

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION STUDENT DEVELOPMENT		POLICY NUMBER 524
POLICY TITLE HAZING POLICY		
DATE OF REVISION JULY 9, 2025		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER VICE CHANCELLOR FOR STUDENT DEVELOPMENT		ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

PURPOSE

This policy outlines campus policies pertaining to hazing, including what activities may constitute hazing and procedures to report hazing at the University of South Carolina Beaufort.

DEFINITIONS

Hazing: Any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with other persons) against another person or persons regardless of the willingness of such other person or persons to participate, that:

- is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in, a student organization; and
- causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team), of physical or psychological injury including—
 - whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on someone's body, or similar activity;
 - causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity;
 - causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances;
 - causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to perform sexual acts;
 - any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct; any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law;
 - and any activity that induces, causes, or requires another person to perform a duty or task that involves a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law.

Student Organization: An organization at the University of South Carolina Beaufort (such as a club, society, association, varsity or junior varsity athletic team, club sports team, fraternity, sorority, band, or student government) in which two or more of the members are students enrolled at the university, whether or not the organization is established or recognized by the university.

POLICY STATEMENT

The University of South Carolina Beaufort is committed to providing a safe educational environment for everyone, cultivating a community that fosters respect for the dignity and rights of all persons. Disciplinary action will be taken against any group or individual affiliated with the University found in violation of this policy.

- A. Activities that would constitute hazing include, but are not limited to the following:
1. Submission of members or prospective members to situations that a reasonable person would understand to be potentially dangerous or hazardous.
 2. Activities which have a foreseeable potential for resulting in personal injury.
 3. An activity that would have a potential to cause:
 - a) Mental anxiety or distress – any activity that would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as: verbal abuse, sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, excessive cleaning and errand-running
 - b) Public embarrassment - an action that causes embarrassment, humiliation, or ridicule, regardless of a person's willingness to participate
 - c) Panic
 - d) Unreasonable interference with a student's academic progress or academic performance
 - e) Experience or observance of forced or coerced sexual acts, whether real or simulated
 4. Acts of physical violence which include beating, branding, paddling, whipping, and the link as well as exposure to the elements (activities that include having individuals participate in physical acts of exertion in extreme heat, having members hold ice or other frozen objects, sleeping outside, etc.).
 5. Tests of Endurance:
 - a) Calisthenics
 - b) Forced runs
 - c) Forced workouts
 - d) Line ups – Acts where individuals are forced, coerced, or encouraged to line up in any formation and be questioned on information either through physical or verbal threats.
 6. Unwanted ingestion of any substance including, but not limited to:
 - a) Alcohol
 - b) Condiments
 - c) Drugs
 - d) Food
 - e) Tobacco
 - f) Animals, alive or dead
 7. Forced personal servitude activities that interfere with one's ability to enjoy time outside of organization activities or unduly interferes with one's ability to succeed academically; this can include, but is not limited to the following:
 - a) Cleaning
 - b) Driving
 - c) Running errands
 - d) Being on call for members
 8. Unusual Attire – wearing apparel which is conspicuous, embarrassing, and not normally

in good taste, and/or inappropriate for the time of year.

9. Aiding in any form of academic misconduct.

B. Student Organization Initiation Ceremonies and Activities

Student organizations shall be permitted certain initiation ceremonies and activities, which when examined by the ordinary university student, would seem reasonable under the circumstances and justified in view of the purpose for which they are conducted.

C. Adjudication of Hazing

1. Adjudication of hazing is governed by the Student Code of Conduct. An individual or group is responsible for hazing if they personally take part or contribute to the actions described in this section or if they know hazing will occur or is occurring and does nothing to stop and report it to the appropriate university and legal authorities.
2. It shall not constitute a defense to the charge of hazing that the participants:
 - a) Took part voluntarily
 - b) Gave consent to the conduct
 - c) Voluntarily assumed the risks or hardship of the activity
 - d) That the conduct was not part of an official student group event or sanctioned or approved by the student group
 - e) That the conduct was not done as a condition of membership in the student group
 - f) That no injury in fact was suffered
3. A person commits the offense of hazing and is subject to discipline if the person:
 - a) Took part voluntarily
 - b) Engages in hazing
 - c) Solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another in engaging in hazing
 - d) Recklessly permits hazing to occur
 - e) Has firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident
 - f) Has firsthand knowledge that a specific hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fails to report that knowledge to the appropriate official of the institution
4. An organization commits a hazing offense and is subject to discipline if the organization:
 - a) Took part voluntarily
 - b) Condones, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid in hazing - if an officer, authorized representative, or any combination of members, prospective members, or alumni of the organization commits or assists in the commission of hazing
5. Retaliation against any individual who reports a hazing violation or suspected hazing violations to the university or law enforcement official would be considered a violation as defined by the Student Code of Conduct.

REPORTING PROCEDURES

- A. If there is an immediate threat to a student's health and safety, please call the University of South Carolina Beaufort Department of Public Safety at (843-208-8911).
- B. To initiate a complaint for alleged hazing, submit an online [Conduct Referral](#) or contact the Director of Housing and Student Conduct at 843-208-8722.
- C. Individuals may also use the [Rave Guardian app](#) to report alleged hazing.
- D. All supervisors, administrators, employees, and university officials are responsible for promptly reporting incidents of hazing that come to their attention to the Director of Housing and Student Conduct.

PROCESS FOR INVESTIGATION

The Office of Housing and Student Conduct is committed to providing a reasonably prompt, fair, impartial, and equitable resolution of all reports and allegations of hazing. Upon receipt of a report, the Director of Housing and Student Conduct will work with the Dean of Students to facilitate an investigation and provide written communication to a representative of the organization.

A single group representative will attend the initial meeting and be notified of the meeting date and time through their university email. During this initial meeting the appointed investigator will discuss the process going forward, whether it be a partnership process in which the organization does an internal investigation and reports back or a university investigation in which an investigator leads the information gathering process. Advisors are welcome to be present to support the group.

PREVENTION AND AWARENESS

The University of South Carolina Beaufort is committed to the prevention of prohibited conduct and takes an approach to hazing prevention that combines education, clear policies, and accessible reporting resources. Education and training are available to all students, faculty, and staff and participation is mandatory for all members of Greek Life. Education may include bystander intervention, examples of prohibited behaviors, ethical leadership principles, and how to report hazing to the university. These programs aim to:

- Increase awareness of how the institution defines hazing and investigates related incidents;
- Promote active bystander intervention and ethical leadership;
- Provide clear guidance on how to report suspected hazing; and
- Foster understanding of institutional policies and applicable state and federal laws.

Prevention and education programs are coordinated by the Division of Student Development and are offered at least once per academic year. The specific content and format of these programs vary annually based on campus assessment data, stakeholder input, and evolving research-informed best practices.

RELATED UNIVERSITY AND STATE POLICIES

[S.C Code of Laws section 16-3-510 and 16-3-520](#)

[S.C. Code of Laws section 59-63-275](#)

[S.C. Code of Laws section 59-101-200](#)

[Public Law No.: 118-173P](#)

[S.C. Code of Laws section 59-101-210](#)

[Student Code of Conduct](#)

[Tucker Hipps Transparency Act](#)

[Student Organization Policy](#)

HISTORY OF REVISIONS

DATE OF REVISION	REASON FOR REVISION
July 9, 2025	Modification to include updated Stop Campus Hazing Act policy changes
August 8, 2022	Modification of USC Policy for USCB