

# Smudging Policy

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OFFICE OF RECORD: Student Affairs  
ISSUED BY: Vice President for Student Affairs  
APPROVED BY: José Marie Griffiths, President  
EFFECTIVE DATE: November 20, 2019  
LAST REVISION:

## Policy Contents

I.	Reason for this Policy.....	1
II.	Statement of Policy.....	1
III.	Definitions.....	2
IV.	Procedures.....	2
V.	Related Documents, Forms and Tools.....	2

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## I. REASON FOR THIS POLICY

Dakota State University is committed to honoring the cultural implications in the maintenance of traditions and ceremonies involving smudging and to do this in harmony with established University smoke and fire policies.

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## II. STATEMENT OF POLICY

Dakota State University recognizes smudging as a way of life of American Indian/Alaska Native students.

American Indian/Alaska Native students may carry out – within the privacy of their dormitory rooms – cultural practices consistent with traditional ceremonies and observances that involve the use of ceremonial medicines.

Typically, the smoke associated with this ceremonial practice lasts for a brief duration of time.

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## III. DEFINITIONS

The ceremonial medicines recognized include:

- Cedar
- Sage
- Sweetgrass

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## **IV. PROCEDURES**

In accordance with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, students may request an exemption to residence hall policy to burn items as part of traditional religious and cultural practices. In order to reduce the number of inquiries regarding the smell of smoke and to considerately address those who may have allergies or other medical concerns, American Indian/Alaska Native Students are required to submit a Ceremonial Use Exemption form to the Director of Residence Life. The exemption must be approved by University Residence Life staff. The student must meet with their Residence Hall Director to devise a notification plan of when smudging and/or pipe ceremonies may occur in the privacy of the student's room.

American Indian/Alaska Native students are expected to resubmit the Ceremonial Use Exemption Form each academic year.

Recognizing that the University is a smoke-free environment, this policy recognizes and respects the rights of students to practice their ceremonial traditions and recognizes and respects the rights of other students to smoke-free air. Neither non-practicing persons or the building structure or furnishings should be exposed to excessive smoke. Students wishing to celebrate, purify, or use smoke must control excess smoke by exercising positive steps for ventilation.

### **Enforcement of Policy**

Enforcement of this policy is the shared responsibility of all Dakota State University Residence Life personnel. All employees are authorized and encouraged to communicate this policy with courtesy, respect, and diplomacy.

Willful breach of this policy by students should be reported to the Director of Residence Life. If the behavior persists, then the Vice President of Student Affairs should be notified.

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## **V. RELATED DOCUMENTS, FORMS AND TOOLS**

Ceremonial Use Exemption Form