

HAZING POLICY

EFFECTIVE:	August 1, 2022 (revised) December 1, 2016 (original)
RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVE:	Senior Vice President for Student Affairs
APPLICABILITY:	All Auburn University students and student organizations are subject to this policy
REVIEW BY:	August 2027

I. POLICY STATEMENT

Auburn University is committed to providing a safe and healthy campus environment for its students, faculty, staff, and visitors. With the Auburn Creed as its foundation, the university promotes obedience to the law, mutual helpfulness, and respect. In accordance with the [Alabama State Hazing Statute](#), Auburn University prohibits all forms of hazing. The purpose of this policy is to define hazing and outline the procedures for reporting and adjudicating instances of hazing that may occur within the university community or between members of the university community.

II. POLICY PRINCIPLES

Auburn University seeks to ensure that hazing is not permitted as part of the experience of being a student, a member or potential member of an organization, an advisor, an athlete, a volunteer, or a person otherwise affiliated with the university community.

The following principles apply to this policy and the procedures herein:

- A. Students, university employees, student organizations, and individuals associated with student organizations (e.g., chapter advisors, volunteer coaches, club team coaches, etc.) are prohibited from hazing;
- B. Anyone with knowledge about a hazing incident is expected to report the incident to Student Conduct and/or local law enforcement officials;
- C. Responsibility for hazing can fall to the individual member(s) of the university community and/or to organizations that are part of the university community;
- D. If a student or student organization is found responsible for violating this policy and a local, state, or federal law, any conduct finding will not be subject to



change because criminal or civil charges arising out of the same fact pattern were dismissed, reduced, or resolved in favor of or against a student or student organization;

- E. Individuals who are victims of hazing and who truthfully report the activities shall not be individually charged with a violation of this policy;
- F. Retaliation in any manner against an individual who reports hazing, an individual about whom the hazing was reported, or an individual who participates in a hazing investigation is strictly prohibited;
- G. Making an intentionally false accusation of hazing is prohibited. Student violators are subject to disciplinary action per the Code of Student Conduct. University employees and other violators would be subject to other applicable disciplinary processes.

III. POLICY TERMINOLOGY AND APPLICABILITY

A. Applicability

All Auburn University students and student organizations are subject to this policy:

- 1. The term **“student”** includes persons:
 - a. taking courses at the university (on-campus, off-campus, and/or online) who are full-time or part-time in undergraduate, graduate, transient, or professional studies.
 - b. who are not officially enrolled for a particular term but who have a continuing relationship with the university (i.e., enrolled for the spring semester and registered for fall semester courses but are not enrolled for summer courses).
 - c. who has accepted their offer of admission to the university.
 - d. who are conditionally admitted or taking non-academic credits as part of a sponsored university program (i.e., English as a Second Language, Auburn Global, etc.).
- 2. The term **“student organization”** means an organization primarily comprising of students who are recognized by the university, and/or substantively involved in campus life at the university (i.e., registered student organizations, Greek life, athletics teams, club sports teams, musical/theatrical ensembles, ROTC, student groups supporting academic/administrative units, etc.). Approval for recognition is granted by the Senior Vice President for Student Affairs (SVPSA), Athletics Department, and other academic/administrative departments per the applicable policies.

B. Applicability Conditions

- 1. **Individual Violations** – a person violates this policy if that person does one or more of the following:



- a. engages in hazing.
 - b. solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another person engaging in hazing.
 - c. condones or is negligent in allowing hazing to occur.
2. **Student Organization Violations** – an organization violates this policy if an officer or any combination of members, new members, prospective members, guests, volunteers, alumni, or advisors:
 - a. engages in hazing.
 - b. solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another person engaging in hazing.
 - c. condones or recklessly allows hazing and/or does not take reasonable steps to prevent hazing.

