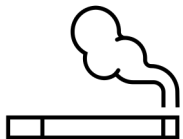


Campus Odor Policies



THE MARYLAND COLLABORATIVE
TO REDUCE COLLEGE DRINKING AND RELATED PROBLEMS



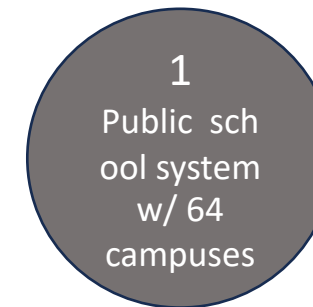
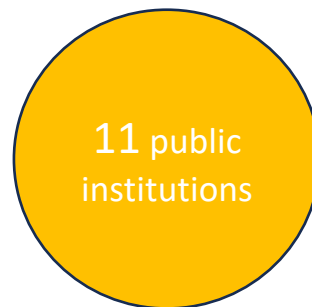
Campus Odor Policies



Online search identified **42** schools and one state school system with odor policies



Of those, **23** Schools and **1** state school system have marijuana/cannabis-specific odor policies and **2** schools have policies that link odor to drugs



Most Policies Found in:

Housing/Residence Halls Policy **12**

Student Code of Conduct **6**

Student Rights/Community Standards, Student Life/Handbook, Disciplinary Policy **7**



18 schools and the state school system are in states that have legalized cannabis

- CA, DC, IL, MA, MD, MI, MN, MT, NJ, NY, OH, OR, and WA



7 are in states where cannabis remains illegal

- FL, PA, WI, and VA has legalized it but it is not yet available for sale



Language Defining Noxious Odor

- *A noxious odor is any aroma of such intensity that it becomes apparent to others.*
Binghamton University

➤ *A noxious odor is ANY fragrance or aroma that has such intensity that it can become apparent and disruptive to those around. This may become noxious when the smell emanates too strongly. (i.e., cigarette, **marijuana**, cigar or pipe, perfume, air fresher or large amounts of dirty laundry)*

Bowie State University

Defining Cannabis Odor

Odor of Cannabis: For the purposes of this directive, “odor of cannabis” refers to any odor/smell of cannabis detectable to a CSO by use of their normal perceptual faculties. “Odor of cannabis” may come from any of the following (and from substances not listed), including but not limited to:

- *Cannabis smoke from burned cannabis in a bong, pipe, joint, etc.*
- *Cannabis vapor from a vaporizer, vaping device, etc*
- *Cannabis tinctures, oils, lotions, or other preparations, etc*
- *Cannabis edibles*
- *Containers or packaging with cannabis residue*

Reed College

Policy: Prohibition of Noxious Odors

*When a **noxious odor** can be localized to a particular room, flat, suite or apartment, the resident(s) must correct the matter as directed by Residential Life staff.*

Binghamton University

When a noxious odor can be localized to a unit and/or bedroom, the student(s) and/or guests of that unit or bedroom may be required to meet with the Student Living or their designee.

Florida Polytechnic University

*When the source of the **noxious odor** can be traced to a particular room or the odor is emanating from a person and/or her/his clothing, the occupant(s) of that room or person from whom the odor is emanating may be subject to fines and/or charges through the Student Conduct process.*

Georgetown University

Policy: Prohibition of Cannabis Odors

❖ *Drugs and Other Substances; Drug Paraphernalia: The actual or intended purchase, possession or use of illegal drugs, narcotics, controlled substances or prescription drugs without a prescription is prohibited. **The smell of cannabis**, when combined with other evidence, may be sufficient information to support a violation of this policy.*

Brandeis University

❖ *Housing staff may investigate for a possible cannabis violation based on reasonable evidence. **Evidence of cannabis includes, but is not limited to smell, smoke, seeds, residue, presence of odor, fans, towels near or under doors, open windows, attempts to mask scents, bong, pipes, clips, and plant cultivation.***

Chico

California State University

❖ *Using/consuming drugs or **cannabis** (regardless of location) and then returning to your residence hall under the influence of, or **carrying the smell of, the drug/cannabis** is also a violation of the policy.*

Western Washington University

Model Odor Policy

PURPOSE

This policy aims to maintain a learning and living environment conducive to the well-being, comfort, and academic success of all students, faculty, and staff. The university recognizes the potential for strong, noxious odors to disrupt classrooms, residence halls, and other campus spaces.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, and visitors on university property or engaged in university-sanctioned events.

