

Bachelor of Public Health Student Handbook

2025-2026

College of Public Health Student Handbook
Bachelor of Public Health
2025-2026

cph.uky.edu

This handbook offers an overview of the policies and procedures of the Bachelor of Public Health (BPH) degree program. It is intended to serve as a guide for the BPH within the context of the University of Kentucky regulations and procedures. Questions regarding degree program policies and procedures should be directed to your Undergraduate Advisor or Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Affairs.

It is the student's responsibility to be informed concerning all BPH program regulations and procedures. Students should also become familiar with the University Catalog.

A student's Academic Advisor should be consulted concerning course requirements, any deficiencies, the planning of a program, and special regulations.

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Dear BPH students,

In the College of Public Health, we train health champions. Champion has different meanings. It can mean someone who is a victor, the winner. It can also mean someone who fights for a cause or works on behalf of others. So, what does a health champion mean here? In the College of Public Health, we train people who fight, work, strive, struggle, persist for the health of others. For us, it is more than just being health-focused or treating people who are sick. At the University of Kentucky, our health champions fight for prevention – our work is needed to keep communities from harm, from disease, from injury.

Health champions solve problems. Public health problems are complex. Our problems involve human perception, stigma, behaviors. They include a person's history, what has happened to them in their lives. Public health problems need biology, chemistry, computing. It matters where a person lives, where they grew up, who influences them and how they first learned about health. The path to discovery in public health is not fast or simple. You may be surprised to hear stories from faculty and staff about times when they failed. Failure is expected. What defines a health champion is how you come back when you experience defeat.

As a member of our student body, there are many people here to support you. I encourage you to reach out early and often to the faculty, to staff, and to other students. Our staff in Student Engagement & Academic Success (SEAS) care about your academic progress, your well-being, your success and development as a student. Department chairs and program directors are available to you to talk about experiences in the program and classes. Your faculty are training you to be the next generation of public health scientists and to champion for the health of others – they want to talk to you, teach you, learn with you. Take every opportunity to connect with the faculty, staff, and students of the College. Success in public health never occurs in isolation – this is a field where you cannot do it alone. Public health is team science. Our approach to solving problems is made better because we work together. Part of your education here will be the realization that working with others is the path to impact.

While a learner in our college, you will encounter people from many different backgrounds, disciplines, and perspectives. Our college is comprised of four academic departments: Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Environmental Health, Health Behavior and Society, and Health Management in Policy. Within these four departments, the core areas of public health are represented. Many of us (myself included) come to public health from a variety of pathways – our training is often as diverse as our people. However, each one of us belongs here. We belong here because of a shared commitment to make a difference. We belong here because we believe that the health of others deserves a champion. We belong here because we know that prevention is possible. You belong here, too.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the College, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the College and congratulate you on the important decision to pursue advanced training within public health.

Sincerely,

Heather Bush, PhD
Dean
University of Kentucky College of Public Health

Mission Statement

The University of Kentucky College of Public Health inspires health leaders to advance public health in Kentucky and beyond through innovative education, transformative research, and collaborative partnerships.

Vision Statement

Advancing public health, for Kentucky, for all.

Bachelor of Public Health Program

The Bachelor of Public Health (BPH) is a foundational, career-focused, world-ready degree for students who want to make the impossible a reality in public health. Imagine a world where we can stop disease before it happens. A world with less human suffering and more access to care. You are the generation that will make it happen. Here you will find the knowledge, support, and real-world experience that will expand your concept of what is possible – for you and the world.

Program Outcomes

Students in the Bachelor of Public Health degree program will be able to complete the following learning outcomes upon completion of the curriculum:

- Demonstrate knowledge of public health from an interdisciplinary perspective.
- Show competency in ethical issues, social responsibility, and problem-solving using evidence-based concepts in core public health areas.
- Show competency in relationship-building and team dynamics to plan and promote public health and reduce health disparities.
- Apply theories and concepts to communicate the interconnectedness among the physical, social, and environmental aspects of population health.

