

# THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

## HAZING POLICY

**Number** 03.03.01

**Division:** Student Affairs - Dean of Students

**Date:** October 2014; Revised August 2, 2022; Revised February 17, 2025

**Purpose:** The University of Alabama in Huntsville (“the University”) is committed to maintaining a supportive, educational environment that seeks to enhance the well-being of all members of its community. This commitment reflects the institution’s adherence to its mission, to its various policies supporting its mission, and to relevant state and federal laws. Consistent with that commitment, the University prohibits any and all forms of hazing of its students. This policy applies to all students and all student organizations.

**Policy** “Hazing” is defined by Section 16-1-23, Code of Alabama (1975) as follows:

Any willful action taken or situation created, whether on or off any school, college, university, or other educational premises, which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of any student, or

1. Any willful act on or off any school, college, university, or other educational premises by any person alone or acting with others in striking, beating, bruising, or maiming; or seriously offering, threatening, or attempting to strike, beat, bruise, or maim, or to do or seriously offer, threaten, or attempt to do physical violence to any student of any such educational institution or any assault upon any such students made for the purpose of committing any of the acts, or producing any of the results to such student as defined in this section.
2. The term hazing as defined in this section does not include customary athletic events or similar contests or competitions, and is limited to those actions taken and situations created in connection with initiation into or affiliation with any organization. The term hazing does not include corporal punishment administered by officials or employees of public schools when in accordance with policies adopted by local boards of education.
3. No person shall engage in what is commonly known and recognized as hazing, or encourage, aid, or assist any other person thus offending.
4. No person shall knowingly permit, encourage, aid, or assist any person

in committing the offense of hazing, or willfully acquiesce in the commission of such offense, or fail to report promptly his knowledge or any reasonable information within his knowledge of the presence and practice of hazing in this state to the chief executive officer of the appropriate school, college, university, or other educational institution in this state. Any act of omission or commission shall be deemed hazing under the provisions of this section.

5. Any person who shall commit the offense of hazing shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor as defined by Title 13A.
6. Any person who participates in the hazing of another, or any organization associated with a school, college, university, or other educational institution in this state which knowingly permits hazing to be conducted by its members or by others subject to its direction or control, shall forfeit any entitlement to public funds, scholarships, or awards which are enjoyed by him or by it and shall be deprived of any sanction or approval granted by the school, college, university, or other educational institution.
7. Nothing in this section shall be construed as in any manner affecting or repealing any law of this state respecting homicide, or murder, manslaughter, assault with intent to murder, or aggravated assault.

Pursuant to the Stop Campus Hazing Act, Public Law No. 118-173, hazing is additionally defined as “any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with other persons) against another person or persons regardless of the willingness of such other person or persons to participate, that—

- I. is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in, a student organization; and
- II. causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team), of physical or psychological injury including—
  - aa. whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on someone’s body, or similar activity;
  - bb. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity;
  - cc. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances;
  - dd. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to perform sexual acts;
  - ee. any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of

- bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct;
- ff. any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law; and
  - gg. any activity that induces, causes, or requires another person to perform a duty or task that involves a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law.”

For purposes of this policy, the term “student organization” shall mean “an organization at an institution of higher education (such as a club, society, association, varsity or junior varsity athletic team, club sports team, fraternity, sorority, band, or student government) in which two or more of the members are students enrolled at the institution of higher education, whether or not the organization is established or recognized by the institution.”

**Procedures** Individuals who know or suspect that hazing has taken place are required to report hazing to the appropriate university official. Alabama has a “Duty to Report” clause in its anti-hazing statute making it illegal to be aware of hazing and failing to report.

To report hazing, please provide specific information regarding the hazing incident to any of the following:

The University of Alabama in Huntsville Police Department 256-824-6596 or 256-824-6911 (in case of emergency)

The Dean of Students Office 256-824-6700 or submit a Charger 360 at <https://www.uah.edu/charger360>

**Review** The Office of Student Life and the Dean of Students are responsible for the review of this policy every five years (or whenever circumstances require).