

Title: Anti-Hazing Policy
Effective Date: 11/19/2018
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Cancellation:
Office: Student Services

Anti-Hazing Policy

The Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) and South Louisiana Community College (SLCC) are committed to providing a supportive educational environment free from hazing; one that promotes its students' mental and physical well-being, safety, and respect for one's self and others. In an effort to maintain safety and in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 17:1801.1, 14:40.8, 14.502, mandatory Acts 635, 637 and 640, as well as the Board of Regents Uniform Policy on Hazing Prevention and LCTCS Policy #2.003, hazing in any form is prohibited at SLCC for all students who participate in the institutions' activities and organizations.

A. Definitions

Definition of Hazing: means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act by a person acting alone or acting with others that is directed against another, whether on or off college property, when both of the following apply:

- (i) The person knew or should have known that such an act endangers the physical health or safety of the other person or causes severe emotional distress.
- (ii) The act was associated with pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, participating in, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization such actions taken or situation created, whether on or off college property, which has a potential for causing such physical injuries or mental anguish to the individual.

Hazing may include, but is not limited to, the following activities when these activities are life-threatening or are intended to hurt physically or mentally humiliate the individual:

1. Physical abuse such as kidnapping, paddling, slapping, branding, burning, whipping, beating, electric shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity.
2. Physical exercise, such as scavenger hunts, road trips, or any activity resulting in excessive fatigue, physical or psychological shock.
3. Wearing apparel which is uncomfortable to the individual or, if worn publicly, is conspicuous or not normally in good taste.
4. Engaging in public stunts, hair cutting, morally degrading or humiliating games or activities, giving of food or drink (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) which is distasteful or designed to provoke nausea or inebriation.
5. Any form of verbal harassment, any action or situation which subjugates an individual to a condition where he/she might tend to lose self-respect or suffer injury to personal or religious values.

6. Any activities which interfere with the student's scholastic responsibilities.
7. The use of obscenities and vulgarities in dress, language, or action.
8. Activity that induces, causes, or requires an individual to perform a duty or task that involves the commission of a crime or an act of hazing.

For purposes of this policy, hazing shall not include a physical activity that is normal, customary, and necessary for a person's training and participation in an athletic, physical education, military training, or similar program sanctioned by the postsecondary education institution.

Organization is an association, corporation, order, society, corps, cooperative, club, service group, social group, band, spirit group, athletic team, or similar group whose members are primarily students at, or former students of, a postsecondary education institution, including the national or parent organization of which any of the underlying entities provided for in this definition is a sanctioned or recognized member at the time of the hazing.

Pledging is any action or activity related to becoming a member of an organization, including recruitment. Pledging is the broader term related to the admission, initiation, joining, or any other group-affiliation activity on the basis of actual or perceived membership; pledging applies to any student organization.

Appropriate authority includes:

- (i) Any state or local law enforcement agency.
- (ii) A 911 Public Safety Answering Point as defined in Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.
- (iii) Emergency medical personnel.

Reckless behavior is an activity or behavior in which a reasonable person knew or reasonably should have known that the activity or behavior may result in injury to another, including, but not limited to, excessive consumption of alcohol, binge drinking, drag racing, consumption of any controlled dangerous substance, acts of hazing, or other similar activity.

Serious bodily injury is bodily injury that involves unconsciousness, extreme physical pain, or protracted and obvious disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty, death, or a substantial risk of death.

- B. Consent Statement:** A student's request to join or become a member of a student organization is not consent to any form of hazing. Further, a student's acceptance to an invite or open enrollment to join is not consent to undergo hazing nor a defense for those accused of hazing pursuant to this Policy.
- C. Prohibition Statement:** No student organization or individual shall employ a program of student initiation/pledge education or social events which includes hazing. SLCC operates with a zero tolerance and all alleged cases will be investigated.
- D. Duty to Report:** It is the duty of all student organization members and any faculty or staff member to report any violation of this policy to the Vice Chancellor for Student Services or designee. If an organization has taken disciplinary action against one of its members for hazing or has reason to believe that any member of the organization has participated in an incident of hazing, the organization shall report the incident to the College. If an organization or any of its members has been disciplined by a parent organization for hazing, the organization shall report the hazing for which the organization was disciplined to the College.

