SMOKE-FREE AND VAPE-FREE CAMPUS POLICY

1. Policy Statement

Misamis University recognizes its responsibility to protect and promote the health, safety, and well-being of its students, faculty members, administrative personnel, visitors, and other members of the University community.

In support of a healthy and safe learning and working environment, the University adopts a Smoke-Free Campus Policy that prohibits smoking, vaping, and the use of tobacco and similar products within all University premises and facilities.

This policy aims to promote a culture of health consciousness, prevent exposure to secondhand smoke and aerosol emissions, and encourage everyone to adopt a healthy, smoke-free lifestyle.

2. Purpose

This policy aims to:

1. Protect students, employees, visitors, and other stakeholders from the harmful effects of tobacco smoke and vaping emissions.
2. Maintain a clean, safe, and healthy campus environment.
3. Prevent the use, distribution, and promotion of tobacco and vaping products within University premises.
4. Promote awareness of the health risks associated with smoking and vaping.
5. Encourage members of the University community to practice healthy lifestyles and respect the health rights of others.
6. Ensure compliance with applicable national and local laws and regulations on tobacco control and public health.

3. Definition of Terms

Term	Operational Definition
Smoke-Free Campus	An environment within all University premises where smoking and the use of tobacco products are strictly prohibited.
Smoking	The act of inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, or other tobacco product intended for smoking.
Tobacco Products	Products made wholly or partly from tobacco leaves and intended for smoking, chewing, sucking, or other forms of consumption.
Electronic Cigarette (E-Cigarette)	An electronic device that heats a liquid or other substance to produce an aerosol or vapor that is inhaled by the user.

Vaping	The act of inhaling or exhaling aerosol produced by an electronic cigarette, vape device, or similar electronic nicotine or non-nicotine delivery system.
Heated Tobacco Products	Products that heat tobacco to produce an aerosol containing nicotine and other chemicals for inhalation without necessarily burning the tobacco.
Secondhand Smoke	Smoke emitted from burning tobacco products and smoke exhaled by individuals who are smoking, which may be inhaled by people nearby.
Secondhand Aerosol	Aerosol released into the surrounding environment by users of electronic cigarettes and vaping devices, which may expose other individuals to potentially harmful substances.
University Premises	All buildings, facilities, grounds, open spaces, parking areas, vehicles, and other properties owned, leased, or managed by Misamis University.
University Community	All students, faculty members, administrative personnel, University officials, service providers, contractors, visitors, guests, and other individuals who enter or conduct activities within University premises.
Visitors and Guests	Parents, guardians, alumni, suppliers, clients, guests, and other individuals who are not regular members of the University community but enter or conduct business or activities within University premises.
Smoke-Free and Vape-Free Environment	An environment where smoking, vaping, and the use of tobacco and similar inhalation products are prohibited to protect the health and well-being of everyone.

4. Scope and Coverage

This policy shall apply to all members of the Misamis University community, including:

1. Students and student organizations;
2. Faculty members and academic personnel;
3. Administrative and non-teaching employees;
4. University officials and administrators;
5. Contractual, outsourced, and service personnel;
6. Parents, guardians, visitors, guests, suppliers, and contractors; and
7. Participants in University-sponsored activities and events.

The policy shall cover all University-owned, leased, or managed premises, including classrooms, offices, laboratories, libraries, laboratories, auditoriums, gymnasiums, canteens, dormitories, comfort rooms, hallways, stairways, parking areas, open spaces, and University vehicles.

5. References and Alignment

a. ISO 21001:2025 requirements on context and interested parties, risks and opportunities, documented information, operational planning and control, externally provided processes and services, monitoring and measurement, internal audit, management review, corrective action, and continual improvement.
b. THE Impact Rankings Methodology 2025, SDG 3 indicator 3.3.6 on a smoke-free policy.
c. Republic Act No. 9211 – Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003, which prohibits smoking in colleges and universities.
d. CHED Memorandum Order No. 63, s. 2007, which requires the implementation and enforcement of the smoking ban in higher education institutions.
e. Executive Order No. 26, s. 2017, which establishes smoke-free environments in public and enclosed places.
f. Republic Act No. 11900 – Vaporized Nicotine and Non-Nicotine Products Regulation Act, relevant to the regulation of vaping products.

