

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY: ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

RESPONSIBLE CONTACT: DEAN OF STUDENTS

POLICY IDENTIFICATION: HAZING

EFFECTIVE DATE: JAN 2009

REVISED MAY 2017, 2022

It is the policy of Virginia Union University to prohibit hazing on and off campus.

Hazing is defined as any planned action or created a situation on or off-campus that is demeaning to an individual, produces mental or physical duress, harassment, or ridicule and which recklessly endangers the health or safety or scholastic pursuits of an individual. Prohibited acts committed for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a group or organization or student group. Examples of hazing include, but are not limited to, beating, sleep deprivation or causing excessive fatigue; threats of harm, forcing or coercing consumption of food, water, alcohol or other drugs or substances; verbal abuse, humiliation, the compromising of moral or religious values, or degrading acts. Lastly, placing an individual in physical danger (at risk), which includes abandonment, and impairment of physical liberties, which include curfews or other interference with academic endeavors.

Hazing in any form is prohibited in accordance with the law as established by the Commonwealth of Virginia. The University will take disciplinary action against any individual(s) or organization(s) where sufficient evidence of hazing is found. Sanctions may include probation, suspension, or expulsion. Examples of hazing include, but are not limited to planning and/or participating in the following:

1. Encouraging or requiring individuals to participate in illegal, unlawful activities or be subjected to verbal and physical abuse, including branding or forced alcohol consumption, solid food or gas. These are incompatible with the University's mission as well as the Student Code of Conduct.
2. Requiring isolation (including not allowing them to communicate with family, friends, roommates, colleagues, etc.), or risk health safety by being in harsh weather conditions, engaging in sleep deprivation, missing of class sessions, academic activities, and work, and non-practicing of personal hygiene.
3. Requiring the use of personal funds to pay for organizational activities (outside of regular membership dues and assessments), or perform errands, and provide entertainment.

Members of the University community are expected to report hazing or suspected hazing activities as soon as possible and to cooperate with University officials who investigate reports. If a charge of hazing is brought, the individual, group, club, organization, or team will be subject to disciplinary procedures including suspension or dismissal from the University. Law enforcement agencies off campus also may be notified.