

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY HAZING POLICY

HAZING

I. Statement On Hazing

It is the responsibility for all student organizations to encourage an atmosphere of learning, social responsibility, and respect for human dignity. "Hazing" is an unproductive and hazardous custom that has no place in our university life, either on or off campus.

II. Virginia Hazing Law

Section 18.2-56 of the Code of Virginia provides the following:

"It shall be unlawful to haze, or otherwise mistreat so as to cause bodily injury, any student at any school, college, or university. It shall be unlawful to haze so as to cause bodily injury, any student at any school, college, or university.

Any person found guilty thereof shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Any person receiving bodily injury by hazing shall have a right to sue, civilly, the person or persons guilty thereof, whether adults or infants.

The president or other presiding official of any school, college or university receiving appropriations from the state treasury shall, upon satisfactory proof of the guilt of any student hazing another student, sanction and discipline such student in accordance with the institution's policies and procedures. The institution's policies and procedures shall provide for expulsions or other appropriate discipline based on the facts and circumstances of each case and shall be consistent with the model policies established by the Department of Education or the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, as applicable. The president or other presiding official of any school, college or university receiving appropriations from the state treasury shall report hazing which causes bodily injury to the attorney for the Commonwealth of the county or city in which such school, college or university is, who shall take such action as he deems appropriate.

For the purposes of this section, "hazing" means to recklessly or intentionally endanger the health or safety of a student or students or to inflict bodily injury on a student or students in connection with or for the purpose of initiation, admission into or affiliation with or as a condition for continued membership in a club, organization, association, fraternity, sorority, or student body regardless of whether the student or students so endangered or injured participated voluntarily in the relevant activity.

III. Description And Examples Of Hazing

- A. Hazing refers to any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off campus to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule. Consent to hazing is never a defense to a violation of this policy and allowing yourself to be hazed is also a violation of this policy.
- B. Examples of Hazing include, but not be limited to forcing, requiring, or expecting pledges, associate members, prospective members, new or members, or members of university organizations to participate in any of the following actions or activities:

1. Requiring persons to consume alcohol or drugs, liquid, food, or other substance;
2. All forms of physical activity which are used to harass or which are not part of an organized athletic or ROTC/military context and not specifically directed toward constructive work;
3. Nudity;
4. Requiring exposure to uncomfortable elements or any strong odor that could make an individual feel ill or uncomfortable;
5. Intentionally or recklessly requiring that a person do or submit to any act that will alter physical appearance (e.g., branding; tattooing; using makeup, paint, or markers on a person; or shaving the head or body);
6. Forcing, coercing, someone to wear apparel that is conspicuous and not within community norms or which are not part of an organized athletic or ROTC/military context;
7. Carrying any item (shields, paddles, bricks, hammers, etc.) that serve no constructive purpose or that are designed to punish or embarrass the carrier;
8. Requiring activities that disrupt a person's normal schedule. A normal schedule includes the opportunity for sufficient eating and rest, course requirements (class, labs, practicums, and internships), time required for study outside of scheduled class hours, and reasonable time for personal hygiene;
9. Timed quests, treasure hunts, or scavenger hunts, or any activity which requires members to search for various items around a location in a specified amount of time;
10. Hitting or pretending to hit an individual; paddling in any form;
11. Misuse, theft, damage, or destruction of property
12. Spray painting or pelting with any substance;
13. Verbal Harassment
14. Any violation of the Code of Student Conduct such as threatening, physical restraint or abuse (being held down, tied up, taped), kidnapping, transporting, or abandoning a person;
15. Any violation of the University's Discrimination Policy such as sexual violence, targeting on the basis of their actual or perceived race, sex, color, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, genetic information, political affiliation, marital status, disability, or other legally protected status.
16. Interrogating individuals in an intimidating or threatening manner;
17. Requiring a person to perform acts of servitude or perform personal errands for others;
18. Deceiving new members prior to their gaining membership in an attempt to convince them that they will not be initiated or will be hurt;
19. Blindfolding and parading individuals in public areas, blindfolding and transporting in a motor vehicle, or privately conducting blindfolding activities that serve no constructive purpose;
20. Binding or restricting any persons arms or legs that would prohibit them from moving on their own;
21. Engaging in activity that compels an individual or group to remain in a certain place or transporting anyone without their knowledgeable consent (e.g., taking a person on a road trip to an unknown destination, or kidnapping);
22. Requiring a pledge or associate period of unusual length (more than 10-12 weeks) for reasons other than achieving academic requirements.

IV. Sanctions For Violations

Organizations found in violation of this policy and/or Virginia Law may face sanctions ranging from a warning to a loss of status as recognized student organization. Individuals found to be in violation of this policy may face sanction ranging from a warning to a dismissal.