

# 2018/2019

## Louisiana College

### STUDENT HANDBOOK

### HAZING POLICY

In accordance with Louisiana Law and Louisiana College policy, any form of "Hazing" is strictly prohibited. In addition to any administrative action that may be imposed by this College, violators may also be subject to fines or imprisonment.

**Hazing** means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act by a person acting alone or acting with others that is directed against another when both of the following apply:

- (v) 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.
- (vi) The act was associated with pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, participating in, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization.

Consent is not a defense.

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:

- (ix) Physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, paddling, striking, branding, electric shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity.
- (x) 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.
- (xi) 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 or that adversely affects the physical health or safety of the individual or causes severe emotional distress.
- (xii) Activity that induces, causes, or requires an individual to perform a duty or task that involves the commission of a crime or an act of hazing.

For purposes of this Policy, hazing shall not include a 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 postsecondary education institution.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

**Postsecondary education institution, education institution, or institution** is any postsecondary education institution in this state supported wholly or in part by public funds.

**Hazing** means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act by a person acting alone or acting with others that is directed against another when both of the following apply:

- (vii) 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.
- (viii) The act was associated with pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, participating in, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization.

Consent is not a defense.

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:

- (xiii) Physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, paddling, striking, branding, electric shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity.
- (xiv) 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.
- (xv) 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 or that adversely affects the physical health or safety of the individual or causes severe emotional distress.
- (xvi) Activity that induces, causes, or requires an individual to perform a duty or task that involves the commission of a crime or an act of hazing.

**Organization** is 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** is any action or activity related to becoming a member of an organization, including recruitment and rushing.

**Appropriate authority** includes:

- (iv) Any state or local law enforcement agency.
- (v) A 911 Public Safety Answering Point as defined in Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.
- (vi) Emergency medical personnel.

**Reckless behavior** is 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** is bodily injury that involves unconsciousness, extreme physical pain, or 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.

## LOUISIANA LAW

### LA R.S. 14:40.8. Criminal Hazing

A. (1) Except as provided by Subsection D of this Section, it shall be unlawful for any person to commit an act of hazing.

(2)(a) Except as provided by Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, any person who commits an act of hazing shall be either fined up to one thousand dollars, imprisoned for up to six months, or both.

(b) If the hazing results in the serious bodily injury or death of the victim, or the hazing involves forced or coerced alcohol consumption that results in the victim having a blood alcohol concentration of at least 0.30 percent by weight based on grams of alcohol per one hundred cubic centimeters of blood, any person who commits an act of hazing shall be fined up to ten thousand dollars and imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for up to five years.

B.(1) If any person serving as a representative or officer of an organization, including any representative, director, trustee, or officer of any national or parent organization of which any of the underlying entities provided for in Paragraph (C)(3) of this Section is a sanctioned or recognized member at the time of the hazing, knew and failed to report to law enforcement that one or more of the organization's members were hazing another person, the organization may be subject to the following:

(a) Payment of a fine of up to ten thousand dollars.

(b) Forfeiture of any public funds received by the organization.

(c) Forfeiture of all rights and privileges of being an organization that is organized and operating at the education institution for a specific period of time as determined by the court. If the hazing results in the serious bodily injury or death of the victim, or results in the victim having a blood alcohol concentration of at least 0.30 percent by weight based on grams of alcohol per one hundred cubic centimeters of blood, the period of time shall be for not less than four years.

(2) A national or parent organization that receives a report alleging the commission of an act or acts of hazing may conduct a timely and efficient investigation to substantiate or determine the veracity of the allegations prior to making a report to law enforcement. The investigation shall be completed no later than fourteen days after the date on which the report was received alleging the commission of an act or acts of hazing.

C. For purposes of this Section:

(1) "Education institution" means any elementary or secondary school or any postsecondary education institution in this state.

(2)(a) "Hazing" is any intentional, knowing, or reckless act by a person acting alone or acting with others that is directed against another when both of the following apply:

(i) The person knew or should have known that the act endangers the physical health or safety of the other person or causes severe emotional distress.

