I. Policy

No organization or its initiated or uninitiated members registered or otherwise, officially or in fact, may participate in the activity of hazing. Hazing is any activity undertaken by a group or organization or a member of that group or organization in which members or prospective or uninitiated members are subjected to activities which harass, intimidate, physically exhaust, impart pain, cause undue mental fatigue or mental distress, emotional distress or engages in any conduct which presents a threat to the student’s health or safety, or which cause mutilation or alteration of the body or parts of the body, which shall include but are not limited to brutality of a physical nature such as whipping, beating, branding, exposure to elements.

Such activities include but are not limited to, tests of endurance, personal servitude activities such as cleaning, driving and running errands, submission of members or prospective members to potentially dangerous or hazardous circumstances, activities which have a foreseeable potential for resulting in personal injury, or any activity which by its nature is so profound that it would have a potential to cause severe mental anxiety, mental distress, emotional distress, panic, degradation, interference with a student’s academic progress or performance or public embarrassment.

Registered organizations and groups 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. It shall not constitute a defense to the charge of hazing that the participants took part voluntarily, gave consent to the conduct, voluntarily assumed the risks or hardship of the activity, that the conduct was not part of an official organizational event or sanctioned or approved by the organization, that the conduct was not done as a condition of membership in the organization or that no injury in fact was suffered.

An individual is responsible for hazing if he or she personally takes or contributes 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.
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 against university policy.

II. Procedure

If there is an immediate threat to a student’s health and safety, please call the University of South Carolina Police Department at (803) 777-4215. To initiate a complaint for alleged hazing, submit an Incident Report through the Office of Student Conduct: https://publicdocs.maxient.com/incidentreport.php?UnivofSouthCarolina.

Individuals may also call the Hazing Hotline (803-777-5800) to report alleged hazing.

III. Related Policies

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t59c101.php

S.C. Code of Laws section 59-63-275
http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t59c063.php

S.C. Code of Laws section 16-3-510 and 16-3-520
http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t16c003.php

S.C. Code of Laws section 59-101-210 (a report of actual findings of violations related to formally affiliated student organization shall be provided online for the public)

IV. Reason for Revision