



TOBACCO-FREE POLICY

I. **Purpose:**

Villa Maria College recognizes the overwhelming scientific evidence assembled by the U.S. Surgeon General, Centers for Disease Control, Environmental Protection Agency, and World Health Organization, which demonstrates that tobacco is a profound agent of deadly diseases, responsible for millions of deaths worldwide each year, both to tobacco users and non-users. Studies have indicated that exposure to second hand smoke is a significant risk for everyone. All forms of tobacco are now known to be harmful and highly addictive. Villa Maria College cares deeply about the health of the College Community and our neighbors. As an employer and an institution of higher education, the College is committed to providing a safe working and educational environment. Tobacco use is inconsistent with our traditional Felician Franciscan values and culture of wellness.

II. **Policy: Villa Maria College will become a 100% tobacco-free campus on August 1, 2013.**

- A. All tobacco product use is prohibited everywhere within the perimeter of all Villa Maria property, indoors and outdoors, as well as in College-owned vehicles and in any vehicle on Villa property.
- B. Tobacco product use is discouraged at all College sponsored events including off-campus events.
- C. Tobacco product sales are prohibited everywhere on the College campus.
- D. The College will not accept advertising, marketing, distribution, or promotion of tobacco products.
- E. All grants and gifts to the College and all solicitations and proposals for such funds must have the approval of the College and must conform to the College's mission statement, culture of wellness, College policies, and applicable laws and regulations. In addition, Villa Maria College will not invest in any direct tobacco company holdings.

III. **Compliance:**

In keeping with the mission of Villa Maria College, this policy is driven by respect for others and the environment and relies on the thoughtfulness, consideration, and cooperation of tobacco users and non users for its success. Enforcement of this policy will depend on the cooperation of all members of the Villa Maria College Community, both to comply and encourage others to do so. It is the responsibility of all members in the College Community to observe this tobacco policy.

- A. Villa Maria will inform members of the College Community about the tobacco policy by widely disseminating information about the policy on a regular basis. The tobacco policy will be clearly posted in employee and student handbooks, on the campus website and as part of other publications.
- B. The policy will be shared with parents, alumni, and visitors through media, campus announcements, the website, and other means. Key components of the policy will be posted

on signage around campus (e.g. Tobacco use is not allowed on campus grounds.) Public announcements will address the policy at events on campus

- C. Policy non-compliance will prompt an initial educational response which will include information regarding the existence of the policy, the rationale for the policy, and the availability of cessation support services. Repeated non-compliance will be referred to the appropriate campus student conduct or employee supervisory system for resolution. Employees and students will be treated respectfully in the consistent observance of the policy.
- D. At times, the establishment of boundaries has resulted in displacing tobacco users onto the surrounding community grounds. In the event that this does happen, Villa Maria College will reach out to ameliorate the situation in support of our neighbors.

IV. Definitions: For the purposes of this document, the following definitions apply:

- A. "Tobacco" is defined as all tobacco and tobacco-derived products intended for human consumption, including but not limited to cigarettes, pipes, cigars, hookah-smoked products, clove cigarettes, bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snus, and other related tobacco products. This definition does not include any product that has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco use cessation product.
- B. "College" is defined as Villa Maria College.
- C. "Campus property" is defined as any property owned, leased, or operated by Villa Maria College.
- D. "Tobacco company" is defined as a company that produces and/or markets branded tobacco products, including subsidiaries, but not including parent companies which engage in business activities that are not in any way related to tobacco.
- E. "Direct tobacco company holdings" are defined as corporate stock holdings directly owned by the College, not including stock holdings that may be owned through mutual funds or indirect investments.

V. Villa Maria's commitment to becoming tobacco-free will foster:

- A. Preserving respect for others and the environment.
- B. Supporting the culture of wellness.
- C. Reducing the health hazards posed by exposure to second hand smoke on campus.
- D. Preparing students for an increased number of tobacco-free work places.
- E. Helping prevent desecration of the campus by tobacco litter.
- F. Eliminating designated smoking areas that can limit smoke free access particularly for people with disabilities.
- G. Discouraging students from adopting or continuing to use any form of tobacco.
- H. Curtailing the known difficulties posed by policies with designated smoking areas.
- I. Decreasing tobacco use through the use of social-norming.
- J. Recognizing that, as stated by the CDC, smokeless tobacco can lead to nicotine addiction and that users are more likely to become smokers.

VI. Cessation:

Understanding the addictive nature of tobacco use and that breaking that addiction is extremely difficult for many people, the College will make every effort to assist those employees and students who wish to stop using tobacco. The campus will promote and provide evidence-based cessation resources. Students and employees may obtain referrals and support for cessation resources through the College Health Office (716-961-2852) or New York State Smokers Quitline 1-866-NY-QUITS (1-866-697-8487).

VII. Policy Review:

Villa Maria College will maintain its Tobacco-Free Committee to identify and address needs and concerns related to this policy, implementation, compliance, enforcement, and cessation.

The Tobacco-Free Committee will review this policy on a regular basis to ensure that it is sustained, effective, and up to date. The provisions of this policy shall be subject to future review and revision to ensure that its objectives are attained and that Villa Maria College is in compliance with federal and state law.

(10/22/12)