



## SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

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# FAQ **Smoke-Free San Diego Mesa College**

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- 1) When did the smoking ban go into effect at San Diego Mesa College?** Designated smoking areas in campus parking lots were implemented in mid June, 2006. The campus became a 100% smoke free environment on January 1, 2007.
- 2) What is the penalty for a student who violates the smoking ban on campus?** There are no penalties. For more than a year, the campus has conducted health information campaigns to educate the campus community about the hazards of second-hand smoke. Campus officials believe that behavior is best influenced through social persuasion and peer pressure.
- 3) What spurred this ban from being a thought to gaining approval by the San Diego Community College District's Board of Trustees?** San Diego Mesa College freshman Kendra Jackson is a severe asthmatic and the second-hand smoke at San Diego Mesa College was making her sick. On October 27, 2005, she addressed the San Diego Community College District Board of Trustees, expressing her concerns about second-hand smoke on campus and requested that something be done about it. Following the meeting, she rallied with staff and fellow students to begin a campaign to ban smoking on campus. In December 2005, the Smoking Investigation Committee (SIC) was born. The SIC group hosted a student health fair and gave educational presentations to the campus' shared governance bodies, which voted to ban smoking following a seven-month transition period. On January 1, 2007, the campus became the third community college in the state of California to become smoke-free.
- 4) How much affect did the failing grade given from The American Lung Association to Mesa College in 2005 (on the lack of policies in controlling tobacco sales and campus advertisements for the tobacco industry) influence the decision for a non-smoking ban?** The failing grade caused administrators at the campus and district level to take a proactive stand toward the issue of smoking on campus. It was serendipitous that a student came forward shortly after the grade. Its success was based on the campaign being student led.
- 5) What type of programs will Mesa College provide to educate the students on the ill effects from smoking?** The campus will hold a health fair on the first day of spring semester, Feb. 5, 2007. Free smoking cessation programs and counseling are available through Student Health Services. The department will also conduct health fairs in front of the cafeteria throughout the school year. Nurse practitioners are available to answer questions during regular office hours.
- 6) Do you expect negative reaction from smokers on the non-smoking ban?** No. There have been few complaints since the transitional period (smoking in designated smoking areas) went into place last June. No complaints have been made during Intersession, Jan 2 to Feb. 2, 2007
- 7) Do you think this ban will springboard other college campuses in the area to follow suit with their own non-smoking ban?** Yes. We have been contacted by student representatives from several other colleges. Smoke-free environment are a trend throughout California (Solana Beach, Petco Park, etc.). Mesa College is the fourth in California and the first in San Diego County). The other colleges are Santa Rosa Junior College and Woodland Community College (Yolo County).