



# **Tobacco-Free, Marijuana, Cannabis and Smoke-Free Campus Policy # 53036**

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**Related Policy Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 #53014**

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**Original Effective Date: July 29, 1994**

**Revised Date: July 17, 2025**

**Responsible Office: Human Resources**

**Division: Administration & Business Affairs**

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## **I. PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE**

To comply with the statutes of the State of Louisiana regarding smoking while maintaining a smoke-free learning and working environment for students and employees.

## **II. APPLICABILITY & LAW**

- A. In accordance with Louisiana Act 211 (2013) (LA R.S. 40:1300.251 et seq.) and recommendations from the Louisiana Department of Health, the university hereby establishes a comprehensive tobacco-free and smoke-free policy across all university properties.
- B. This policy applies to:
  - 1. All students, faculty, staff, contractors, vendors, and visitors
  - 2. All university-owned, leased, or controlled property and facilities
  - 3. All vehicles owned or operated by the university
- C. In compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, the Drug-Free Workplace Act, and applicable federal regulations, the use, possession, distribution, or cultivation of marijuana or cannabis products is strictly prohibited on all Grambling State University property, regardless of state law. This includes any marijuana use for medical purposes, even if the individual holds a valid Louisiana medical marijuana card.

## **III. STATEMENT OF POLICY**

It is the policy of Grambling State University to promote and maintain a healthy academic and work environment that is tobacco-free and drug-free in accordance with all federal, state, and local laws. The use of tobacco products and marijuana is prohibited in and on all university property, buildings, and vehicles. This prohibition applies to any spaces located on or within property owned, leased, controlled, or operated by the university.

## **IV. PROHIBITED PRODUCTS AND BEHAVIORS**

The use of the following is prohibited:

- a. Combustible tobacco products (e.g., cigarettes, cigars, pipes)


- b. Smokeless tobacco (e.g., chew, snuff, dip)
- c. Smoking marijuana or cannabis
- d. Electronic smoking devices (e.g., e-cigarettes, vapes, JUULs)
- e. Hookahs and water pipes
- f. Nicotine or herbal products used in smoking or vaping
- g. Vaping THC/cannabis oil or concentrates (e-cigarettes and vape pens)
- h. Using edible marijuana or cannabis products
- i. Possession of marijuana or paraphernalia (even if prescribed)
- j. Displaying or promoting marijuana use

This includes smoking, inhaling, dipping, chewing, and vaping anywhere on campus.

## **V. PROHIBITED AREAS**

Tobacco and smoking use is banned in the following locations:

- a. All indoor and outdoor university spaces
- b. Sidewalks, lawns, courtyards, sports fields, and recreational areas
- c. Parking lots, parking decks, and within vehicles parked on university property
- d. Campus housing and residence halls
- e. Athletic facilities and tailgating areas

 No Designated Smoking Areas will be provided.

## **VI. EXCEPTIONS**

Limited exceptions include:

- a. Research purposes in approved and secured settings with prior written authorization
- b. Grambling State University recognizes that the State of Louisiana permits the medical use of marijuana under regulated conditions. However, because the university receives federal funding, it must comply with federal laws that PROHIBIT MARIJUANA use and possession in any form on university property or at university events. Medical marijuana cards do not exempt students, employees, or visitors from this policy.

## **VII. CESSATION RESOURCES**

To support community well-being, Grambling State University offers:

- a. Free or low-cost cessation programs through Student Health Services
- b. Quitlines, counseling, and nicotine replacement therapy resources
- c. Employee assistance through EAP as coordinated by Human Resources.

#### **VIII. SIGNAGE AND COMMUNICATION**

Clear signage will be posted across campus. Policy information will be included in:

- a. Student and employee handbooks
- b. New student and employee orientation
- c. Campus websites, newsletters, and event guidelines

#### **IX. COMPLIANCE, ENFORCEMENT AND SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS**

Violations of university policies and rules may be subject to campus disciplinary review and action. The policy relies on educational enforcement and mutual respect. Violations may result in:

- a. Verbal warnings and educational outreach
- b. Referral to Student Affairs (for students) or HR (for employees)
- c. Possible disciplinary action for repeated noncompliance

#### **X. ACCREDITATION**

GSU is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate, baccalaureate, master's, and doctorate degrees. GSU also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of GSU may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website ([www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org)).

#### **XI. REVISED/REVIEWED HISTORY**

July 29, 1994

August 1, 2014

September 3, 2020

July 17, 2025