

University of the District of Columbia Hazing Policy

Name of Policy	Hazing Policy
Effective Date	June 23, 2025
Department	Division of Student Development and Success
Contact	Chief Student Development & Success Officer
Related Laws, Regulations, Policies and/or Procedures	District of Columbia Hazing Law; UDC Student Code of Conduct

POLICY STATEMENT

Hazing is strictly prohibited at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). It violates District of Columbia law and university policy, undermining the values of respect, dignity, and academic integrity. Hazing has no place in university life—on or off campus.

PURPOSE

To establish a clear and enforceable policy that prohibits hazing in all forms, promotes a safe and respectful campus environment, and outlines consequences for violations.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all students, student organizations, faculty, staff, and affiliated groups at UDC, both on and off campus.

DEFINITIONS

Hazing: Any action taken or situation created intentionally to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. This includes activities conducted for initiation, admission, affiliation, or continued membership in any group or organization, regardless of the victim's consent. Hazing may be perpetrated by individuals or groups and can occur regardless of the victim's consent.

RESPONSIBILITY

- Division of Student Development and Success: Oversees enforcement, education, and reporting mechanisms.
- Student Organizations: Must comply with hazing prevention training and policy requirements.
- All UDC Community Members: Responsible for reporting suspected hazing and upholding university standards.

POLICY

The following activities are considered hazing and are strictly prohibited:

- Physical abuse (e.g., paddling)
- Forced exercise or calisthenics
- Involuntary excursions (e.g., road trips, drop-offs)
- Exposure to dangerous or uncomfortable elements
- Activities impairing academic efforts
- Verbal or physical harassment
- Forced nudity or inappropriate attire
- Forced consumption of substances (food, alcohol, drugs)
- Sleep deprivation or confinement
- Blindfolding or hand-tying
- Personal servitude
- Morally degrading or humiliating tasks
- Deceptive threats or coercion
- Any illegal activity or violation of university policy

Legal Consequences under District of Columbia law

- Individuals: Fines up to \$1,000 or imprisonment up to 6 months.
- Organizations: Fines up to \$5,000.
- Consent of the victim is not a defense.

University Enforcement

- Students: Disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion.
- Employees: Termination.
- Organizations: Revocation of recognition and other sanctions.

Reporting Hazing

Reports can be made to the Division of Student Development and Success or other designated offices. Anonymous reporting options may be available.

Prevention and Education

UDC provides educational programs and training on hazing prevention for student organizations, faculty, and staff.

REVISION/REVIEW HISTORY

Version	Date	Description
1.0	06/23/2025	Final Draft