IV. HAZING DEFINITION AND EXAMPLES

- A. Auburn University defines hazing as any group or individual conduct, action, or activity, regardless of the location of the incident or consent of participants. This occurs by design, negligence, or recklessness in the context of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition of continued membership in a group or organization and.
 1. Inflicts or intends to inflict physical or mental harm, excessive fatigue, or distress or which may demean, disgrace, humiliate or degrade a reasonable person.
 2. Presents a threat to a student's health or safety, including but not limited to any brutality of a physical nature or physical activity that could adversely affect the physical and/or mental health or safety of a student.
 3. Unreasonably interferes with a student's ability to succeed in an academic environment; such activities would include but are not limited to creating excessive fatigue and not allowing reasonable preparation time for academic pursuits.
 4. Causes, induces, pressures, coerces, or requires a student to violate any federal, state, or local law and/or Auburn University policy.
- B. Examples of behavior in the context of the above include but are not limited to:
 1. Consumption of food, alcohol, drugs, or any other substance regardless of legality.
 2. Testing/quizzing on meaningless information with no constructive or educational purpose.
 3. Creating a situation that is distressing due to temperature, noise, size, or air quality.
 4. Prohibition of use of personal vehicles, bicycles, or university transportation (Tiger Transit, bicycles, shuttles, etc.).

5. Preventing interaction with active members, officers, or any other member or potential member.
6. Wearing apparel that is conspicuous and/or inappropriate.
7. Social isolation (social media or in-person).
8. Branding, piercing, or tattooing.
9. Creation of unnecessary fatigue including but not limited to acts that stem from physical activity such as calisthenics and another exercise as well as deprivation of sleep.
10. Deprivation of food or water.
11. Wall-sits, squats, bows and toes, etc.
12. Placement of an undesirable substance on or in the body.
13. Beating, whipping, restraining, paddling, or physical abuse in any form.
14. Berating, yelling, non-purposeful questioning, etc.;
15. Physical and psychological shocks.
16. Personal servitude (driving, driving programs, cleaning individual rooms, serving meals, picking up laundry, washing cars, purchasing items on another's behalf, requiring payments, or gifts to active members, etc.).
17. Carrying items for others for no constructive purpose (lighters, cigarettes, pocketknives, bricks, etc.).
18. Kidnapping or abandonment.
19. Unreasonable exposure to weather.
20. Lewd conduct, nudity, etc.
21. Subservient behavior (not permitted to make eye contact with an active member, etc.).
22. Any activity that would be viewed by a reasonable person as subjecting any person to embarrassment, degradation, or humiliation.
23. Restriction of privileges entitled to active members or students unless the activity is sanctioned as an initiation ritual by the national organization;
24. Giving tasks, projects, or responsibilities unequally to a subset of the organization based solely on their academic year in school.
25. Restricting daily personal hygiene practices (showering, brushing teeth, etc.)

V. POLICY PROCEDURES

A. Reporting

Options for reporting a suspected violation of this policy include:

1. Report the incident to law enforcement. Dial 911 for emergencies or crimes in progress or, in Auburn, dial 334-501-3100, option 1, for non-emergency situations such as delayed reports.
2. Contact Student Conduct by visiting their website at:
<http://conduct.auburn.edu/>



2. Call the Auburn University Hazing Hotline at 1-866-294-4871 (secured by the anonymous reporting site Ethics Point)
4. Submit a report online at:
<https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/7852/index.html>
(Secured by Ethics Point)

B. Self-Reporting

Individuals and student organizations are required by state law to self-report hazing violations. An organization or group that self-reports must notify Student Conduct of the names of those individuals responsible for the hazing behaviors and the details of the hazing incident. In addition, the organization must disclose any actions taken by the organization to address the behavior. Such actions are taken into consideration by the appropriate decision-making body when determining what, if any, sanction(s) should apply.

C. Procedures

Students and/or student organizations believed to have violated this policy will be referred to Student Conduct for review, per the procedures outlined in the [Code of Student Conduct](#).

VI. SANCTIONS

Auburn University students and/or student organizations alleged to have violated this policy are subject to review through Student Conduct and/or referral to other applicable university disciplinary processes.

The sanctioning of individual members of a student organization in no way precludes the sanctioning of that organization (or vice versa).

Any conduct outcome listed in the Code of Student Conduct or other applicable policies may be imposed upon a student or student organization found responsible for violating this policy including but not limited to warning, loss of privileges, educational sanctions, fines, suspension, expulsion, or loss of university recognition.

VII. EXCLUSIONS

This policy is not intended to prohibit the following conduct:

- A. Customary public athletics events, contests, or competitions that are sponsored by the university or the organized and supervised practices associated with such events.
- B. Any activity or conduct that can be demonstrated to further the goals of a legitimate educational curriculum, co-curricular or military training program as





defined and approved by the university.