Model Language Defining Noxious Odor

A noxious odor is any odor that is unreasonably strong and likely to cause significant discomfort or disruption to others within the university environment.

Model Policy: Prohibition Of Noxious Odors

Prohibition of Noxious Odors: The creation or emission of noxious odors that significantly disrupt the learning or living environment of others is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, odors from:

- Cannabis/marijuana
- Tobacco
- Excessive use of perfumes, incense, or colognes
- Cooking or food
- Spoiled or decaying substances
- Unwashed laundry or personal belongings



Implementation Recommendations Classroom

Faculty Training

Provide faculty with guidance on addressing odor concerns in the classroom, including:

- Clear procedures for issuing warnings.
- Reassurances about support from the university.
- A point of contact for escalating concerns.



Procedures for Issuing Warnings

Designated Point of Contact

- Identify a designated point of contact for odor concerns
 - In faculty handbooks
 - In Department meetings
 - Via emails
- Consider
 - Staff in Student Affairs, Conduct office, security, designated faculty member
 - The point of contact should be easily accessible by email or phone and have regular office hours
 - Training for the point of contact on de-escalation techniques, conflict resolution, and university policies and resources.



Procedures for Issuing Warnings

Reporting Mechanism

- **Online Form:**

- Create a simple online form that faculty can easily fill out to report odor disruptions. This form should collect basic information (date, time, location, description of odor), as well as the faculty member's contact information.

- **Email:**


- Provide a specific email address that faculty can use to report odor concerns.



Procedures for Issuing Warnings

Follow up

- **Acknowledgement:**
 - Ensure that faculty receive prompt acknowledgement of their report, letting them know their concern has been received and is being addressed.
- **Updates:**
 - Provide regular updates to the faculty member on the status of their report and any actions taken to address the odor concern.
- **Confidentiality:**
 - Emphasize that reports will be handled with discretion and confidentiality to the extent possible within university policy and legal requirements.



Procedures for Issuing Warnings

Supporting Documentation

Incident Log:

- Maintain a log of all reported odor incidents, including details about the disruption, actions taken, and outcomes. This log can help track patterns, identify potential problem areas, and evaluate the effectiveness of the policy.



Faculty Guidance

Talking Points for Addressing an Odor Violation

Be Direct but Respectful:

- "(Student's Name), may I speak with you for a moment after class?"
- **After Class (Privately):** "I wanted to mention that I noticed a strong odor. I need to remind you of our university's odor policy. Strong scents can be distracting for others. I would appreciate it if you could be mindful of this in the future." This is a warning. I don't expect this to be an issue again, but if it is, the University's policy calls for a referral to Student Conduct.

Refer to Syllabus:

- **If you included a policy statement in your syllabus:** "I'd like to remind everyone of the odor policy outlined in our syllabus. It's important we all contribute to a comfortable learning environment."
- **If necessary, after class (to the student):** "Just wanted to remind you of the odor policy, since it seemed particularly strong today." This is a warning. I don't expect this to be an issue again, but if it is, the University's policy calls for a referral to Student Conduct.

Procedures for Confiscating Cannabis

When campus security *are* commissioned officers: they can confiscate and destroy cannabis found on campus.

When security staff are *not* commissioned officers:

1. Staff can train to become special police officers
 - <https://mdsp.maryland.gov/Organization/Pages/CriminalInvestigationBureau/LicensingDivision/ProfessionalLicenses/SpecialPolice.aspx>
 - 80 hours of training
 - Background check

Or...
2. University can negotiate with local police to confiscate and destroy cannabis found on campus, in compliance with federal law.