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Program Requirements

The College of Public Health requires students to earn a minimum of 120 hours for the Bachelor of Public Health with a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.75. In addition, students must earn a grade of C or better in all major requirement courses. Refer to the Academic Performance section of the CPH Undergraduate Bulletin for more information regarding the University repeat option policy. Students may take additional hours in accordance with stated University policy.

Program Curriculum

The following curricular requirements are presented as a guide to your matriculation through the program, but depending on your previous coursework, there may be changes suggested by your advisor.

UK Core Requirements

See the UK Core section of the 2025-2026 Undergraduate Catalog for the complete UK Core requirements. The courses listed below are (a) recommended by the college, or (b) required courses that also fulfill UK Core areas.

Intellectual Inquiry in Arts and Creativity

Choose one course from approved list..... 3

Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities

Choose one course from approved list..... 3

Intellectual Inquiry in the Social Sciences

*CPH 201 3

Intellectual Inquiry in the Natural, Physical, and Mathematical Sciences

*BIO 103 (or higher) 3

Composition and Communication I

CIS/WRD 110 Composition and Communication I 3

Composition and Communication II

CIS/WRD 111 Composition and Communication II 3

Quantitative Foundations

*MA 109, MA 111 or higher 3

Statistical Inferential Reasoning

*BST 230 3

Community, Culture and Citizenship in the USA

*CPH 250 3

Global Dynamics

Choose one course from approved list..... 3

UK Core Hours.....30

Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement

CPH 470 (capstone) 3

Pre-major Requirements

*BIO 103 Basic Ideas of Biology (or higher)..... 3

*BST 230 Statistical Literacy in Public Health 3

CLA 131 Medical Terminology from Greek & Latin 3

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*CPH 201 Introduction to Public Health.....	3
*CPH 250 Aging in Today's World	3
*MA 111 Introduction to Contemporary Math OR MA 109 College Algebra (or higher)	3
Subtotal: Pre-major Hours:	18

****Please note, that 15 credits of the pre-major requirements can be utilized for UK Core hours. A student's elective credits will vary depending on how many courses are used as UK Core requirements.***

Major Requirements

CPH 255 Public Health: Careers for a Healthy World	2
CPH 310 Foundations of Epidemiology	3
CPH 320 Fundamentals of Environmental Health	3
CPH 330 Health Analytics I	3
CPH 350 Introduction to Health Systems and Policy	3
CPH 440 Foundations of Health Behavior	3
CPH 455 Public Health Practice and Communication	3
CPH 476G A Sick World: Global Public Health in the Early 21 st Century.....	3
Subtotal: Major Requirements:	23

Guided Electives

Public Health Electives: Choose 18 credits of CPH, GRN, or BST electives. 6 credit hours at the 200-level or above, 6 credit hours at the 300-level or above, and 6 credit hours at the 400-level or above.
Subtotal: Public Health Electives: 18

Natural Science Electives: Choose 6 credits of 200 level or above natural science courses from the following departments: ANA, BIO, CHE, PHY, PGY, or PHA.
Subtotal: Natural Science Electives: 6

Social Science Electives: Choose 9 credits of 200 level or above social science courses from the following departments: SOC, ANT, or GEO.
Subtotal: Social Science Electives: 9

Subtotal: Guided Electives:33

Capstone course - required:

After attaining junior status and matriculation to the BPH program, students must complete a capstone course, which also satisfies the Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement (GCCR).

CPH 470 Public Health Capstone 3

Subtotal: Major Hours59

Electives

Choose electives to lead to the minimum total of 120 hours required for graduation.

