



**OP 91.208: HAZING**

**PURPOSE**

To provide uniform guidelines for the protection of the University community against the dangers associated with hazing.

**POLICY**

Hazing is prohibited. Any student and/or group failing to comply with this policy is subject to disciplinary action as defined by the Student Code of Conduct. In addition to being in violation of the University hazing policy additional charges are possible both as an organization and as individuals engaged in hazing. Under certain circumstances, hazing may be a violation of the laws of the State of Mississippi, resulting in a criminal prosecution by state and/or local officials. Depending on the circumstances surrounding the hazing activities, responsible parties may be charged with either a misdemeanor or felony.

For purposes of this policy, hazing is defined as:

Any act, regardless of the person's willingness to participate, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, or that destroys or removes public or private property; and/or assisting, directing, or in any way causing others to participate in degrading behavior and/or behavior that causes ridicule, humiliation, or embarrassment; and/or engaging in conduct which brings the reputation of the organization, group, or University into disrepute for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a group or organization; or as part of any activity of a sponsored or registered student organization.

Any requirement that compels a member or new member, regardless of the person's willingness, to participate in any activity that is illegal, or that is contrary to any rules or regulations of the University.

Any acts that unreasonably or unusually, impair a member's or new member's academic efforts.

Reporting:

A hazing incident may be reported by anyone by contacting the Dean of Students Office or University Police. All reports of hazing behavior will be investigated, including those reported anonymously. However, please be aware that the University's ability to investigate hazing incidents depends on the accuracy and specificity of the information provided.

**REVIEW**

The Vice President for Student Affairs is responsible for the review of this operating policy every four years or as needed.

**REVIEWED BY:**

/s/ Regina Hyatt  
Vice President for Student Affairs

09/21/2016  
Date

/s/ Timothy N. Chamblee  
Assistant Vice President & Director  
Institutional Research and Effectiveness

09/22/2016  
Date

/s/ Joan Lucas  
General Counsel

09/26/2016  
Date

**APPROVED BY:**

/s/ Mark Keenum  
President

10/11/2016  
Date