



GEORGIA SOUTHWESTERN
STATE UNIVERSITY

STUDENT HAZING POLICY

***Office of Student Rights and
Responsibilities***

Updated June 30, 2021

Anti-Hazing Policy and Procedure

GSW is dedicated to the health, wellbeing, and safety of all students. Actions taken by GSW-affiliated individuals and/or organizations that utilize and/or condone acts of hazing are contrary to the University's mission and purpose. GSW does not condone or encourage any act of hazing being conducted by or associated with any University member or organization(s).

What is hazing?

Hazing is defined as any intentional, negligent or reckless action, activity or situation which endangers, or is likely to endanger, or causes another pain, embarrassment, ridicule or harassment, regardless of the individual's willingness to participate.

Hazing is a criminal violation under Georgia law. It shall be unlawful for any person to haze any student in connection with, condition of, and/or precondition of gaining acceptance, membership, office, or other status in a school organization. Any person who violates this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature. (Article 4 of Chapter 5 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia)

The state law does not limit or affect an educational institution's right to enforce its own penalties against hazing. GSW's policy on hazing can be found in the Student Conduct Code.

Examples of Hazing

Examples of such actions and situations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Coerce through the use of social or physical pressure to consume any food, liquid, alcohol, drug or other substance to a likely risk of vomiting, intoxication, or unconsciousness.
- B. Forcing or requiring the drinking of alcohol or any other substance.
- C. Forcing or requiring the consumption of food or any other substance.
- D. Calisthenics (push-ups, sit-ups, jogging, runs, etc.)
- E. Treeing, Paddle swats, Line-ups
- F. Theft of any property
- G. Road trips, scavenger hunts
- H. Causing fewer than six (6) continuous hours of sleep per night
- I. Conducting activities which do not allow adequate time for study
- J. Nudity at any time
- K. Running personal errands for the members (driving them to class, cleaning their individual rooms, serving meals, etc.)
- L. Any Physical Contact
- M. Misuse of authority by virtue of one's class rank or leadership position.
- N. Striking another student by hand or with any instrument.
- O. Any form of physical bondage of a student.
- P. Taking of a student to an outlying area and dropping him/her off.

- Q. Causing a student to violate the law or a University rule such as indecent exposure, trespassing, violation of visitation, etc.
- R. Solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another in engaging in hazing
- S. Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly permits hazing to occur
- T. Has firsthand knowledge of the planning of such activities or firsthand knowledge that an incident of this type has occurred and failing to report it to appropriate University officials.
- U. Forcing or requiring the violation of University, Federal, State, or local law.

Reports of Hazing

GSW encourages individuals to report hazing incidents as soon as possible. A report may be submitted through the online incident report (link), or in person to the Coordinator of Student Rights and Responsibilities or the University Police Department.

Investigation and Conduct Review

GSW will follow investigation and conduct review procedures outline in the Student Conduct Code.

Organization Hazing Offense

An organization commits an offense if the organization condones or encourages hazing or if an officer or any combination or members, pledges, or alumni of the organization commits or assists in the commission of hazing.

Not a Defense

It is not a defense that the person (or group) against whom the hazing was directed consented to, or acquiesced to, the behavior in question; or

The conduct or activity that resulted in the death or injury of a person was not part of an official organizational event or was not otherwise sanctioned or approved by the organization; or

The conduct or activity that resulted in death or injury of the person was not done as a condition of membership to an organization.

Immunity

Students who are recipients and/or victims of hazing (and who have not perpetrated hazing behavior on others involved in the fact pattern for which they are reporting) and who report the activities to the Vice President for Student Affairs and/or the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students and/or the University Police Department, may be immune from university sanctions and/or legal prosecution.

Violation of Policy

GSW students and organizations found to be in violation of this policy will receive conduct sanctions. Campus privileges may be revoked, recognition rescinded, disciplinary sanctions imposed on groups or their individual officers or members, and /or loss of student organization recognition status. Individuals found to be in violation of this policy may face sanctions from warning to suspension.

Public Disclosure of Hazing Incidents

GSW will post on website (link) for a period of not less than five (5) years after final student organization conduct adjudication or criminal conviction the following information:

- Student organization name
- Date or dates on which the hazing occurred
- Description of specific hazing related findings, sanctions, adjudications, and convictions for any person (without personal identifying information as guided by FERPA) or school organization.