Total Minimum Hours

Required for Degree 120

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Sample Full-Time Sequence (4-year curricular map)

YEAR 1	
FALL—BPH Pre-Major <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK Core CC1 - CIS/WRD 110 Composition and Communication I UK Core QFO - MA 111 Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics* CLA 131 Medical Terminology from Greek and Latin* UK Core NPM - BIO 103 Basic Ideas of Biology* Free Elective (3 hours) Free Elective (1 hour) Total Credits: 16	SPRING—BPH Pre-Major <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK Core SSC—CPH 201 Introduction to Public Health* UK Core CC2—CIS/WRD 111 Composition and Communication II UK Core – Humanities — <i>open choice from approved list</i> CPH 255 Public Health Careers for a Healthy World Free Elective Total Credits: 14
YEAR 2	
FALL—BPH Pre-Major <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK Core CCC—GRN 250 Aging in Today's World* UK Core ACR— <i>open choice from approved list</i> PH Guided Elective: Natural Science #1 PH Guided Elective: Social Science #1 PH Guided Elective: Public Health #1 200+ level Total Credits: 15	SPRING—BPH Pre-Major <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK Core SIR—BST 230 Statistical Thinking for Population Health* UK Core GDY—<i>open choice from approved list</i> PH Guided Elective: Natural Science #2 PH Guided Elective: Public Health #2 200+level Free Elective Total Credits: 15
Apply to BPH	
YEAR 3	
FALL—BPH Major <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPH 310 Disease Detectives, Epidemiology in Action CPH 320 Foundations of Environmental Health PH Guided Elective: Social Science #2 PH Guided Elective: Public Health #3 300+level Free Elective Total Credits: 15	SPRING—BPH Major <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPH 330 Health Analytics I CPH 350 Intro to Health Care Org and Policy CPH 440 Foundations of Health Behavior PH Guided Elective: Public Health #4 300+level Free Elective Total Credits: 15
YEAR 4	
FALL—BPH Major <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPH 455 Public Health Practice and Communication CPH 476G A Sick World: Global Public Health PH Guided Elective: Public Health #5 400+ level Free Elective Free Elective Total Credits: 15	SPRING—BPH Major <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPH 470 Public Health Capstone (GCCR Requirement) PH Guided Elective: Public Health #6 400+ level PH Guided Elective: Social Science #2 Free Elective Free Elective Total Credits: 15

*Pre-Major Required Course

Student Services and Resources

Academic Ombud

The University of Kentucky Academic Ombud provides an independent confidential space for students and faculty to receive advice and guidance regarding any academic issue. The Academic Ombud staff help resolve conflicts by thinking creatively about solutions, empowers students with the tools to solve problems, and mediates between faculty and students to facilitate respectful communication. The Academic Ombud services are open to all members of the UK academic community.

The UK Academic Ombud is located at 109 Bradley Hall and may be reached at (859) 257-3737, fax, (859) 257-5346, or email: ombud@uky.edu.

<http://www.uky.edu/Ombud>

Information Technology Services

UK Information Technology Services (UKITS) provides and supports IT resources at the University.

<https://its.uky.edu/>

Disability Resource Center

The University of Kentucky Disability Resource Center partners with qualified students with disabilities to assist them in gaining equal access to institutional programs and services consistent with their unique needs. The center seeks to responsibly advocate the needs of students with disabilities to the campus community through consultation and outreach efforts with administration, faculty, students, and university partners. The DRC serves students with a wide array of disabilities, and this website provides valuable information for students, parents, faculty, and staff related to various responsibilities, services, and programs of the office

<https://studentsuccess.uky.edu/disability-resource-center>

E-mail

All UKCPH students must utilize the University of Kentucky e-mail address. All correspondence from UKCPH to students will be sent to this address. For any technical issues please go to: <https://techhelpcenter.uky.edu>

Customer Services is available 24/7 via phone - 859-218-HELP (4357)

In-person assistance available at Tech Help @ The Hub in the basement of the W.T. Young Library.

Student Organizations

University of Kentucky Student Public Health Association (UKSPHA)

The University of Kentucky Student Public Health Association (UKSPHA) is a student affiliate of the Kentucky Public Health Association (KPHA).

