

# A Su Salud

To your health

## And the Survey Says....

### Results of online smoking survey

In late November 2004, students, faculty and staff of both De Anza and Foothill Colleges were asked their opinions about smoking in an online survey. The short, 10-question survey was written by Robert Johnstone of Institutional Research and asked about smoking status, preference for the smoking policy, whether or not secondhand smoke was a problem on campus, whether or not the current smoking policy is followed, and whether a non-smoking campus would improve the learning and working environment. Dr. Johnstone collated the results and wrote the following summary.

**Results/Discussion:** An impressive total of 6,839 individuals responded to the survey, with 2,615 responses from Foothill, 4,175 from De Anza, and 49 from Central Services. Overall, the majority (6,309) of the responses were from students. In addition, 257 faculty, 239 classified/supervisory staff, and 40 administrators responded to the survey. The responses for the two campuses were very similar for the respondent groups, and as such their responses were combined for analysis. Selected tables are provided and summarized below.

Table 3 portrays the smoking status of the respondent groups. Overall, only 12% of the respondents identified themselves as smokers, with 15% identified as former smokers, and 72% as non-smokers. The smoker category was most common in the student group, at 13%, while the faculty smoking rate was smallest at 4%.

**Table 3. Question 5: Smoking Status by Role**

Group	Smoker	Non-Smoker	Former Smoker
Administrator	8%	68%	25%
Classified/Supervisor	6%	75%	19%
Faculty	4%	76%	20%
Student	13%	72%	15%
Total	12%	72%	15%

The vast majority of the respondents prefer a different policy than the current board policy, independent of the respondent role (Table 7). Overall, only 20% of respondents preferred the current policy, with 44% preferring an entirely smoke-free campus and 27% prefer smoking only in designated areas.

Slightly fewer students preferred a smoke-free campus, at 44%, compared to 53-55% for the employee groups.

**Table 7. Question 7: Smoking Policy by Role**

Group	Aware	40 foot Policy	Designated Areas	Smokefree Campus
Administrator	20%	10%	15%	55%
Classified/Supervisor	17%	6%	23%	53%
Faculty	16%	8%	22%	54%
Student	20%	9%	28%	44%
Total	20%	9%	27%	44%

The majority of respondents felt that secondhand smoke is a problem on campus (Table 9). Overall, 63% of the respondents felt that secondhand smoke was a problem. Again, the employee groups more commonly felt that secondhand smoke was a problem, at 65%-74% vs. the students' 62%.

**Table 9. Question 8: Is Secondhand Smoke a Problem?**

Group	Yes	No
Administrator	65%	35%
Classified/Supervisor	74%	26%
Faculty	70%	30%
Student	62%	38%
Total	63%	37%

Over half (57%) of the respondents from all groups felt that the current board policy is not adequately followed on the campuses (Table 13). Employee groups again felt that this was a bigger problem than did students, at 62%-72% vs. 56%.

**Table 13. Question 9: Is Current Board Policy Followed**

Group	Currently Followed	Currently Not Followed
Administrator	36%	64%
Classified/Supervisor	28%	72%
Faculty	38%	62%
Student	44%	56%
Total	43%	56%

Finally, nearly two-thirds of the respondents (64%) felt that a non-smoking campus would improve the learning environment for students (Table 15). 71%-75% of employee groups felt this way, compared to 63% of the student respondents.

**Table 15. Question 10: Does Non-Smoking Campus Improve Learning Environment**

Group	Yes	No
Admininistrator	75%	25%
Classified/Supervisor	73%	27%
Faculty	71%	29%
Student	63%	37%
Total	64%	36%

A secondary analysis focused only on the preferences of students by age group. Interestingly, a larger percentage of the older student group preferred the most restrictive policy of a smoke-free campus, at 54% for the 33 or older group, compared to 46% for the 25 to 32 group, and 37% for the 18 to 24 group. Similarly, a higher proportion of the older student group thought that a non-smoking environment would improve student learning (71%) than did the other two age groups (62% and 59%). Secondhand smoke was considered relatively equally a problem by the three age groups, at 64%, 60%, and 61% respectively, from younger to older.

**Conclusion:** It is clear that the majority of respondents were interested in a more restrictive smoking policy on the two campuses, with over 70% preferring either a smoke-free campus or smoking only in restricted areas. In general, students were only slightly less supportive of the more restrictive policies, and felt that secondhand smoke and the board policy not currently being followed were still problems on campus.

## More Smoking Policy Stats

Number of California community colleges that are smoke-free (defined as prohibiting smoking everywhere campus with the exception of designated parking lots)

Number of California community colleges that have designated smoking areas

Number of California community colleges that prohibit smoking 25 feet or more from buildings

Number of California community colleges that are in compliance with the State Law

Number of California community colleges whose policies are different from (do not reflect) State Law

Number of California community colleges that have no known tobacco policy

108 Total number of California community colleges in survey

Information gathered by California Youth Advocacy Network



## Resources to Help You Quit Smoking

### Online:

<http://www.quitnet.com>  
<http://quitsmoking.about.com/c/ec/1.htm>  
<http://www.stop-tabac.ch/en/welcome.html>  
<http://www.ashline.org/ash/quit/index.html>  
<http://www.lungsareus.org> (click on "Quit Smoking" and then "FFS Online" (Freedom From Smoking))

### On the phone:

California Smokers' Helpline  
 1-800-NO-BUTTS

### On the campus:

Student Health Services. Call Mary-Jo Lomax at 864-8903 or email [lomaxmaryjo@deanza.edu](mailto:lomaxmaryjo@deanza.edu)

### De Anza College Health Services

is available to all registered De Anza students. Some of our services include:

Health education/TB skin tests/First Aid/Blood pressure checks/Condoms/lubricants/Over-the-counter medicine/  
 Pregnancy tests/Family planning

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<http://www.deanza.edu/healthservices>