

UI Implements Tobacco-Free Policy Statewide

Savannah Tranchel/UI media relations

MOSCOW, Idaho — Aug. 17, 2016 — In order to provide a healthier and cleaner atmosphere for the entire Vandal community, the University of Idaho has enacted a tobacco-free policy for its statewide locations.

University administration has been examining its tobacco policies since 2012, when a group of students in the College of Education's movement sciences program launched a project looking at the impact of tobacco use on the campus community.

"This student-led policy change will provide a healthier and cleaner atmosphere for our university family," said President Chuck Staben. "I am proud to support this initiative and encourage all Vandals to make choices that protect their bodies and our collective environment."

The policy has been published in UI's [Administrative Procedures Manual](#) and went into effect July 1, 2016, at UI's educational and research centers across the state.

"By going tobacco free, the University of Idaho is clearly stating that the health of our students is central to their academic and personal success," said Blaine Eckles, UI's Dean of Students. "We recognize the transition for some will be difficult and thus we want to provide care and support to those individuals through a variety of classes and workshops that will assist them in making healthier life-choices. The success of our students, both in and out of the classroom, is always our primary focus and this is just another example of how we will take the steps necessary to help our students and Vandal family succeed."

The new policy bans the use of cigarettes, electronic nicotine delivery systems (also known as vaping or e-cigarettes), hookah, smokeless tobacco, cigars and pipes, and any other alternative products made primarily with tobacco.

Exceptions include the use of tobacco during religious ceremonies, in accordance with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, in personal vehicles, or for the purpose of scientific research in a controlled laboratory setting.

"A tobacco-free campus is an important way to maintain and enhance the health and safety of our campus community," said Emily Tuschhoff, a program coordinator in Student Health Services. "We are dedicated to supporting tobacco users in their efforts to quit, and have outlined many resources that are available at no cost to students and employees. We encourage anyone who is needing support as they adjust to this policy to reach out."

More information about the policy, as well as access to cessation resources, is available at www.uidaho.edu/tobacco-free.