

**District Board of Trustee Policy
(BOT)**



Policy Title: Prohibition Against Hazing

Policy Number: 6Hx6:6.07

Specific Authority:
Florida Statute 1001.64; 1006.63
Florida Administrative Code

Policy Approved: 09/24/2013; 01/27/2015; 10/01/2019

Policy:

Hazing is prohibited at Florida SouthWestern State College pursuant to §1006.63, Florida Statute. All persons associated with Florida SouthWestern State College including student organizations and students are prohibited from engaging in any form of hazing either on campus or off campus. Florida SouthWestern State College does not condone hazing in any form and defines hazing to include:

1. As used in this section, the term “hazing” means any action or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for purposes including, but not limited to:
 - (a) Initiation into any organization operating under the sanction of a postsecondary institution;
 - (b) Admission into any organization operating under the sanction of a postsecondary institution;
 - (c) Affiliation with any organization operating under the sanction of a postsecondary institution; or
 - (d) The perpetuation or furtherance of a tradition or ritual of any organization operating under the sanction of a postsecondary institution.

The term “Hazing” includes, but is not limited to, pressuring or coercing the student into violating state or federal law; any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance, or other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the student; or, and also includes any activity that would subject the student to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment, or other forced activity that could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the student. The term Hazing does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions or any activity or conduct that furthers a legal and legitimate objective.

2. Section 1006.63(2), Florida Statute, further provides that a person who commits hazing, a third degree felony, when they either intentionally or recklessly commits, solicits a person to commit, or is actively involved in the planning of any act of hazing as defined in subsection

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- (1) upon another person who is a member or former member of or an applicant to any type of student organization and the hazing results in a permanent injury, serious bodily injury, or death of such other person.
3. A person commits hazing, a first degree misdemeanor, when they intentionally or recklessly commits, solicits a person to commit, or is actively involved in the planning of any act of hazing as defined in subsection (1) upon another person who is a member or former member of or an applicant to any type of student organization and the hazing creates a substantial risk of physical injury or death to such other person.
 4. Penalties for violation of this policy shall be administered in accordance with Florida SouthWestern State College to student Code of Conduct. Such penalties at Florida SouthWestern State College may include the imposition of fines; the withholding of diplomas or transcripts pending compliance with the rules or pending payment of fines; and the imposition of probation, suspension, or expulsion from the college.
 5. In the case of an organization/club at Florida SouthWestern State College which authorizes hazing in disregard of such rules, penalties may also include rescission of permission for that organization to operate on campus property or to otherwise operate under the sanction of the institution.
 6. All penalties imposed under the authority of this subsection shall be in addition to any penalty imposed for violation of any of the criminal laws of this state or for violation of any other rule of the institution to which the violator may be subject.
 7. It is not a defense to a charge of hazing that the consent of the victim had been obtained, the conduct or activity was not part of an official organizational event or was not otherwise sanctioned or approved by the organization, or the conduct or activity was not done as a condition of membership.

This policy is included in the the FSW Student Code of Conduct and is included in the bylaws of each club/organization operating under the sanction of Florida SouthWestern State College pursuant to Section 1006.63(10), Florida Statute.