

HAZING

Pepperdine University is dedicated to a hazing-free environment. Hazing is prohibited by state law and University policy. All students and members of campus organizations are required to fully comply with California's Code requirements on hazing and the University's regulations prohibiting hazing. California Penal Code section 245.6(b) provides a new definition of hazing and prescribes misdemeanor and felony penalties. This would allow a person to bring a civil action for injury or damages against individuals who participate in the hazing or organizations that authorize, request, command, participate in, or ratify the hazing. "Hazing" means any method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or student body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury to any former, current, or prospective student of any school, community college, college, university, or other educational institution in this state. The term "hazing" does not include customary athletic events or school-sanctioned events. Liability for hazing also extends to student organizations, and not just to those who directly participated in the hazing acts.

Pepperdine University prohibits any recognized student organization from engaging collectively or individually in hazing. Specific examples include, but are not limited to, any of the following:

1. Any activity that is mandatory for new members only, and is not educational in nature (e.g., performing personal chores or errands.)
2. Such activities as new member only scavenger hunts, new member ditches, and the like.
3. Compelling a person or group to remain at a certain place or transporting a person or group anywhere without their consent (road trips, kidnaps, etc.)
4. Expecting students to do anything exclusively "for the fun or entertainment of the members."
5. All forms of physical activity not a part of an organized athletic contest and not specifically directed toward constructive work.
6. Conducting activities that prohibit adequate time for study.
7. Depriving students of sufficient sleep (6 hours per day minimum), decent and edible meals, or access to means of maintaining bodily cleanliness.
8. Forcing, coercing or permitting students to eat or drink foreign or unusual substances such as raw meat, salt water, onions, etc.
9. Applying foreign substances to the body, branding, tattooing, piercing, or other bodily alteration.

10. Carrying any items (shields, paddles, bricks, etc.) that serve no constructive purpose or that are designed to punish or embarrass the carrier.
11. Forcing, or allowing, students to dress in any unusual or awkward fashion.
12. Nudity at any time.
13. Depriving students of “sense awareness” (sight, sound, etc.), which may cause mental and/or physical stress.
15. Misleading students in an effort to convince them that they will not attain full membership status, that they will be hurt during an initiation ceremony, or any other activity that would cause extreme mental stress.
16. Subjecting a person or group of people to verbal harassment.
17. Conducting “interrogations” or any other non-constructive questioning.
18. Disallowing students to talk for an extended period of time.
19. Forcing students to make monetary payments or incur extra expenses not included in general membership dues.

Disciplinary action at the University level is considered independent from other court proceedings and may be instituted against a student also charged in civil or criminal courts based on the same facts that constitute the alleged violation of the Code of Conduct. For more information on hazing, visit stophazing.org or contact the Student Organizations Coordinator in Student Activities.