the "College") is committed to providing a safe, healthy and smoke-free environment for students, employees, and visitors.

The College recognizes that Smoking Cannabis may be a medical accommodation and in such cases Smoking Cannabis is only permitted in Designated Areas.

2. Purpose

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, this policy establishes the College's commitment to the *Okanagan Charter* to model health-promoting strategies, and follows regulations outlined in *Work Safe BC Occupational Health and Safety Regulations – Part Four: Environmental Tobacco Smoke* related to articles *4.81 Controlling exposure* and *4.82 Exceptions (Designated Areas) of the Worker's Compensation Act*.

3. Scope and Application

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/or employees are participating in a College event, course or program-related activity.
- d) This policy applies to College employees, students, volunteers, contractors, guests and other individuals who work, study or carry out services for the College.
- e) This policy does not apply to the Ceremonial Use of Tobacco or other smoking products or devices used in cultural ceremonies.

4. Definitions

Cannabis	Means a cannabis plant and any part of a Cannabis plant, including the phytocannabinoids produced by, or found in, such a plant, regardless of whether that part has been processed or not. Please refer to <i>Schedule 1 & 2</i> under the federal <i>Cannabis Act</i> .
Ceremonial Use	Means the practice of burning substances such as sage, cedar, sweet grass, Tobacco or other legal substances for the purposes of cultural, religious, or spiritual ceremonies, or for special events or learning purposes.
Designated Areas	Means outdoor areas on College property with appropriate signage, with receptacles for people to extinguish their Smoking Devices prior to entering campus.
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, and use of any Smoking Device including but not limited to e-cigarettes.
Tobacco	Means a tobacco plant or any substance containing tobacco leaf, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, hookah (water pipe), blunts, clove cigarettes or any other preparation of Tobacco.

5. Principles

- 5.1 Okanagan College prohibits the Smoking of any product on any premises occupied by the College , including buildings, parking lots, and outdoor spaces, unless permitted under this Policy.
- 5.2 The College has Designated Areas, primarily in parking lots, where people can extinguish their Smoking Devices in the smoking receptacles provided.

- 5.3 The use or consumption of vaporized or flammable prescription drugs, non-medical Cannabis, or illegal or controlled substances is not permitted.
- 5.4 The College adheres to all relevant local, provincial and federal regulations in relation to the activities outlined in this policy.
- 5.5 Cigarettes, Tobacco other Tobacco products and Cannabis products will not be sold on premises occupied by the College.

6. Cannabis Use, Cultivation and Promotion

- 6.1 Use of Cannabis on College campuses is subject to the British Columbia *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act*, any other applicable laws and the terms of this Policy and Procedures.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 Users of medicinal Cannabis must provide evidence to support the medical use of Cannabis when requested by Campus Security or other College authority.
- 6.5 The cultivation of Cannabis on College property is prohibited, unless authorized for academic purposes by the Provost and Vice President, Academic.
- 6.6 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.

7. Related Acts and Regulations

BC Cannabis Control and Licensing Act
Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act
Occupational Health and Safety Regulation – Part Four General Conditions
Worksafe BC OHS Regulation

8. Supporting References, Policies, Procedures and Forms

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

History / Revisions

Date	Action
2025-08-13	<i>Approved by OC Executive Team:</i> Smoke-Free Policy
2022-08-03	<i>Approved by OC Executive Team:</i> Smoking and Cannabis Use Policy (SMOPL_2208R_AD/VPS-APS)

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