(ii) The act was associated with pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, participating in, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization.

(b) "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:

(i) Physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, paddling, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity.

(ii) 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.

(iii) 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 or that adversely affects the physical health or safety of the individual or causes severe emotional distress.

(iv) Activity that induces, causes, or requires an individual to perform a duty or task that involves the commission of a crime or an act of hazing.

(c) A 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 education institution is not considered "hazing" for purposes of this Section.

(3) **"Organization"** means 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, an education institution. "Organization" includes the national or parent organization of which any of the underlying entities provided for in this Paragraph is a sanctioned or recognized member at the time of the hazing.

(4) **"Pledging"**, also known as **"recruitment"** or **"rushing"**, means any action or activity related to becoming a member of an organization.

D.(1) This Section does not apply to an individual who is the subject of the hazing, regardless of whether the individual voluntarily allowed himself to be hazed.

(2) It is not a defense to prosecution for a violation of this Section that the individual against whom the hazing was directed consented to or acquiesced in the hazing.

E.(1) The penalties provided in Subsection B of this Section may be imposed in addition to any penalty that may be imposed for any other criminal offense arising from the same incident or activity, and in addition to any penalty imposed by the organization or education institution pursuant to its by-laws, rules, or policies regarding hazing.

(2) Nothing in this Section precludes any civil remedy provided by law.

Acts 2018, No. 635, §1

**LA R.S. 17:1801. Hazing prohibited; penalties**

Hazing in any form, or the use of any method of initiation into fraternal organizations in any educational institution supported wholly or in part by public funds, which is likely to cause bodily danger or physical punishment to any student or other person attending any such institution is prohibited.

Whoever violates the provisions of this Section shall be fined not less than ten dollars nor more than one hundred dollars, or imprisoned for not less than ten days nor more than thirty days, or both, and in addition, shall

be expelled from the educational institution and not permitted to return during the current session or term in which the violation occurs.

**LA R.S. 14:1801.1. Hazing education; policies; new student orientation; organizations**

A. Not later than August 1, 2018, the Board of Regents shall develop and adopt a uniform policy on hazing prevention. The policy shall define hazing as defined in R.S. 17:1801. Each postsecondary education institution shall adopt the uniform policy developed by the Board of Regents. An institution may expand the definition of hazing to prohibit additional behaviors it determines may be dangerous but shall not otherwise amend the definition.

B.(1) Each new student shall be provided educational information on the dangers of and prohibition on hazing during the new student orientation process in the form of a handbook.

(2) In addition to the requirement provided in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, beginning in the fall semester of 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.

C. Each organization as defined in R.S. 17:1801 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 institution with which it is affiliated relative to the students receiving such education evidenced by an attestation of the student receiving the education.

**LA R.S. 14:502. Failure to seek assistance**

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. Reasonable assistance includes immediately seeking or reporting the need for medical assistance from an appropriate authority.

(2) Any person who engages in reckless behavior that results in the serious bodily injury of any person shall, to the extent that the person can do so without danger or peril to self or others, give reasonable assistance to the person. Reasonable assistance includes immediately seeking or reporting the need for medical assistance from an appropriate authority.

B. For purposes of this Section:

(1) **"Appropriate authority"** includes:

(a) Any state or local law enforcement agency.

(b) A 911 Public Safety Answering Point as defined in Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

(c) Emergency medical personnel.

(2) **"Reckless behavior"** means 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, including activity which is defined as a criminal offense under this Title.

(3) **"Serious bodily injury"** means bodily injury that involves unconsciousness, extreme physical pain, or 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.

C.(1) Except as provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, any person who violates the provisions of this Section shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars, imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than one year, or both.

(2) If the serious bodily injury results in the death of the person, any person who violates the provisions of this Section shall be fined not more than two thousand dollars, imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than five years, or both.

Acts 2018, No. 637, §1.

Adopted 03/15/2010

Revised 1/18/2019