



Karunya INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCES

(Declared as Deemed to be University under Sec.3 of the UGC Act, 1956)

MoE, UGC & AICTE Approved

NAAC A++ Accredited

3.3.6 - Does your university as a body have a "smoke-free" policy?

At our university, we are deeply committed to creating a healthy and supportive environment for our students, staff, and visitors. In line with this commitment, we have implemented a comprehensive smoke-free policy across our campus premises. This policy reflects our dedication to promoting not only physical health but also overall well-being and quality of life.

Our smoke-free policy prohibits smoking in all indoor and outdoor areas of the university campus, including classrooms, offices, common areas, sports facilities, and outdoor spaces. This initiative is not just about compliance but stems from our concern for the health and safety of everyone associated with our university community.

SMOKE FREE CAMPUS POLICY- KITS

1. Purpose

This policy has been implemented to ensure that the Karunya Institute of Technology and Sciences (KITS) campus remains free from smoking. Its purpose is to prevent the possession, usage, and distribution of tobacco and narcotic substances in any form

- I. According to the guidelines for creating a Tobacco-free Educational Institution provided by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, "Exposure to second-hand smoke or passive smoking causes numerous health problems in infants, children, and adults. These problems include more frequent and severe asthma attacks, respiratory infections, ear infections, coronary heart disease, stroke, and lung cancer
- II. Smoking within an academic and residential environment can cause difficulties for fellow members and peers, which in turn can lead to distractions in studies and negatively impact the academic atmosphere

2. Policy

“It is the policy of Karunya Institute of Technology and Sciences that all our academic and residential campuses, sports and play fields, cafeterias, including transportation facilities, are designated as smoke-free areas. All our students and employees have the right to work in a smoke-free environment. Smoking is strictly prohibited throughout the entire campus and workplace, without any exceptions. This policy applies to all students, staff, parents, visitors, workers, contractors, service providers, and anyone who stays on the campus”

3. Implementation

The overall responsibility for policy implementation and reviews rest with the following committee

- i. Director (Student Affairs) -Chair person
- ii. Deputy Director (Security and Intelligence)-Secretary
- iii. Chief Wardens-Members
- iv. Students -Representatives

The aforementioned committee shall ensure that the entire KITS campus, including student and staff residences, is a tobacco-free environment, free from smoking. This committee will also act as the designated Tobacco Monitors of the institution.

4. Preventive measures

- i. The above committee (Tobacco Monitors) shall create awareness with appropriate displays on the campus premises, organize awareness programs among the community members, and closely monitor to ensure a smoke-free environment.
- ii. The Tobacco Monitors must also be vigilant to identify the use of tobacco substitutes such as e-cigarettes and similar devices among the campus community.
- iii. Every student and employee of KITS must agree to the institution's smoke-free policy upon joining.
- iv. The Chief Wardens and hostel authorities are empowered to inspect student hostel rooms and verify any complaints or reports of policy violations.
- v. Every external service provider must adhere to the campus's general rules and regulations, including the smoke-free policy.
- vi. The committee members responsible for implementation shall coordinate with local police administration and law enforcement authorities to initiate administrative actions to prohibit the sale of tobacco products around the campuses.
- vii. The tobacco monitoring committee shall maintain records and submit an action taken report to the Registrar of KITS for documentation and further action.

5. Non-Compliance:

Noncompliance with the smoke-free policy is a clear violation according to the institution's code of conduct. Strict disciplinary action(s) will be initiated against students and staff who violate the policy.

- i. Complaints:
- ii. Any staff member, student, or visitor who observes an individual or group violating the policy can file a complaint with the committee responsible for implementing the policy.
- iii. Enquiry Committee:
- iv. The findings of the constituted inquiry committee will be submitted to the Institution's disciplinary committee, which will take appropriate disciplinary action against the student or staff member in question.
- v. Visitor Violations:

- vi. Visitors found violating the smoke-free campus policy will not be allowed to participate in campus activities and will be directed to leave the premises.
- vii. Contractors and Service Providers:
- viii. Contract service providers who violate the campus's smoke-free policy will be subject to arbitration based on the contract terms. Repeated violations may result in the termination of the contract agreement.

6. References

- i. Guidelines for Tobacco free Educational Institution (revised) by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.
- ii. Guidelines on Safety of students on and off campuses of Higher educational institutions.
- iii. Prohibition of use of electronic cigarettes in Higher educational Institutions (HEIs) from University Grants Commission, New Delhi dated 7th Jan 2020.
- iv. Implementation of the measures on prohibition of Cigarettes and other tobacco products in educational institutions by University Grants Commission, New Delhi dated 2 April 2013.