



## PERMANENT MEMORANDUM 80

### Prohibition of Hazing

#### POLICY DIGEST

Monitoring Unit: Office of Student Affairs

Initially Issued: October 30, 2018

#### I. GENERAL:

Louisiana State University (“LSU” or the “University”) 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 campus locations of LSU.

#### 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.

Hazing includes but is not limited to any of the following acts associated with pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, participating in, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization:

- a. physical brutality (such as whipping, beating, paddling, striking, branding, electric shocking, or placing of a harmful substance on the body) or similar activity;
- b. physical activity (such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, or 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.)*
- c. 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;
- d. kidnapping or dropping a person off campus without return transportation;

- e. disrupting the academic performance or class attendance of a person; or
- f. 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, 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 and rushing

**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 campus Code of Student Conduct, 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 who violates La. R.S. 14:40.8 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, in writing, any violation of this policy to the appropriate University official. Any violation of this policy shall be investigated and appropriate disciplinary action taken. Reports may be submitted online or at the following offices: LSU Police Department, Dean of Students, Campus Life, or Greek Life.

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 educational information on the dangers of and prohibition on hazing during the new student orientation process either in person or electronically.

Each organization shall provide annually at least one hour of hazing prevention education to all members and prospective members. The education may be provided in person, electronically, or both. Each organization shall submit a report annually to the University relative to the students receiving such education evidenced by an attestation of the student receiving the education.

## **VII. SOURCES:**

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

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

[LA R.S. 17:801.1](#)

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

[Code of Student Conduct](#)