



SUBJECT:	Physical Plant		
POLICY:	607.1 Smudging on Campus		
PROCEDURE:	607.1.1 Smudging on Campus		
EFFECTIVE:	March 2025	REVISED:	REVIEWED:

Introduction and Purpose

Smudging is a sacred practice used by some indigenous peoples of the Americas that involves the burning of traditional medicines. The smudge and the resulting smoke is regarded as a purifying agent for the mind, body, and spirit. It has many purposes including: to begin a new day, as part of prayer, to cleanse a space; or to begin ceremonies, meetings, and gatherings. The below procedure outlines the parameters of smudging in campus buildings.

Procedure

Personal Smudging

- Prior notice for personal smudging conducted within the Native American Enrichment Center is not required.
- The individual will use a non-combustible container (shell, smudge box, fireproof pan, etc).
- Following the smudging, the individual is responsible for extinguishing and disposing of the ash in a manner consistent with Great Falls College safety procedures and expectations.

Ceremonial Smudging (indoors)

Prior notification is required for any ceremonial smudging. Notification should be submitted in writing to the campus event coordinator at least one week prior to the event.

- The campus event coordinator will provide reasonable notice to appropriate stakeholders and serve as the point of contact for building occupants. All stakeholders must be notified of the date, time, and location of the event. Building occupants with physical sensitivities to smoke or scent should be allowed to make alternate work arrangements.
- The director of facilities will confirm the status of the smoke alarm(s) prior to initiating the smudge ceremony.
- The event organizer must be present at all times during the ceremony.
- At the completion of the ceremony, the event organizer will notify the campus event coordinator as soon as the smoke has dissipated.
- The campus event coordinator will notify facilities to reactivate the smoke alarm.

Definitions

Campus Event Coordinator: Great Falls College staff member responsible for reserving space and ensuring proper set-up for events.

Event Organizer: person requesting reservation of campus space; the event organizer is responsible for an event, from beginning to end.