

Policy VI.6004.E, Campus Hazing Prevention

Purpose

This policy ensures institutional compliance with the Stop Campus Hazing Act by outlining the standards, procedures, and responsibilities related to the College's prevention and awareness strategies, reporting, and response to hazing. This policy is intended to promote a safe and respectful educational environment by prohibiting hazing in all forms, providing clear guidelines for addressing incidents, and establishing education and training requirements for students and employees.

Policy

San Jacinto College is committed to providing a safe educational environment for all persons and does not tolerate hazing by any group or individual affiliated with the College. San Jacinto College students should expect all student organizations to treat them with respect and dignity. Hazing violates this policy, the federal Stop Campus Hazing Act, and Texas law (Texas Education Code § 37.151 and 51.936).

The Policy's associated procedure describes (1) how San Jacinto College students, faculty, administrators, or other employees can report incidents of hazing; and (2) how San Jacinto College administrators investigate and adjudicate reports of hazing.

Definitions

Hazing and Hazing Activity - 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:

- 1) is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, holding office in, or the maintenance of membership in, a student organization; and
- 2) causes or creates a risk of physical or psychological injury (above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in activities or programs at San Jacinto College or in activities or programs of the organization, such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team). The term encompasses, for example—
 - any type of physical brutality, including whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on someone's body, or similar activity;
 - any type of physical activity that causes, coerces, or otherwise induces sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, abandonment, blindfolding, tying a person's hands or feet, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity;
 - any activity causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances that subjects the person to a risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the person;
 - any activity that involves coercing, as defined by Section 1.07 Penal Code, a student to consume a drug or an alcoholic beverage or liquor in any amount.;

- any activity that induces, causes, or requires the person to perform a duty or task that involves or requires a violation of the Texas Penal Code. (See Texas Education Code, Section 37.151(6))
- any activity that causes, coerces, or otherwise induces another person to perform or receive sexual acts;
- any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct toward another person;
- any activity that is intended to subject a person to embarrassment or humiliation;
- any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law; and
- 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.

Student Organization - An organization affiliated with the College (such as a club, society, association, varsity or junior varsity athletic team, club sports team, fraternity, sorority, band or musical group, order, corps, academic team, dance team, any group that participates in intercollegiate competitions, service groups, 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 formally established or recognized by the College.

Student - For purposes of this policy, “student” means a person who is currently enrolled at the College, is accepted for admission or readmission, has been enrolled in a prior term and is eligible to continue enrollment in the term that immediately follows, or is attending an educational program sponsored by the College while that person is on campus. Individuals who are not currently enrolled at the College remain subject to the disciplinary process for conduct that occurred while they were enrolled.

Prohibitions

A student is subject to discipline, including expulsion, for engaging in hazing against a San Jacinto College student, applicant for admission, or recruit, including an athletic recruit. Substantiated violations will result in discipline in accordance with the College’s Code of Student Conduct. The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities has the primary responsibility for investigating violations and imposing discipline on individual students.

A student organization is subject to discipline, include loss of privileges and loss of official recognition or funding, for engaging in hazing against a San Jacinto College student, applicant for admission, or recruit, including an athletic recruit.

The Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities has the primary responsibility for investigating alleged violations and preparing reports to comply with reporting requirements under the Stop Campus Hazing Act. The Office of Student Engagement & Support has the primary responsibility for imposing discipline on student organizations.

Reporting Violations

Any person may report Hazing to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. A College employee who is an advisor to a student organization or has responsibility for a student

organization has a duty to report suspected violations to the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities. An employee who is an advisor to a student organization or has responsibility for a student organization is subject to discipline, including termination, if the employee observes or learns of an alleged hazing violation and fails to report the allegation and/or fails to take action that a reasonable employee would have taken under the same or similar circumstances, including, for example, obtaining first aid for an injured person.

The College Administration has developed procedures for the timely reporting of suspected hazing incidents.

Location

This policy applies to behaviors that take place on campus or at College-sponsored or organization-sponsored events whether on or off-campus, including, for example, behaviors that occur at conferences and competitions or during travel to such events. This policy also may apply to other off-campus behaviors when the designated administrator for discipline determines that the off-campus conduct adversely affects a College interest, including: (1) any situation where it appears that the student organization's conduct may present a danger or threat to the health or safety of one or more persons; (2) any situation that significantly impinges upon the rights, property or achievements of others or significantly breaches the peace and/or causes public disorder; or (3) any situation that is detrimental to the educational mission of the College.

Prevention

San Jacinto College is committed to fostering a hazing-free environment. Active engagement in anti-hazing programs can help prevent hazing. The College Administration will provide training to organizations, students, and employees to promote bystander intervention skills, ethical leadership, and group cohesion.

Documentation and Annual Reports

Annual Security Report

The federal Stop Campus Hazing Act requires San Jacinto College to include reports of hazing incidents in its Annual Security Report (Clery Act Report). Reports of hazing incidents will be included in the Annual Security Report when (1) the incident is reported by a Campus Security Authority or local police agency; (2) the incident occurred within Clery Act geography; and (3) the incident meets the Clery Act definition of hazing, which significantly mirrors the definition in this Policy. The Annual Security Report shall include a copy of this policy.

Campus Hazing Transparency Report

The Stop Campus Hazing Act requires San Jacinto College to develop a Campus Hazing Transparency Report (CHTR).

The CHTR will document each incident of hazing for which a finding of responsibility is issued. For each such incident, the College will include the following information:

- The name of the student organization;

- A general description of the violation that resulted in a finding of responsibility, including:
 - Whether the violation involved the abuse or illegal use of alcohol or drugs;
 - The finding of the institution; and
 - Any sanctions placed on the student organization by the institution, as applicable
- The dates on which:
 - The incident was alleged to have occurred;
 - The investigation into the incident was initiated;
 - The investigation ended with a finding that a hazing violation occurred; and
 - The institution provided notice to the student organization that the incident resulted in a hazing violation.

The CHTR will be updated two times per year. If there are no findings of a hazing violation for any six-month period, the College will note that fact in its CHTR. The CHTR must not contain student information protected by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Each CHTR will be maintained for at least five years from date of publication of the most recent update.

San Jacinto College will publish the CHTR on its website in a prominent location. The College will also publish this Policy alongside the CHTR to inform the community of the differences between the Annual Security Report and the CHTR.

The Authority, Applicability, Sanctions, Exclusions, and Interpretation do not differ from Policy II.2000.A, Policy and Procedures Development, Review, Revision, and Rescission.

Associated Procedures

- Procedure VI.6004.E.a, Hazing Incident Reporting
- Procedure VI.6004.B.a, Student Conduct and Discipline
- Procedure VI.6004.C.a, Student Complaints

Associated Policies for Reference

- Policy VI.6004.B, Student Conduct and Discipline
- Policy VI.6004.C, Student Complaints

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Primary Owner	Deputy Chancellor & President
Secondary Owner	Associate Vice Chancellor, Student Services