

GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

E. HAZING POLICY

1. Policy Statement

Georgia State University is committed to providing a safe learning environment that supports the dignity of all University community members. Hazing is a violation of state law and is strictly prohibited by Georgia State University both on and off campus. **Violation of this policy may result in both disciplinary action and criminal charges.**

2. Definition

“Hazing” means any intentional, negligent or reckless action, activity or situation that endangers or is likely to endanger the physical health of an individual or causes an individual pain, embarrassment, ridicule or harassment as a condition or precondition of gaining acceptance, membership, office or other status in a student group, whether or not such group is formally recognized by the University and regardless of the individual’s willingness to participate. Actions and situations that may constitute hazing may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- forcing or requiring the drinking of alcohol or any other substance;
- forcing or requiring the consumption of food or any other substance;
- calisthenics (e.g., push-ups, sit-ups, jogging, runs);
- treeings (e.g., tying someone up and throwing food or other substances on them);
- paddle swats;
- line-ups (e.g., yelling at or harassing people in a formation);
- theft of any property;
- road trips (e.g., dropping someone off and leaving him/her to find his/her own way back);
- scavenger hunts;
- causing an individual to have fewer than six (6) continuous hours of sleep per night;
- conducting activities that do not allow adequate time for study (e.g., not allowing an individual to attend class, causing one to miss group projects);
- forcing or requiring partial or complete nudity at any time;
- performing acts of personal servitude for members (e.g., driving them to class, cleaning their individual rooms, serving meals, washing cars, shopping, laundry);
- forcing or requiring the violation of University policies, federal, state or local law.

3. Prevention

As a part of the student group informational, recruitment, and membership intake activities, student groups are required to educate members and prospective members about hazing and to maintain documentation that they have fulfilled this requirement. Each member of a student group must sign the Georgia State University Hazing Compliance and Awareness Form. These forms are located in the Office of the Dean of Students and in the Office of Student Life and Leadership.

4. Reporting a Hazing violation

All members of the University community are strongly encouraged to report suspected instances of hazing to the Office of the Dean of Students and University employees are required to do so.

5. University as the Complainant

All reports of hazing are investigated to determine whether there is sufficient basis to believe that a violation of the Student Code of Conduct may have occurred. Based on this review, the Dean of Students may choose to initiate charges, not initiate charges or dismiss a case administratively if the claim does not appear to be supported by the facts. If charges are initiated, the University will serve as the complainant throughout the student judicial process.