

Anti-Hazing Policy

I. Introduction

The University's Anti-Hazing Policy adheres to California state law (California Penal Code), sections of which are excerpted below, and is subject to change in order to maintain consistency with state law:

A. 245.6 (b) "Hazing" means any method of initiation or preinitiation into a Student Organization or Student body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury to any former, current or prospective Student of any school, community college, college, University or other educational institution in this state. The term "hazing" does not include customary athletic events or school-sanctioned events.

B. 245.6 (c) A violation of this section that does not result in serious bodily injury is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than \$100, nor more than \$5,000, or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year, or both.

C. 245.6 (d) Any person who personally engages in hazing that results in death or serious bodily injury as defined in paragraph (4) of subdivision (f) of Section 243 of the Penal Code, is guilty of either a misdemeanor or a felony, and shall be punished by imprisonment in county jail not exceeding one year, or by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170.

D. 245.6 (e) The person against whom the hazing is directed may commence a civil action for injury or damages. The action may be brought against any participants in the hazing, or any organization to which the Student is seeking membership whose agents, directors, trustees, managers or officers authorized, requested, commanded, participated in or ratified the hazing.

II. Policy

All acts of hazing by a Student or Registered Student Organization and/or any of its members, alumni or other associated individuals are prohibited. It is a violation of California law and LMU policy for Students to engage in any activity that falls within the legal or this policy definition of hazing. LMU further defines hazing as a broad term encompassing actions or activities often associated with initiations or group associations which do not contribute to the positive development of a person; or which inflict or intend to cause mental, physical or emotional harm or anxieties; or which demean, degrade or disgrace any person.

This policy is applicable regardless of location, intent or consent of participants.

In addition, hazing is often generally defined as any action or situation which endangers the mental, physical or emotional health of a Student for the purpose of initiation or full admission or affiliation with any organization operating under the sanction of LMU. The University believes that any activity which promotes a class or caste system within organizations is inappropriate. Subservience in any form is unacceptable. Subsequently, activities which facilitate inappropriate levels of authority over other Students may be deemed as hazing and will not be allowed.

III. Enforcement

It is the responsibility of all Students to be knowledgeable of this policy. It is also the responsibility of all Registered Student Organization officers and Advisors to inform members, associates and alumni of this Anti-Hazing Policy and to ensure that all Registered Student Organizations adhere to this policy. Further, any Student found to be involved in any hazing activity will face disciplinary action and is subjected to a maximum sanction of dismissal from the University. In addition, any Registered Student Organization found to be involved in any hazing activity, will face disciplinary action and the University may withdraw its official registration. Students and their Registered Student Organizations are also subject to criminal and civil action as it relates to California law.