



Policy: Hazing Policy

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Approved by: SGSC Clery Committee; SGSC President's Cabinet

Next Review Date: Annual review by the Clery Committee

Policy Statement

South Georgia State College (SGSC) prohibits all hazing by students, faculty, staff, or recognized organizations. Participation in or condoning hazing activities is a violation of SGSC policy and may also constitute a violation of local, state, or federal law. The following principles apply:

- Hazing is strictly prohibited, including the solicitation, aiding, or abetting of hazing activities.
- Consent by the victim is not a defense for hazing activities.
- All students, faculty, and staff must take reasonable measures to prevent hazing within their scope of authority.

Reason for Policy

SGSC seeks to promote a safe environment where students may participate in activities and organizations without compromising their health, safety, or welfare. Hazing is prohibited under this policy because it can result in irrevocable harm to victims, victims' families, and the college community. SGSC aligns this policy with the Clery Act, the Georgia SB 85 "Max Gruver Act," and the "Stop Campus Hazing Act," and adheres to best practices in hazing prevention.

Entities Affected by This Policy

This policy applies to all SGSC students, faculty, staff, and affiliated organizations. Every member of the SGSC community is responsible for preventing hazing. Each campus organization and individual must uphold SGSC's community values of being just, civil, and respectful of others' rights.

Definitions

Hazing — A person commits the offense of hazing if the person intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly — for the purpose of initiating, admitting, or affiliating a student into or with an organization, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing a student's membership or status in an organization — causes, coerces, or forces a student to do any of the following:

- Violate federal or state criminal law.
- Under Georgia law (O.C.G.A. § 16-5-61), engage in any activity that endangers or is likely to endanger the physical health of a student, or that coerces the student through social or physical pressure to consume any food, liquid, alcohol, drug, or other substance which subjects the student to a likely risk of vomiting, intoxication, or unconsciousness — regardless of the student's willingness to participate.
- Consume any food, liquid, alcoholic liquid, drug, or other substance that subjects the student to a risk of emotional or physical harm.
- Endure brutality of a physical nature, including whipping, beating, branding, calisthenics, or exposure to the elements.

- Endure brutality of a mental nature, including activity adversely affecting mental health or dignity, sleep deprivation, exclusion from social contact, or conduct causing extreme embarrassment.
- Endure brutality of a sexual nature.
- Endure any other activity creating a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to the student.

Hazing does not include reasonable and customary athletic, law enforcement, or military training, contests, competitions, or events.

Aggravated Hazing — A person commits the offense of aggravated hazing if hazing results in serious bodily injury or death to a student and the person acts with reckless indifference to the health and safety of the student, or causes, coerces, or forces the consumption of an alcoholic liquid or drug by the student.

Organizational Hazing — An organization commits the offense of organizational hazing if it intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly promotes or facilitates a violation of hazing or aggravated hazing.

- **Organization:** Athletic teams, clubs, fraternities, sororities, or any student-led entity affiliated with SGSC.
- **Student:** Any individual enrolled, admitted, or intending to enroll at SGSC within the next 12 months.
- **Bodily Injury:** Impairment of physical condition or substantial pain.
- **Serious Bodily Injury:** Injury causing substantial risk of death, permanent disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of bodily functions.
- **Retaliation:** Prohibited actions against individuals reporting hazing, including threats, harassment, bullying, or exclusion from activities.

Responsibilities

- **Students, Faculty, and Staff:** Take reasonable measures to prevent hazing within their scope of authority and report any known or suspected hazing.
- **Recognized Organizations:** Uphold SGSC's community values, ensure member activities comply with this policy, and cooperate fully with investigations.
- **Campus Security Authorities:** Document and forward hazing incidents for Clery compliance.
- **Dean of Students:** Receive reports, oversee student conduct response, and coordinate disciplinary processes.
- **SGSC Police / Chief of Police:** Investigate criminal aspects of reported hazing and coordinate with external law enforcement when appropriate.
- **Clery Coordinator and Clery Committee:** Oversee compliance with the Clery Act and the Stop Campus Hazing Act, conduct annual policy review, and ensure required reporting.

Procedures / Implementation

Reporting Procedures

SGSC offers accessible and confidential reporting. All members of the SGSC community are encouraged to report hazing incidents. Reports may be made to:

- The Dean of Students, Sandra Adams — Sandra.adams@sgsc.edu; 912.260.4416
- SGSC Police — campus.police@sgsc.edu; 912.384.7675
- Any Campus Security Authority, who is responsible for documenting and forwarding hazing incidents for Clery compliance.

Reports should include as much detail as possible, including the names of individuals or organizations involved, a description of the incident, and any supporting evidence.

Investigation Process

Upon receiving a report of hazing, SGSC will:

- Acknowledge the report and promptly initiate a preliminary review to determine if the allegations fall under this policy.
- Conduct a thorough, impartial, and timely investigation, ensuring the rights of all parties involved.
- Collaborate with law enforcement if the hazing activity involves potential criminal conduct.
- Administer appropriate disciplinary actions based on the severity of the hazing incident.
- Maintain confidentiality to the extent possible, consistent with the need to conduct a fair investigation.

Sanctions for Violators

Individuals and organizations found responsible for hazing may face the following sanctions, depending on the severity of the incident:

- Probation
- Suspension
- Expulsion
- Other educational sanctions
- Loss of recognition
- Community service
- Legal consequences

Data Collection and Reporting

SGSC complies with federal requirements to collect and report data on hazing incidents in the Annual Security Report (ASR), including:

- Details about the nature of the incident.
- Disciplinary actions taken.
- Preventative measures implemented.

SGSC will post a report of hazing violations for the past five years. This report will include the organizations involved, dates of violations, descriptions of violations, and outcomes of investigations.

Prevention Education

SGSC is dedicated to taking proactive steps to prevent hazing through awareness campaigns that educate the campus community on:

- The dangers and consequences of hazing.
- Reporting procedures.
- Healthy alternatives to harmful traditions.

Retaliation Prohibited

Retaliation against individuals who report hazing or participate in an investigation is strictly prohibited. SGSC will take disciplinary action against anyone engaging in retaliation.

Review and Assessment

- **Annual Policy Review:** The Clery Committee will review the policy annually to ensure alignment with the Clery Act and legal and institutional requirements.
- **Data Analysis:** Hazing trends and prevention strategies will be analyzed based on incident reports and student feedback.

Forms

No specific forms are required to file a hazing report. Reports may be submitted by email, by phone, or in person to any of the contacts listed below.

Contacts

Clery Coordinator and Chief of Police (Policy Point of Contact)

- **Dean of Students — Sandra Adams:** Sandra.adams@sgsc.edu | 912.260.4416
- **SGSC Police:** campus.police@sgsc.edu | 912.384.7675

Website Address for This Policy

[To be added — insert official URL where this policy is published on sgsc.edu]