UKSPHA is a student-run organization and a student governed organization of the University of Kentucky College of Public Health. UKSPHA's role is to act as a liaison between students and faculty, promote student involvement to develop healthy communities, and represent the needs of students of the College of Public Health.

Any student at the University of the Kentucky who is interested in public health issues can join regardless of their

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year in school or specific college they attend. Please join the BBNvolved page, <https://uky.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/spha>.

Delta Omega Society - Beta Gamma Chapter

Delta Omega is the honorary society for students in public health. The Society was founded in 1924 at Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health. There are currently 108 chapters throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. Membership in Delta Omega is by invitation to students with exceptionally high GPAs who also have promising leadership potential in Public Health. An induction ceremony is held at UK for students during their graduating year.

Undergraduate Student Success Resources

Academic Scholarships: <https://studentsuccess.uky.edu/financial-aid-and-scholarships/academic-scholarships>

Big Blue Pantry: <https://studentsuccess.uky.edu/financial-wellness/services/big-blue-pantry>

Campus Calendar: <https://registrar.uky.edu/calendars>

CARES First-Generation: <https://studentsuccess.uky.edu/cares-first-generation>

Counseling Center: <https://studentsuccess.uky.edu/counseling-center>

Disability Resource Center: <https://studentsuccess.uky.edu/disability-resource-center>

Education Abroad: <https://international.uky.edu/ea>

Financial Ombud Services: <https://studentsuccess.uky.edu/financial-aid-and-scholarships/services/financial-ombud-services>

General Chemistry Learning Center: <https://wp.as.uky.edu/genchem/gclc/>

LGBTQ* Resources: <https://studentsuccess.uky.edu/lgbtq-resources>

Martin Luther King Center: <https://studentsuccess.uky.edu/martin-luther-king-center>

Mathskeller: <https://math.as.uky.edu/mathskeller>

National Student Exchange Program: <https://international.uky.edu/ea/exchanges/national-student-exchange>

SAFECATS and After-Hours On-Demand Bus Service: <https://police.uky.edu/safety/safecats>

Stuckert Career Center: <https://studentsuccess.uky.edu/stuckert-career-center>

Student Employment Office: <https://hr.uky.edu/employment/student-employment>

Student Support Services: <https://studentsuccess.uky.edu/student-support-services>

The Study: <https://studentsuccess.uky.edu/transformative-learning/services/peer-tutoring-study>

Undergraduate Research: <https://our.uky.edu/>

VIP Center: <https://studentsuccess.uky.edu/vip-center>

Writing Center: <https://wrd.as.uky.edu/writing-center>

Updated: August 5, 2025

Academic & University Policies

Admission Policy

Admission to the University as an incoming freshman is sufficient for admission to the Pre-Bachelor of Public Health (pre-BPH) program. Students participating in the Academic Preparation Program are not eligible for admission. Current University students and transfer students must meet the BPH grade point average (GPA) admission criteria to be admitted as a pre-BPH student. Admission to the pre-BPH program does not guarantee admission to the Bachelor of Public Health (BPH) program. Students may apply to the pre-BPH program during the university approved window to declare a major.

Admission to the Bachelor of Public Health Program happens in two stages, pre-major admission and BPH admission. Once a pre-major student meets the criteria described below, they may apply for BPH admission:

1. Enrollment in the University of Kentucky
2. Completion of CPH 201 with a letter grade of B or higher
3. Completion of all additional pre-major required courses with a letter grade of C or higher. Required pre-major coursework includes: BIO 103 or higher; BST 230; CLA 131; CPH 250; and MA 109, 111 or higher
4. Pre-major GPA of 3.0 or higher
5. Cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher

Students must submit an application to the College of Public Health prior to the annual application deadline during the spring semester in order to be eligible for fall admission. Students will be notified of their admission status prior to the start of the fall term.

