SMOKING POLICY

Introduction

As an attempt to reduce the health risks associated with second-hand cigarette smoke, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts first implemented a policy, which invoked the elimination of smoking within the confines of public buildings which fall under the jurisdiction of the State. It was then noted that tobacco smoke within confined areas creates a health hazard to both smokers and non-smokers, especially those suffering from allergies, respiratory diseases or heart disease. Smoke in confined areas may also be irritating and annoying to non-smokers and violates their right to breathe air relatively free from tobacco contaminates. In the interest of further protecting the health and well being of members and visitors of the college community, smoking is completely prohibited from our campus. This includes all work areas, offices, restrooms, lobbies, public entrances, etc. Smoking will be permitted in designated parking lots on the facilities.

Because of our collective concern for the environment, because we are aware of the harmful effects of smoking on the smoker, and because we now know how much is being written about the effects of second-hand smoke on the non-smoker, we are committing ourselves to a smoke-free environment at Mount Wachusett Community College.

Definition of Policy

1. Mount Wachusett Community College recognizes the medical evidence that indicates that smoking is a serious health hazard, and that this health hazard extends to non-smokers forced to breathe second-hand smoke. The primary responsibility of the college is to provide a healthful working and learning environment. Recognition of this responsibility has resulted in the development of the following policy:

   Effective date: January 1, 2009

2. Smoking is prohibited within the confines of college grounds, any college building, or college vehicle (smoking will only be permitted in designated parking lots on the campuses). Smoking is permitted on the Gardner Campus only in parking lots A, C, D, and E. No exceptions will be granted.

3. The sale of tobacco products on campus is prohibited.

4. As with any college policy, violators will be subject to disciplinary action.

5. This college policy will be enforced by department supervisors.

6. Individuals entering the campuses will be directed to dispose of their cigarettes in the appropriate receptacles provided within each area.

7. This policy will be distributed annually to all departments and will be posted on all official college bulletin boards.

Successful implementation of this policy requires a college-wide cooperative effort. All members of the college community are urged to assist in this endeavor. Any employee or student who believes he/she is being subjected to second-hand smoke should inform the offending party of the existence of this policy and request that he/she adheres to its conditions. Violators of the college’s smoking policy should be reported to the division dean or the administrative supervisor who is in charge of the area where the violation occurred.
RESOURCES

American Cancer Society
350 Plantation Street
Worcester, MA 01604
508-270-4600
1-800-227-2345

American Lung Association of Mass.
393 Maple Street
Springfield, MA 01105
413-737-3506
Or
460 Totten Pond Road
Suite 400
Waltham, MA 02451
781-890-4262
1-800-586-4872

Freedom From Smoking Clinics (partial listing)

Mount Wachusett Community College
444 Green Street
Gardner, MA 01440
Diane M. King, R.N., B.S.N, H.N.-B.C.
(978) 632-9136

Heywood Hospital
Freshstart
242 Green Street
Gardner, MA 01440
978-630-6258

Athol Memorial Hospital
Smoking Cessation
2033 Main Street
Athol, MA 01331
(978) 249-3511

Fallon Community Health Plan
Health Promotion & Tobacco Programs
1-888-807-2908

www.quitworks.org
Try-to Stop-Tobacco
www.trytostop.org
1-800-879-8678

Coordinated by:
The Department of Human Resources and
Affirmative Action
and
The College Safety Committee

www.mwcc.edu

Mount Wachusett Community College seeks to
provide equal educational and employment
opportunities and does not discriminate on the
basis of race, creed, color, religion, national
origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital
status, veteran status, or disability.

SMOKING

POLICY

NO SMOKING
-STRICKLY ENFORCED-

Revised 12/31/08 aw