**Smudging & Pipe Ceremony Policy**

Custodian of Policy: Vice President of Finance and Administration

Relevant Minnesota State System Policy: [Board Policy 3.1 Student Rights & Responsibilities](https://www.minnstate.edu/board/policy/301.html)

Effective Date: Spring 2025

Last Review: Spring 2025

Next Review: Spring 2032

**Rationale and Scope**

Minnesota State University Moorhead is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion that promotes a positive campus climate for all.  The university recognizes tobacco, sage, sweet grass, and cedar as traditional American Indian medicines and essential elements of purification and sacred ceremony. This policy is meant to provide direction to the university community in requesting and engaging in these traditions while respecting all campus community members and visitors.

**Definitions:**

**Smudging** is a sacred Indigenous ceremony involving burning herbs and resins that cleanses the body, mind, and spirit with smoke.

**Policy**

Students, faculty, staff, elders, and cultural teachers, who are members of an American Indian Tribe*,* are free to use tobacco, sage, sweet grass, cedar, and incense to conduct individual or group traditional practices including, but not limited to, Opening/Closing prayers, Smudging, Feasts, Pipe Ceremonies, Pow Wows, and Drumming/Singing.

Burning of herbs or resins is allowed at designated indoor locations and all outdoor locations on campus. Ceremony organizers shall reserve space through EMS for indoor spaces and request and receive a permit from the Office of Physical Plant for use of outdoor spaces.

This policy shall control in the event of any conflict with the Smoking & Tobacco Free University Policy.

Refer to the MSUM Smudging procedures that delineates expectations and flexibility in usage, locations, and notifications to promote an inclusive, open, and respectful campus climate for our diverse community members and guests.

**Authority**

This policy is established in accordance with Minnesota’s Clean Air Act (Minnesota Statutes 2023 144.4165 and 144.4167), The American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA), and the Minnesota State University Smoking & Tobacco Use Policy.