6. Prohibited Acts

The following activities are strictly prohibited within the University premises:

1. Smoking or lighting any cigarette, cigar, pipe, or other tobacco product.
2. Using electronic cigarettes, vape devices, heated tobacco products, and other similar smoking or inhalation devices.
3. Possessing or using tobacco and vaping products for consumption within the campus.
4. Selling, distributing, advertising, or promoting cigarettes, tobacco products, and vaping devices within University premises.
5. Providing or facilitating the use of tobacco or vaping products to students, particularly minors.
6. Disregarding or removing designated smoke-free signs and notices.
7. Encouraging or allowing others to violate the provisions of this policy.

7. General Guidelines

1. The entire Misamis University campus shall be designated as a smoke-free and vape-free environment.
2. No smoking or vaping areas shall be established within University premises.
3. Appropriate “NO SMOKING / NO VAPING” signages shall be installed in conspicuous areas throughout the campus.
4. All members of the University community shall be responsible for observing and promoting compliance with this policy.
5. Visitors and guests shall be informed of the policy upon entering the campus.

6. University-sponsored activities, whether conducted inside or outside the campus, shall uphold the principles of this policy, subject to applicable laws and regulations.
7. The University shall promote health education and awareness campaigns on the harmful effects of smoking, vaping, and exposure to secondhand smoke.

8. Roles and Responsibilities

Responsible Office or Party	Responsibilities
University Administration	• Provide leadership and support for the implementation of the policy. • Ensure that appropriate resources and mechanisms are available for its enforcement. • Review and update the policy when necessary.
Office of Student Affairs and Services	• Orient students on the provisions of the policy. • Monitor student compliance and coordinate appropriate interventions. • Implement disciplinary procedures for student violations in accordance with University rules.
Human Resource Office	• Disseminate the policy to all faculty members and employees. • Coordinate the implementation of appropriate administrative measures for personnel who violate the policy.
Security Office	• Monitor compliance within University premises. • Remind individuals of the policy and report violations to the appropriate offices. • Assist in maintaining a smoke-free campus environment.
Faculty Members and Employees	• Serve as role models in observing the policy. • Remind students and colleagues of the importance of maintaining a smoke-free environment. • Report observed violations to the appropriate University office.
Students	• Observe and comply with all provisions of the policy. • Help maintain a clean, healthy, and smoke-free campus. • Report violations to the appropriate University authorities.

9. Implementation and Monitoring

The University Administration, through the concerned offices and designated personnel, shall oversee the implementation and monitoring of this policy.

Information campaigns, orientations, reminders, and the installation of appropriate signages shall be undertaken to ensure that all members of the University community understand and comply with the policy.

All reported violations shall be properly documented and referred to the appropriate office for appropriate action.

10. Violations and Sanctions

Any student, faculty member, employee, visitor, or other individual who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate action in accordance with existing University rules and regulations and applicable laws.

For students, disciplinary measures shall be handled by the Office of Student Affairs and Services following established University procedures and due process.

For faculty members and employees, administrative measures shall be handled by the appropriate University offices in accordance with existing personnel policies and procedures.

Visitors, contractors, and other external stakeholders may be asked to stop the prohibited activity and, when necessary, leave the University premises.

Repeated or serious violations shall be dealt with in accordance with applicable laws and University regulations.

11. Information and Health Promotion

Misamis University shall encourage a culture of health promotion through information dissemination, educational campaigns, and other activities that emphasize the health risks of smoking, vaping, and secondhand smoke exposure.

The University may also provide information on available smoking cessation programs and health services to individuals who wish to stop smoking or using tobacco products.

12. Effectivity and Amendments

This policy shall take effect upon approval by the University Administration or the appropriate University governing authority.

All existing University policies, guidelines, and practices inconsistent with this policy shall be modified accordingly.

The University reserves the right to review, amend, or update this policy as necessary to ensure its continued relevance and alignment with applicable laws and regulations.

APPROVED BY:

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