Accelerated Masters Pathway

The University of Kentucky's Accelerated Master's Pathways give highly motivated students the opportunity to earn both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in five years, instead of six. Qualified students may begin earning graduate credit during their undergraduate programs, allowing them to maximize their time on campus and return on their educational investment – earning up to 12 dual credit hours at no additional cost.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. 3.0 Overall UK GPA
2. 60-105* credit hours *Be sure to meet with your advisor to discuss your eligibility if you have more than 105 hours.
3. A selected area of interest
4. Must not be exploratory or pre-major
5. Meet with your Academic Advisor
6. Complete the AMP Intent Form for advisor approval

<https://gradschool.uky.edu/accelerated-masters-pathways-amp>

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Appeals Process

Students who do not meet the GPA criteria for admission to the Bachelor of Public Health program, but have extenuating circumstances that prevented them from reaching their academic potential may submit an appeal at the time their application is submitted.

For questions regarding appeals, contact cphadvising@uky.edu.

Academic Policies

A student must earn a grade of C or better in all public health courses in order to complete the major requirements and advance through sequential public health courses. A grade lower than a C will require the student to repeat that course and obtain a C or better to meet major requirements.

A student has the option to repeat once as many as three different courses in which he/she received a grade of B, C, D, or E. This is called a Repeat Option. Only the grade, credit hours, and quality points of the second completion will be used in calculating the GPA, provided the student has made a specific request through a Repeat Option form (available from the Registrar's Office). A limit of three repeat options may be filed during your entire undergraduate career. The student must be enrolled at the time the repeat option form is filed.

Students who have a term grade point average of 3.5 or greater will appear on the Dean's List.

Probation and Suspension Policies

University of Kentucky probation and suspension rules apply for all university undergraduate students. These rules may be reviewed in the Academic Requirements section of the Catalog.

The following additional rules apply to students in CPH:

- Any student who fails to maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.75 shall be placed on academic probation within the College of Public Health.
- Any student with two consecutive academic terms with a term GPA below 2.75 will be placed on academic probation, regardless of their cumulative GPA.
- A student will be removed from academic probation when their term and cumulative GPA is 2.75 or above.
- Students that have completed all the academic and procedural requirements for their degree while still maintaining a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher will be placed in good standing and the degree will be awarded.
- The following additional rules on suspension apply to students in CPH:
 - A student will be suspended from the College if they fail to achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher within two consecutive semesters after being placed on probation.
 - A student will be suspended from the College if they fail to earn a term GPA of 2.75 or higher for two consecutive semesters following their placement on academic probation.

Students who are on academic probation within the College of Public Health may transfer to other colleges or departments during any major change window, provided the students meet eligibility criteria.

A student who has been suspended from the College for academic reasons and has remained outside the program for at least a semester and a summer session, may petition for reinstatement. Petition for reinstatement is to be made in and shall include a written statement by the student specifying why they

should be considered for reinstatement. After consultation with the Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Affairs and other faculty as appropriate, the Dean may choose to accept or deny the petition. The Dean may require that the student agree to certain conditions in order to be reinstated (i.e., take additional course work, complete a writing class, obtain tutoring). The student will be informed in writing that they have been reinstated or reasons for denial of the petition for reinstatement. No student will be readmitted to the College via reinstatement request more than once.

A student who has been dismissed for academic reasons and reinstated shall, upon reinstatement, be placed on academic probation and be subject to the academic performance expectations outlined in this policy.

Academic Integrity, Cheating, and Plagiarism

It is the student's responsibility to read and understand university policies on academic dishonesty. Cheating, plagiarism, and destruction of course materials violate the rules of the University.

For more information on the University's policy, visit the Dean of Students website:

<https://studentsuccess.uky.edu/dean-students>

Violations of the university's rules regarding academic honesty can lead to a failing grade in the course and suspension, dismissal, or expulsion from the University. Instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to appropriate University officials as required by University rules and procedures.

Confidentiality and Disclosure

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives students certain rights with respect to their education records.

