

How Do I Approach a Smoker?

All Campus Community Members:

Script #1

- **Situation:** You see a person using tobacco products on UC-Irvine property
- **Response:** “Hello, my name is _____, and I am an (employee, student, faculty member) here at UC - Irvine. I want to make you aware that we are a smoke and tobacco-free campus, meaning that smoking and all tobacco products are prohibited on our grounds. The UC system implemented this policy because we are committed to providing a healthy, safe, and productive work and learning environment for the entire campus community. We would appreciate it if you would not smoke or use tobacco products while visiting our campus. Thank you for helping us keep our campus smoke and tobacco-free.”

Script #2

- **Question:** “Where am I allowed to smoke?”
- **Response:** “Smoking and the use of other tobacco products are not allowed on any UC - Irvine property. If you wish to smoke, you will need to leave campus property to do so.

Script #3

- **Question:** “Am I allowed to smoke in my car?”
- **Response:** “We ask that you respect our policy and not smoke or use tobacco products while your vehicle is on UC - Irvine property.”

Script #4

- **For Vendors, Contractors, and Visitors:** “I’d like to let you know in advance that UC - Irvine has been a Smoke/Tobacco-Free environment since January 2, 2014. Smoking or use of tobacco products are not permitted on any University property, grounds, or in the parking areas. Thank you for respecting our policy.”

Supervisors:

As a supervisor, you may encounter faculty, student employees and staff who violate the Smoke/Tobacco-Free policy because they are not aware, or are not willing to comply with it. As a system-wide policy, it applies to all members of the University community. Below are suggestions you can use when you need to have a conversation with someone about their compliance with the policy.

Briefly state what you want to discuss. Open your conversation with non-accusatory, neutral phrases.

- *I’d like to talk to you about the Smoke/Tobacco Free policy on campus and what we can do to ensure that everyone follows it.*

Describe specifically what you observed. If your employee was reported by someone else, be specific and objective about what was reported. Avoid attacking the individual. Focus on the behavior. Be brief and to the point.

- *Yesterday you were seen smoking behind the building.*

State the impact of the action. Focus on a common goal or purpose, and state the consequences. Again, focus on the behavior, not the person.

- *It's important that we respect our campus policies. I realize that this can be hard for you, but we have to follow our university policies.*

Ask them to respond. Summarize their key points. Remember, acknowledging their frustration, anger, etc. does not indicate agreement, but that you are trying to understand their point of view. It offers support, but does not indicate that you agree with them or with their actions.

- *It sounds like this is a frustrating time for you.*
- *It sounds like you are angry about the new policy and don't agree with it.*
- *It sounds like you don't think that the new policy is fair.*

Focus the discussion on solutions. Ask for their input on ways they can comply with the policy. Offer empathy, but focus on solutions. Offer support and resources if appropriate.

- *Let's talk about what you'll do the next time you feel the need to smoke during working hours. What ideas do you have on how you can manage the situation? What can I do to help/support you?*

Follow-up with the employee. Focus on offering your support.

- *Let's meet again in two weeks to discuss how you're doing. It's important to me that you succeed in this plan, so please let me know anytime between now and when we meet if you're having difficulties.*