

Kennesaw State University Hazing Policy

Disruption of Campus Life

It is the purpose of the institution to provide a campus environment that encourages academic accomplishment, personal growth, and a spirit of understanding and cooperation. An important part of maintaining such an environment is the commitment to protect the health and safety of every member of the campus community. In order to promote these goals, students should be familiar with and abide by the rules against disruption of campus life.

1. Policy Statement – Hazing in any form is prohibited at Kennesaw State University. Kennesaw State University is committed to providing a safe learning environment that supports the dignity of all University community members. Hazing is a violation of state law and is strictly prohibited by Kennesaw State University both on and off campus. **Violation of this policy may result in both disciplinary action and criminal charges.**

2. Definition

“Hazing” means any intentional, negligent or reckless action, activity or situation that endangers or is likely to endanger the physical health of an individual or causes an individual pain, embarrassment, ridicule or harassment as a condition or precondition of gaining acceptance, membership, office or other status in a student group, whether or not such group is formally recognized by the University and regardless of the individual’s willingness to participate. The expressed or implied willingness of the victim (s) is not a defense. Actions and situations that may constitute hazing may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Forcing, requiring, or encouraging the drinking of alcohol or any other substance;
- Forcing, requiring, or encouraging the consumption of food or any substance;
- Calisthenics (e.g., push-ups, sit-ups, jogging, runs);
- Treeing’s (e.g. tying someone up and throwing food or other substances on them);
- Paddling in any form
- Line-ups (e.g. yelling at or harassing people in a formation);
- Theft of any property;
- Road trips (e.g. dropping someone off and leaving him/her to find his/her own way back);
- Scavenger hunts; *without prior approval from the OFSL*;
- Causing an individual to be sleep deprived and/or suffer from excessive fatigue;
- Conducting activities that do not allow adequate time for studying or that interferes with their scholastic responsibilities (e.g. not allowing an individual to attend class, causing one to miss group projects);
- Forcing, requiring, or encouraging nudity at any time;
- Forcing, requiring, or encouraging the wearing of specific uniform apparel;

- Performing acts of personal servitude for members (e.g. driving them to class, cleaning their individual rooms, serving meals, washing cars, shopping, laundry); requirement/forcing of purchases for others;
- Forcing, requiring, or encouraging individuals to engage in public stunts or buffoonery, hair cutting, morally degrading/humiliating games or activities, which are distasteful or designed to provoke nausea or inebriation;
- Verbally harassing any individual or any action or situation which subjugates an individual to a condition where he/she might tend to lose self-respect or suffer injury to personal or religious values;
- Producing mental or physical discomfort in any form or physical and/or psychological shocks in any form;
- Forcing, requiring, or encouraging the violation of university policies, federal, state, or local law.

3. Prevention

As a part of the student group informational, recruitment, and membership intake activities, student groups are required to educate members and prospective members about hazing and to maintain documentation that they have fulfilled this requirement. Each member of a student group must sign the Kennesaw State University Hazing Compliance form. These forms are located in the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life and the Department of Student Life.

4. Reporting a Hazing violation

All members of the University community are strongly encouraged to report suspected instances of hazing to the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life (770-499-3081) and/or the Department of Student Life (770-423-6290), Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (770-499-3403) or KSU Police (770-423-6666).

5. University as the Complainant

All reports of hazing are investigated to determine whether there is sufficient basis to believe that a violation of the Student Code of Conduct may have occurred. Based on this review, the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity may choose to initiate charges, not initiate charges or dismiss a case administratively if the claim does not appear to be supported by the facts. If charges are initiated, the University will serve as the complainant throughout the student judicial process.