



PERMANENT MEMORANDUM 80 PROHIBITION OF HAZING

POLICY DIGEST

Monitoring Unit: Office of Academic Affairs

Initially Issued: October 30, 2018

Last Revised: February 12, 2026

I. PURPOSE

The Louisiana State University System, inclusive of all institutional components, is fully committed to maintaining a supportive educational environment free from hazing and which promotes the mental and physical well-being, safety, and respect of and among its students. As such, hazing is expressly prohibited. This policy applies to all LSU institutions. Refer to the respective institution's internal protocols and procedures for specific reporting requirements pertaining to hazing.

II. DEFINITIONS

Hazing: Any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off university property, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against an individual when both of the following apply:

- A. 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; and
- B. The act was associated with pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, participating in, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization. Acts of hazing include but are not limited to:
 1. Disrupting the academic performance or class attendance of a person;
 2. Physical brutality (e.g., whipping, beating, paddling, striking, branding, electric shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body) or similar activity;
 3. Physical activity (e.g., sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics) that subjects the other person to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the physical health or safety of the individual or causes severe emotional distress; (*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 university is not considered hazing.*)
 4. Activity involving consumption of food, liquid, or any other substance, including but not limited to an alcoholic beverage or drug, that subjects the individual to an unreasonable risk of harm that adversely affects the physical health or safety of the individual or causes severe emotional distress;
 5. Kidnapping or dropping a person off campus without return transportation; or

6. Activity that induces, causes, or requires an individual to perform an action, duty, or task that involves the commission of a crime, violation of university policy, or an act of hazing.

Organization: A fraternity, sorority, association, corporation, order, society, corps, cooperative, club, service group, social group, band, student organization, 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: Any action or activity related to becoming a member of an organization, including recruitment, rushing, and intake

Reckless Behavior: 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: Bodily injury that involves unconsciousness, extreme physical pain; 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

III. ENFORCEMENT/SANCTIONS

Any individual or organization found to have engaged in hazing shall be in violation of this policy and the respective institution's Code of Student Conduct or related protocols and may be subject to disciplinary action.

Under [La. R.S. 14:40.8](#), an individual who commits an act of hazing may be fined up to \$10,000 and/or imprisoned for up to five years. If an organization has knowledge of hazing and fails to report it to law enforcement, the organization may be fined up to \$10,000. In addition to criminal penalties, any individual or organization found responsible for hazing shall be expelled, suspended, or dismissed from the university and not permitted to return for at least one semester.

Under [La. R.S. 14:502\(C\)](#), failure to comply with the duty to give assistance may be punishable by a fine of up to \$2,000 and/or imprisonment for up to five years.

IV. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

It shall be the duty of all students and organizations to immediately report any violation or suspected violation of this policy to the appropriate university official. LSU institutions are required to create and maintain a reporting system with the option to report anonymously. Any violation of this policy shall be investigated and appropriate disciplinary action taken. Reports may be submitted to the appropriate office at the respective LSU institution.

If an organization has taken disciplinary action against any of its members or potential members for hazing or has reason to believe that any member or potential member of the organization has participated in an incident of hazing, the organization shall report the incident to the university. If an organization or any of its members or potential members has been disciplined by a parent organization for hazing, the organization shall report the incident for which the organization was disciplined to the university.

V. DUTY TO ASSIST

In accordance with [La. R.S. 14:502\(A\)\(1\)](#), any person at the scene of an emergency who knows that another person has suffered serious bodily injury 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 by seeking or reporting the need for medical assistance.

In accordance with [La. R.S. 14:502\(A\)\(2\)](#), any person who engages in reckless behavior, including hazing, that results in serious bodily injury 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 by seeking or reporting the need for medical assistance.

VI. PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Each new student shall be provided educational information on the dangers of and prohibition on hazing during the new student orientation process in materials provided by the university. In addition, beginning in Fall 2019, each new student shall be provided this information in person or electronically.

Pursuant to [La. R.S. 17:1801.1](#), each organization shall provide at least two hours of hazing prevention education annually to all members and prospective members, and anyone who is employed or volunteers with the organization. The education may be provided in person, electronically, or both. Annually, each organization shall submit a report to the institution with which it is affiliated related to the students, employees, and volunteers receiving such education evidenced by an attestation of such individuals receiving the education. Under [La. R.S. 17:1801.1\(C\)](#), the institution is required to terminate an organization's operation on campus if it fails to comply with the education requirements required by law.

VII. SOURCES

[Board of Regents Uniform Policy on Hazing Prevention](#)

[La. R.S. 14:40.8](#)

[La. R.S. 14:502](#)

[La. R.S. 17:1801.1](#)