

Brunswick Community College Tobacco-Usage Policy FAQs

Why is Brunswick Community College (BCC) becoming a tobacco-free College?

Students and employees at BCC have been requesting a smoke and tobacco-free campus for a while. BCC is also committed to providing a healthy working and learning environment and recognizes the increasing weight of scientific evidence that tobacco use is harmful not only to the active user but also the “passive” smoker who is exposed to others’ smoke. BCC is invested not only in academic achievement, but also in developing life skills that will promote individual and civic wellness.

What is Brunswick Community College’s (BCC) policy on tobacco use on campus?

BCC is committed to providing its students, employees, and visitors with a safe and healthy environment. Smoking is recognized as a significant health risk to both the smoker and the non-smoker as well as a safety hazard to the College. The use of tobacco products is prohibited on college property owned, leased or operated by BCC.

When does the tobacco-free policy start?

The Board of Trustees approved the Tobacco-Free policy on January 21, 2016 with an adoption date of July 1, 2017 for all BCC employees (staff and faculty), students, visitors, and guests on campus to abide.

How will the campus community and visitors know about the tobacco free policy?

Reasonable and on-going efforts will be made to educate the campus community, including visitors to campus, of the College’s tobacco-free status. Appropriate signage will be installed in conspicuous places to alert everyone on campus of the policy. It is up to everyone to help raise awareness to make this policy successful.

What tobacco products are covered under this policy?

Tobacco products are any product made or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption. Examples include but not limited to: cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, pipes, dip, smokeless tobacco or spit tobacco snuff or any other items containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products.

Can I have tobacco products on campus?

BCC is not restricting or prohibiting the lawful possession of tobacco products on campus. However, these may not be used on campus, including in personal vehicles.

Can I use e-cigarettes on campus?

E-cigarettes and other tobacco produces may not be used on campus.

How will BCC address compliance of this policy?

Compliance with this policy is the shared responsibility of all BCC staff, students and faculty members. The success of this policy depends upon the courtesy, respect, and cooperation of users and non-users of tobacco products. Any member of the BCC community may respectfully ask individuals to comply with this policy and/or report non-compliance when appropriate. Anyone who observes a possible violation may inform the individual of the smoke-free policy and offer an information card. Repeat violators will be reported, as appropriate, to the Dean of Student Services & Enrollment Management, Human Resources, and/or BCC Police Department.

What about public events like sports, concerts, and commencement?

All events occurring on BCC property will be covered by the tobacco-free policy. **Signs** will be used to communicate the tobacco-free policy to BCC guests.

Isn’t a tobacco-free policy a violation of my civil and Constitutional rights?

No. While tobacco use is legal, there is no Constitutional right to smoke or use tobacco products. Tobacco users are not a category protected under the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution, nor is tobacco use a protected liberty right under the Due Process clause of the Constitution.

Where can I get help to quit tobacco use?

BCC provides tobacco cessation information, including evaluation and dispensing Nicotine Replacement Therapy. Learn more by calling Student Services & Enrollment Management, Human Resources, and/or BCC Police Department.

Who can I contact about the Tobacco-Free policy?

For questions about this policy, students may email us at tobacco-free@brunswickcc.edu. For faculty and staff, contact the Human Resources office at 910.755.7391 or humanresources@brunswickcc.edu.