

At UTEP, the majority of faculty, staff, and students support a tobacco/smoke-free campus policy and consider tobacco use on campus a problem.¹

The Facts

- Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the U.S.²
- In the U. S., secondhand smoke (SHS) kills about 53,000 nonsmokers per year, making it the third leading cause of preventable death.³
- For nonsmokers, exposure to SHS raises the risk of lung cancer by 20% to 30% and heart disease by 30%.³
- Approximately 15.4% of UTEP faculty, staff, and students currently smoke with an average of 4.4 cigarettes per day.⁴
- Given the amount of faculty, staff, and students at UTEP,⁵ approximately 121,701 cigarettes are smoked in a single week.⁴
- Although the majority of UTEP students who smoke are non-daily smokers,⁶ research has found that many light and intermittent smokers become regular daily smokers.⁷

Tobacco/Smoke-Free Policies on Campuses

- A study with college students indicated that a majority of students supported the recommended tobacco-free policies suggested by the American College Health Association (ACHA) and the American Cancer Society (ACS) (e.g., no smoking in campus buildings, or in student residences).⁸
- One study indicated that even smokers agreed that the desire to breathe clean air should have priority over the desire to smoke (81.5%).⁹
- From 2011 to 2014 the number of smoke-free campuses in the U.S. has more than doubled.¹⁰
- As of January 2014, there are approximately 1,182 smoke-free university/college campuses, of which 811 are 100% tobacco-free.¹⁰
- In Texas, tobacco is the leading source of litter material on roads with 43% of litter being tobacco related.¹¹
- One study indicated that a significantly lower number of cigarette butts were found near building entrances of colleges with tobacco-free policies, compared to those with no tobacco policy.¹²
- One university estimated an average cost of \$150,000 to clean up cigarette butts on campus each year.¹³
- Both daily and non-daily college smokers have been found to have similar interest in using behavioral interventions to assist in quitting smoking.¹⁴
- Multiple universities have found a significant decrease in smoking prevalence after a smoke-free campus policy was implemented.^{15,16}
- Tobacco-free campuses also contribute to healthier environments¹⁷ where individuals' exposure to SHS is significantly reduced or eliminated.¹⁶
- Additionally, by reducing nonsmokers' exposure to SHS, tobacco-free campus policies promote respect for others (e.g., health), the environment, and the campus community.¹⁸

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¹⁰American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation. (2014). U.S. Colleges and Universities with Smokefree Air Policies. Retrieved from <http://www.no-smoke.org>

¹¹Texas Department of Transportation (2010). *2009 Visible Litter Study*. Retrieved February 14, 2013, from <http://dontmesswithtexas.org/research/>

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