Procedure: **Hazing**

Authority for Procedure granted by UWG Policy #8006, Student Conduct and Discipline.

**Background**

The University of West Georgia (UWG) prohibits hazing on and off-campus. This procedure applies to all UWG students, including school organizations, clubs, societies, fraternities, sororities, or a group living together that has principal members.

**A. Hazing Examples**

Specific actions and situations which may be considered to be hazing include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Misuse of alcohol
2. Paddling in any form
3. Any physical activity or positioning designed to create excessive fatigue, physical exhaustion, physical injury, humiliation, or that places the student in a hazardous, dangerous, or unwanted situation
4. Physical and psychological shock
5. Requiring students to appear in public wearing any apparel (or lack thereof) or item designed to embarrass or otherwise is inappropriate to the situation
6. Public stunts and buffoonery
7. Morally degrading or humiliating games and activities
8. Nudity at any time
9. Tasks of personal servitude
10. Required attendance at any session or meeting which interferes with scholastic activities or requirements
11. Creating loud noises or other activities which disturb the community
12. Temporary or permanent physical disfigurements or cosmetic changes
13. Forcing or requiring the eating of food or any other substance
14. Activities or actions that require or include theft or other illegal practices
15. Any activities which are not consistent with laws, rituals, or policies of national organizations or the regulations and policies of UWG.

**B. Prevention**

Each organization is responsible for informing its membership, both old and new, of important University policies/procedures, including those on hazing. All recognized student organizations at UWG must annually review and sign the Anti-Hazing Agreement included on the Organization Registration Form. Fraternities and sororities also require all individual members to sign the anti-hazing agreement and host at least one hazing educational session annually.

These policies apply to interest groups, potential new members, pledges, associate member classes, and generally any activity associated with any student group. All UWG organizations are responsible for the
actions of their visiting members, friends, and/or alumni who will be subject to the same behavioral standards and policies as members of the organizations.

C. Reporting a Hazing Violation

All University Community members are strongly encouraged to report suspected instances using the Hazing Report Form. You can also contact the Dean of Students (678-839-4792), Office of Community Standards (678-839-2466), Center for Student Involvement and Inclusion (678-839-6526), and/or the UWG Police (678-839-6000).

Reports of hazing will be documented and investigated by the Office of Community Standards. Refer to Standards of Due Process section as defined in the UWG Student Handbook.

D. 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 Office of Community Standards 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. The University will serve as the complainant if charges are initiated throughout the student judicial process.

E. Campus Notification

In accordance with the Max Gruver Act (passed by the Georgia Legislature in 2021), UWG will publicly disclose student organizations found to be responsible for violations of hazing. The Office of Community Standards will provide regular updates to the campus community about organizations found responsible for hazing misconduct.

Definitions

Hazing - Any action or situation, with or without the consent of the participant(s), which endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, which requires the student to engage in activity that constitutes a potential violation of the Student Code or applicable law, or adversely affects a student’s academic performance.

Forms

Attachments/ Other Resources (i.e., training, checklists, job aids)

O.C.G.A. § 16-5-61 Georgia Hazing Law
Student Code of Conduct
Registered Student Organizations Handbook
Max Gruver Act
REVISION/ HISTORY

This section is a record of significant changes by date for the specified policy. The Office of Legal Affairs will summarize initial and revised dates for internal purposes.

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