

 KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY	Policy Title	Hazing Policy
	Issue Date	June 7, 2019
	Effective Date	November 12, 2025
	Last Updated	August 12, 2025
	Responsible Office	Office of the Dean of Students
	Contact Information	Office of the Dean of Students Phone: 470-578-6367 Email: deanofstudents@kennesaw.edu

1. Policy Purpose Statement

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. Hazing in any form (see definition below) threatens this purpose and is prohibited both on and off campus. Some forms of hazing also violate state law (see Associated Policies/Regulations below). Violation of this policy may result in both student conduct disciplinary action and criminal charges.

2. Background

Hazing activities can be dangerous. According to researcher Hank Nuwer (<http://www.hanknuwer.com/hazing-deaths/>, April 9, 2019), “at least one hazing death a year has occurred on a North American college campus (USA, Canada, Mexico) every year from 1954 to 1957 and 1959 to 2018—and many years, multiple deaths have transpired.”

3. Scope (Who is Affected)

This policy applies to all Kennesaw State University students and those who are engaged in activities with KSU students. In addition, it applies to all KSU student organizations, whether formally recognized or not, including, but not limited to, fraternities, sororities, athletic or other types of teams, clubs, bands, and societies. KSU employees and non-employees who serve in any advisory capacity to organizations are required to report suspected instances of hazing and cooperate in any investigations or hearings concerning hazing allegations.

4. Exclusions or Exceptions

There are no exceptions.

5. Definitions and Acronyms

At KSU, hazing means 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 or connection with, the maintenance of membership in, or any other condition or precondition connected to a student organization or school organization; and
- (ii) causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in institution or organization activities (such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team), of physical or psychological injury including –
 - (a)whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on someone’s body, or similar activity;

- (b) causing, coercing, otherwise inducing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity;
 - (c) causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances;
 - (d) causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to perform sexual acts;
 - (e) any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct;
 - (f) any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of local, state, tribal, or federal law; and
- (iii) (g) 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.

Additional examples of actions and situations that may constitute hazing include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Treeings (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 or damage to 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 appropriate university-appointed adviser, professor, department director, or the dean of students
- Conducting activities that do not allow adequate time for studying or that interfere 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 or requiring, the wearing of specific uniform apparel except for customary public athletic events, performances, contests or competitions that are sponsored by the University or the organized and supervised practices associated with such events, or customary pledge pins, formal chapter attire
- 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 subjects an individual to a condition where that individual might tend to lose self-respect or suffer injury to personal or religious values

Forcing, requiring, encouraging, or creating a situation where there is an expectation that individuals will participate in the violation of University policies. A "school organization" or "student group," means an organization (such as club, society, association, corporation, order, varsity or junior varsity athletic team, club sports team, fraternity, sorority, band, student government, or group living together) in which two or more of the members are enrolled students or alumni, including local affiliate organizations, whether or not the organization is established or recognized by the institution.

A reasonable person standard is applied in determining if any of the actions or situations listed above occurred and constituted hazing.

6. Policy

Hazing, as defined above, is prohibited by the University. In addition, retaliation in any manner against any individual who reports hazing or who participates in an investigation of a hazing report is prohibited. KSU employees and non-employees who serve in any advisory capacity to organizations are expected to report suspected instances of hazing and cooperate in any investigations or hearings concerning hazing allegations.

7. Associated Policy(ies)/Regulations

- a. The [KSU Student Code of Conduct](#), Section 5.A.29, prohibits hazing.
- b. Georgia law prohibits hazing and states that any person who violates the law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature. For more information, see [O.C.G.A. § 16-5-61](#). Effective July 1, 2021, Georgia lawmakers amended the statute, now known as the “Max Gruver Act,” to expand the definition of hazing and implement stiffer penalties for violations.
- c. The University System of Georgia Board of Regions Hazing Policy section 4.6.7 - https://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section4/C332#p4_6_7_hazing
- d. Student organizations should be aware that Georgia law ([O.C.G.A. §20-1-30](#)) requires KSU to report, investigate, provide due process for, and administratively adjudicate all alleged incidents of hazing as related to KSU students and student organizations. KSU is also required to publicly disclose all administrative adjudications of hazing or hazing related convictions within 15 calendar days of final adjudication or public notice of criminal conviction. KSU shall make such public disclosures online at <https://scai.kennesaw.edu/compliance.php>
- e. Student organizations should be aware that Georgia law ([O.C.G.A. § 20-3-90](#), [O.C.G.A. § 20-3-91](#), [O.C.G.A. § 20-3-92](#), [O.C.G.A. § 20-3-93](#), [O.C.G.A. § 20-3-94](#), [O.C.G.A. § 20-3-95](#), and [O.C.G.A. § 20-3-96](#)) while not explicitly directed at hazing, states that any student organization found responsible for knowingly permitting the sale, distribution, serving, possession, consumption, or use of marijuana or a dangerous drug at any affair, function, or activity shall have its recognition as a student organization withdrawn and shall be expelled from campus for a minimum of one year.
- f. Prevention of Hazing: As a part of the student group informational, recruitment, and membership intake activities, student groups are strongly urged to educate members and prospective members about hazing and to maintain documentation that they have fulfilled this recommendation. Any department or office with oversight of student organizations or groups may choose to require such education.

8. Procedures associated with this policy

Implementation procedures for the Hazing policy are published on the [SCAI Misconduct Resolution Procedures](#) website.

9. Forms associated with this policy

All members of the University community are strongly urged to report suspected instances of hazing. Reports can be made by using any of the methods listed below.

- a. Contacting the Office of the Dean of Students
 - Email: deanofstudents@kennesaw.edu
 - Phone: 470-578-6367
- b. Submitting an online [“Red Flag” Report](#) (check disruptive behavior/conduct violations when asked for report type)
- c. Contacting Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI)
 - Email: scai@kennesaw.edu
 - Phone: 470-578-3403
- d. Contacting KSU Police

- Emergencies: 470-578-6666
 - Non-Emergencies: 470-578-6206
 - Text Line: 770-356-3866
 - Non-Emergency [E-mail](mailto:police@kennesaw.edu) (police@kennesaw.edu)
 - Tipster Line (Report Anonymously): 470-578-6305
- e. Contacting the KSU office that has oversight of the organization or group involved. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following areas.
- Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL): 470-578-2838
 - Student Activities - Registered Student Organizations (RSOs): 470-578-6275
 - Athletics: 470-578-2782
 - Sports and Recreation (Intramurals and Club Sports teams): 470-578-2915

Any report of hazing received by staff who have oversight of an organization or group should be reported by that office as soon as possible to the SCAI Department (470-578-3403 or scai@kennesaw.edu).

10. Violations

A student or student organization found in violation of the KSU Student Code of Conduct may be sanctioned as outlined in Section 6 of the KSU Student Code of Conduct for an individual (Subsection 1) or a student organization (Subsection 3). Multiple sanctions may be imposed.

11. Review Schedule

The Office of the Dean of Students will review the Hazing Policy annually.

12. Policy Revisions

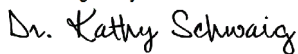
June 7, 2019 – Original Issue Date

May 2, 2023 – Updated

August 12, 2025 - Updated

At Kennesaw State University, institutional policies that have undergone the established shared governance review and feedback process are presented to the President and Provost for final approval. The signatures below indicate this institutional policy has been reviewed and approved by the President and Provost.

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Dr. Kathy S. Schwaig,
President
Kennesaw State University

DocuSigned by:

ovember 12, 2025

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Dr. Ivan Pulinkala,
Provost and Executive Vice President for
Academic Affairs
Kennesaw State University