- E. College Response to Allegations of Hazing:** Any allegations of hazing reported to the College will be investigated. If the investigation yields evidence of hazing, the College will then take appropriate disciplinary action against the individuals and/or organizations deemed responsible for the hazing.
- F. Expectations for Violations:** In addition to potential criminal penalties related to hazing, any violation of this policy, including knowledge of and failure to report, will result in expulsion, suspension, or dismissal, in the case of students, and may result in termination in the case of employees. Students will not be permitted to return for at least one semester. In addition, there will be a suspension of activities for a minimum of one academic year of any student organization that participates in hazing. Individuals accused of violations of this policy will be adjudicated through the College's codified student and/or employee judicial process, and may be subject to criminal penalties as outlined in Act 635.
- G. Publication and Dissemination:** College policies on hazing shall be published on college and student organization websites and included in the Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct. (Student Handbook: <https://www.solacc.edu/students/student-life/student-handbook>)
- H. Education, Awareness, and Prevention:** SLCC provides education, awareness, and prevention activities for hazing that include, but are not limited to, the following:
1. Awareness seminars with organization advisors and student organization members.
 2. Participation in National Hazing Prevention Week each September.
 3. Policy posting on Canvas for students.
 4. Policy posting on the SLCC website.
- I. Duty to Seek Assistance** In accordance with Act 637 of 2018, codified at R.S. 14:502, any person at the scene of an emergency who knows that another person has suffered bodily injury caused by an act of hazing shall, to the extent that the person can do so without danger or peril to self or others, give reasonable assistance to the injured person. Failure to seek assistance in violation of R.S. 14:502. may include criminal penalties.

Anti-Hazing Best Practices

SLCC identifies and follows best practices with respect to the development and execution of ongoing prevention and awareness campaigns, data collection, data analysis, effective intervention, and response plans as recommended by LCTCS policy (#2.003). See attachment.

Webpage Links:

1. Student Handbook: <https://www.solacc.edu/students/student-life/student-handbook>
2. Code of Conduct: <https://www.solacc.edu/students/student-life/student-code-of-conduct>
3. Title IX: <https://www.solacc.edu/students/title-ix-know-your-rights/index>

Attachments:

Recommended Best Practices

Reference:

Policy Reference:

LCTCS Policy 2.003

Review Process:

	Reviewing Committee/Entity	Review Date(s)	Approval Date	Effective Date
	<i>Original Policy: Committee for Institutional Policy Review</i>	<i>03/23/2018</i>	<i>03/23/2018</i>	
	<i>Original Policy: Executive Committee</i>	<i>04/5/2018</i>	<i>04/13/2018</i>	<i>04/19/2018</i>
	<i>Revised Policy: Committee for Institutional Policy Review</i>	<i>11/16/2018</i>	<i>11/16/2018</i>	
	<i>Revised Policy: Executive Committee</i>	<i>11/19/2018</i>	<i>11/19/2018</i>	<i>11/19/2018</i>

Chancellor's Signature/Approval

SIGNATURE:



DATE: 11/19/2018

Natalie J Harder, Ph.D.
Chancellor

Distribution: Electronic: posted to College's website and sent via email to College personnel
Hard copy: Original to Executive Assistant to the Chancellor for Master Policy Binder, copy to Chair of Committee of Institutional Policy Review

RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICES**A. Prevention and Education Program**

- Each new student shall be provided educational information on the dangers of and prohibition on hazing during the new student orientation process in the form of a handbook.
- In addition to the requirement of providing educational information in the form of a handbook as provided in the previous paragraph, beginning in the fall semester of 2019, each new student shall be provided educational information on the dangers of and prohibition on hazing during the new student orientation process either in person or electronically.
- Each organization as defined above in this Policy and in R.S. 17:1801.1 shall provide annually at least one hour of hazing prevention education to all members and prospective members. The education may be provided in person, electronically, or both. Each organization shall submit a report annually to the institution with which it is affiliated relative to the students receiving such education evidenced by an attestation of the student receiving the education.
- The hazing prevention education required under the provisions above shall include the information about criminal penalties for the crime of criminal hazing. Information shall also be provided to organizations on their obligations under the law, including the duty to investigate and report; and on the possible loss of funding and other penalties applicable to organizations under the Hazing Laws.

B. Data Collection and Analysis

Through The Office of Student Engagement and Safety & Security, SLCC will gather and analyze SLCC's data on hazing. Effective hazing prevention presupposes an understanding of the cause, identifying any trends that the data show and assessment of the risk factors as well as protective measures. To support the institution's efforts to address hazing through data collection, analysis, information on trends and strategies, a list of available resources is provided in the student handbook and code of conduct if which can be found via the college's webpage.

C. Effective Intervention

In collaboration with Student Engagement, Security and relevant organizations, SLCC will provide education and training aimed at preparing faculty and staff club advisors, students and community members to understand hazing issues and statistics on campus. Bystander intervention training and social norming will be part of club, team and organization training in support of state laws to combat hazing.

D. Response Plan

South Louisiana Community College will convene Student Engagement professionals, Safety & Security, Title IX, BIT, organizations with the organization advisors and coaches. Each year before the beginning of the academic year, the designated group will develop a response plan delineating the procedures for handling any hazing incidents.

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2. Code of Conduct: <https://www.solacc.edu/students/student-life/student-code-of-conduct>
3. Title IX: <https://www.solacc.edu/students/title-ix-know-your-rights/index>