

Maritime Colleges Anti-Hazing Policy Statement

Hazing is abusive, degrading, psychologically damaging and may be life-threatening. It is unacceptable in all forms and has no place in the Maritime College community. Student groups, organizations and athletic teams are important contributors to a vibrant and positive campus life and are expected to act in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct to treat others with respect. Hazing by individuals and student organizations is prohibited in any form both on campus and off campus.

Hazing Definition

The Stop Campus Hazing Act defines the term *hazing* to mean any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with other persons) against another person or persons regardless of the willingness of such other person or persons to participate, that (1) is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in, a student organization (e.g., a club, athletic team, fraternity, or sorority); and (2) causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in College activities or the organization, of physical or psychological injury. **Stop Campus Hazing Act can be found here:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/5646>

Maritime Hazing Violations

Hazing is any reckless or intentional conduct in connection with the initiation into, or affiliation with, any organization or group which degrades, humiliates or endangers the mental or physical health of any person, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. Hazing is a pre-meditated act of power and control over others and is considered victimization. It is abusive, degrading, and often life-threatening. Soliciting, directing, aiding, or otherwise participating, actively or passively, in such activities constitutes hazing. In addition, apathy or acquiescence in the presence of hazing is not a neutral act and is considered approval of the hazing behavior. Examples of hazing activities include, but are not limited to:

- Forced or required participation in physical activities such as calisthenics, exercises, games or “make work” activity;
- Forced consumption of food, alcohol, water, illegal substances;
- Forced, required or condoned application of foreign substances to the body resulting in lewdness or a potential for ridicule or bodily harm (such as tattooing or branding);
- Participation in activities that involve illegal acts such as “pledge ditches” and kidnappings, scavenger hunts and thefts;
- Creation of excessive fatigue and stress through deprivation of privacy or sufficient sleep (defined as a minimum of six consecutive hours per day) or decent and edible meals;
- Deprivation of access to means of maintaining personal hygiene;
- Forced or required conduct that would embarrass or negatively affect the dignity of the individual, such as forced nudity or partial nudity, including coercing or allowing an individual to dress in a degrading manner as part of initiation or affiliation with a group;
- Use of physical brutality (including paddling; striking with fists, feet, open hands or objects; and branding);
- Regimental physical activities targeted towards USCG physical requirements include physical fitness programs which are to be an expected course of instruction under qualified supervision and may include reasonable (e.g. does not encourage humiliation, degradation or is excessive in nature either individually or as a collective) autonomous or collective physical activity in formation, march, calisthenic, aerobic or strength building activity. Infliction or encouragement of any physical threat, coercion, or assault (striking, pushing, slapping) and other organizational misconduct described in this policy are strictly prohibited in all regimental actions. Unauthorized, unsanctioned, and/or altered activity may be a violation of hazing.

Reporting, Information, Trainings & Awareness

If you have been hazed, have witnessed hazing, or suspect that someone you know has been hazed, or want to learn more, you can report your observations confidentially. You can do this by contacting the Office Student Affairs at studentaffairs@sunymaritime.edu.