However, FERPA also provides that the College of Public Health may disclose (to University personnel) the student's academic record without the student's consent when the person requesting the information has a legitimate educational interest and the information is used under the following disclosure guidelines and for the purpose of:

1. academic advising
2. writing a letter of recommendation requested by the student. (If the student is requesting a letter be sent to someone outside the University of Kentucky, the Release of Information Consent Form must be completed
https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0SS4IOC92X7UHg9);
3. selecting students for honorary organizations
4. informing community-based faculty members serving as preceptors
5. responding to a directive pursuant to law or court order

Confidentiality of Student Records, Address Information, and Student Rosters

Transcripts and grade information will be released only upon written authorization from the student. Directory information (name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major, dates of

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attendance, degrees, and most recent educational institution attended) will be released without authorization unless the student notifies the Registrar in writing to the contrary. Official University of Kentucky College of Public Health student records are kept by the Office of Student Engagement, Advising and Success in a locked cabinet, with access restricted to authorized personnel.

The College of Public Health does NOT make lists of students, addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, etc. available to anyone other than students, faculty and staff of the school. Students are instructed NOT to distribute the lists of their classmates to individuals outside the College.

At UK, students can use the UK website to access important information, including grades, student schedules and registration information. Students also can update their addresses and other information, <https://myuk.uky.edu/iri/portal>.

Equal Opportunity

The College of Public Health and University of Kentucky are committed to providing educational opportunities to all qualified students regardless of economic or social status, and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, marital status, beliefs, age, national origin, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability.

Drug Free Institution

The Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendment of 1989 set a standard of behavior, which affects students who are on University of Kentucky property, on University business, or at University-sponsored events. The University policy, as well as the laws from which the policy is derived, define conduct related to the unlawful possession, use, dispensation, distribution or manufacture of alcohol or illicit drugs. Students found in violation are subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension or termination. The Drug-Free Institution Policy can be found here, <https://hr.uky.edu/policies/drug-abuse>

Health Care Colleges Code of Professional Student Conduct (HCC Code)

The Health Care Colleges Code of Student Professional Conduct (HCC Code) provides the standards of professional conduct and procedures to be followed when questions arise about the professional, moral or ethical character of a student enrolled in courses or programs, including clinical programs, in the health care colleges, https://regs.uky.edu/sites/default/files/2023-11/HCC-Code-10-14-2008_Approved_by_BOT.pdf

Procedure for Student Grievances

Individual students having a grievance about any aspect of the Program should first take their grievance to the Director of Undergraduate Studies. If the Director cannot resolve the issue, the grievance should then be taken to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Public Health. The Dean of the College of Public Health is the next administrative level for student grievances. Following initial review, a student may choose to approach the University Ombud.

The purpose of the student grievance procedure is to provide a process for resolving student complaints. This procedure applies to all student complaints, including but not limited to academic issues, student services or administrative concerns, or matters involving any form of discrimination or harassment. Grievances involving academic issues are limited to final course grades and satisfactory completion of instructional program requirements.

Submissions to this form are reviewed by the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs.

Updated: August 5, 2025

Students may file a grievance at https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3IAE6y9m19OF9nT.

Social Media Guidelines

UK HealthCare recognizes the impact of social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) on our workforce. Our expectation is that faculty, trainees, students and employees know what is expected in health care and observe policies on behavioral standards, patient privacy, use of personal electronic devices and hospital resources. Patient privacy is vitally important and we train regularly on obligations related to privacy and security matters (HIPAA). Recent changes to HIPAA rules require that the federal government is notified when patient privacy has been violated.

Below are some expectations when using social media sites.

- Do not “friend” patients/clients
- Do not accept “friend requests” from patients/clients or their family members
- Never share any patient information via Facebook or other social media
- Never post pictures of patients or pose with patients/clients for pictures
- Never give medical advice via social media

Smoke-Free Environment

On April 22, 2008, the UK Board of Trustees gave final approval to the revised version of the university policy that outlines the university’s smoke-free policy. Tobacco use is not allowed on University property.