

# **Tobacco-Free Policy**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. Why did Blinn College choose to go Tobacco-Free?**

At Blinn College, we believe that we have a responsibility to our students, faculty, staff and guests in providing a safe, healthy and satisfying environment to learn and work.

As administration assessed the overall vision and direction of the college, it was evident that we needed to take some steps in making Blinn a healthier place for our students and employees. The first immediate step was the creation of Health Clinics on both our Bryan and Brenham campuses, which provided health services to those in need at those campuses. While conducting this research, we recognized the increasing acceptance of scientific evidence that tobacco use in general, including smoking and breathing secondhand smoke, constitute a significant health hazard. The purpose of this policy is to reduce harm from secondhand smoke, provide an environment that encourages persons to be smoke-free and establish a campus culture of wellness. In addition to the direct health hazards caused, tobacco use adds to college costs in other ways, including potential fire damage, maintenance costs, and costs associated with health care and medical insurance.

### **2. Where can I find the actual policy?**

The policy can be found in:

1. The Blinn College Board Policy Manual
2. The Blinn College Student Handbook
3. The Blinn College Residence Life Handbook
4. The Blinn College Administrative Policy Manual  
( [://www.blinn.edu/Faculty%20Information/admnpolicy/intro.htm](http://www.blinn.edu/Faculty%20Information/admnpolicy/intro.htm) )

### **3. When does the Tobacco-Free policy start?**

September 1, 2010.

### **4. Whom does this policy affect?**

This policy applies to all faculty, staff, students of Blinn College, as well as contractors, vendors and visitors to our campuses.

### **5. Does this affect all four Blinn campuses?**

Yes - tobacco is now prohibited in all Blinn College campus facilities, campus grounds and walkways areas, and Blinn vehicles (including parking lots).

### **6. Can I still use tobacco products in my own vehicle?**

Yes, you may use tobacco products in parked and moving vehicles while on grounds as long as the vehicles are not owned or operated by Blinn College.

## **7. Will there be help programs available for students, faculty and staff?**

Employees and students seeking assistance or related educational materials should contact the Blinn College Health Clinics (see below).

Brenham Health Clinic  
Green Street and College Ave  
979-830-4005

Bryan Health Clinic  
S- 163  
979-209-7269

## **8. How will this policy be communicated to the college?**

Education regarding Blinn College's Tobacco-Free policy will be included in formal orientation for all incoming students, faculty and staff. Sufficient signage will be posted to inform members of the campus community and its visitors of the policy. All college staff in supervisory roles will communicate the policy to everyone within their areas of responsibility.

## **9. How many colleges and universities have gone Tobacco-Free?**

Reality is that fewer and fewer places permit the use of tobacco products. In growing numbers, both in the public and private sectors, worksites have implemented a tobacco-free policy. In fact, hundreds of campuses nationwide are now Tobacco-Free campuses.

## **10. Why should I comply?**

Blinn College is committed to provide a healthy place to learn and work for all members of our college community. We hope that tobacco users will be respectful of the right of their fellow members of the college community to be in a tobacco-free environment. We also hope that those who do not use tobacco products will remind violators of the tobacco-free policy in a courteous and respectful manner.