

## **Anti-Hazing Policy**

Samford University does not condone any form of hazing, and students and student organizations involved in hazing are subject to University disciplinary sanctions. The University has accepted and approved the following anti-hazing policy, as stated in the *Samford Student Handbook* under Students Rights and Responsibilities.

Definition: The use of physical violence or any activity calculated to impose embarrassment, harassment, physical, emotional or mental strain; or any activity that would in any way jeopardize the physical, moral or scholastic well-being of any individual; mentally antagonizing a student, guest or employee or placing someone under threat of physical harm

**Hazing is a criminal offense in the state of Alabama. Insurance does not cover a felonious act. Penalties for hazing are very severe.**

### Alabama Hazing Law

ALA CODE § 16-1-23:

(a) Hazing is defined as follows:

- (1) 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
  - (2) 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.
  - (3) 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.
- (b) No person shall engage in what is commonly known and recognized as hazing, or encourage, aid, or assist any other person thus offending.
- (c) 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.

(d) Any person who shall commit the offense of hazing shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor as defined by Title 13A.

(e) 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.

(f) 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.

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### **Samford Anti-Hazing Policy Review 2020**

We the undersigned, have read and understand the above statements concerning the policies of the Samford University, the Alabama Hazing Law, as well as reviewed our respective fraternal organization policy regarding hazing. We understand that Samford University prohibits hazing in any form or fashion. In addition, we have been provided a copy of this policy and have reviewed the policy in full with the entire chapter membership (alumni, actives, associate and/or new members.) Our signatures attest that our organization follows and adheres to all University, fraternal, local, state, and federal laws.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Organization

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter President Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
New Member Educator Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter Advisor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Advisor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Additional Definitions of Hazing**

Fraternal Information Programming Group (FIPG) defines hazing as:

Any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off fraternity premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Such activities may include but are not limited to the following: use of alcohol; paddling in any form; creation of excessive fatigue; physical and psychological shocks; quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips or any other such activities carried on outside or inside of the confines of the chapter house; wearing of public apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts and buffoonery; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; any other activities which are not consistent with fraternal law, ritual or policy or the regulations and policies of the educational institution.

Fraternity Executive Association defines hazing as:

Hazing is defined as any action taken or situation created intentional, whether on or off fraternity premises to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule. Such activities and situations including padding in any form, creation of excessive fatigue, physical and psychological shocks; quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips, or any other such activities carried on outside the confined of the house; wearing publicly apparel which is conspicuous and not normal in good taste; engaging in public stunts and buffoonery; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; late work sessions which interfere with scholastic activities; and any other activities which are not consistent with fraternal law, ritual or policy or the regulations and policies of educational institution.

Examples of Hazing: Taken from [stophazing.org](http://stophazing.org)

Subtle Hazing: Behaviors emphasizing a power imbalance between new members and other members of the group or team. Termed “subtle hazing” because these types of hazing are often taken-for-granted or accepted as “harmless” or meaningless. Subtle hazing typically involves activities or attitudes that breach reasonable standards of mutual respect and place new members/rookies on the receiving end of ridicule, embarrassment, and/or humiliation tactics. New members/rookies often feel the need to endure subtle hazing to feel like part of the group or team. (Some types of subtle hazing may also be considered harassment hazing).

*Some Examples:*

1. Deception
2. Assigning demerits
3. Silence periods with implied threats for violation
4. Deprivation of privileges granted to other members
5. Requiring new members/rookies to perform duties not assigned to other members
6. Socially isolating new members/rookies
7. Line-ups and Drills/Tests on meaningless information
8. Name-calling
9. Requiring new members to refer to other members with titles (e.g. “Mr.,” “Miss”) while they are identified with demeaning terms
10. Expecting certain items to always be in one's possession

Harassment Hazing: Behaviors that cause emotional anguish or physical discomfort in order to feel like part of the group. Harassment hazing confuses, frustrates, and causes undue stress for new members/rookies. (Some types of harassment hazing can also be considered violent hazing).

*Some Examples:*

1. Verbal abuse
2. Threats or implied threats
3. Asking new members to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire
4. Stunt or skit nights with degrading, crude, or humiliating acts
5. Expecting new members/rookies to perform personal service to other members such as carrying books, errands, cooking, cleaning etc
6. Sleep deprivation (i.e., requiring errands or new member activities beyond a healthy sleep schedule for college students)
7. Sexual simulations
8. Expecting new members/rookies to be deprived of maintaining a normal schedule of bodily cleanliness.
9. Be expected to harass others

Violent Hazing: Behaviors that have the potential to cause physical and/or emotional, or psychological harm.

*Some Examples:*

1. Forced or coerced alcohol or other drug consumption
2. Beating, paddling, or other forms of assault
3. Branding
4. Forced or coerced ingestion of vile substances or concoctions
5. Burning
6. Water or milk intoxication

7. Expecting abuse or mistreatment of animals
8. Public nudity
9. Expecting illegal activity
10. Bondage
11. Abductions/kidnaps - including "drop trips" where new members are expected to find their own way home
12. Exposure to cold weather or extreme heat without appropriate protection

Certain behaviors are considered hazing if they are expected in order to become or feel like a member of a group and meet the other criteria in the above definition. Some examples of common hazing practices are listed below. However, NOT ALL HAZING activities are listed here.

Forced or coerced consumption of alcohol  
Being yelled at or cursed at by other members of the team or group  
Sleep deprivation  
Ingestion of vile substances  
Branding  
Simulate sex acts  
Associate with certain people and not others  
Forced or coerced shaving of heads or other body parts  
Personal servitude  
Inflict violence on someone  
Be whipped, kicked, or beaten  
Perform sex acts  
Public nudity  
Make prank phone calls or harass others  
Wear embarrassing clothing  
Deprive self of regular hygiene practices (e.g., brushing teeth, bathing/showering)  
Destroy or steal property  
Cheat or help others cheat on an exam  
"Drop-offs" or "dumps" in unfamiliar locations  
Being paddled  
Humiliating Kangaroo courts or mock trials  
Lock-ups or being confined to small spaces  
Being duct taped or some other physical restraints  
Sacrificing or injuring animals  
Burning skin

Upon notification of an alleged incident, the Office of Greek Life in collaboration with will begin an investigation based on the current University policy. During the investigation, new member activities may be suspended pending final review and outcome. To report a hazing incident, to acquire further about hazing policies, or to seek assistance in education students about hazing, please contact the Office of Greek Life, (205) 726-2028.