



Sacred Heart UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY STANDARDS

Anti-Hazing Policy

I. Purpose and Scope

Sacred Heart University is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all members of our community, in alignment with our Catholic mission and values. Hazing is strictly prohibited and incompatible with our recognition of the dignity and worth of every human being. This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, student organizations, athletic teams, alumni groups, and other affiliates of the university, both on- and off-campus.

This policy is in accordance with Connecticut state law, federal regulations including the **Stop Campus Hazing Act of 2024**, and university expectations for community standards.

II. Definition of Hazing

“Hazing” is defined under the **Stop Campus Hazing Act of 2024** as “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 (I) is committed in the course of an initiation into, affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in, a student organization; and (II) causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical preparation necessary for the participation in an athletic team), of physical or psychological injury.”

“Hazing” is also defined under **The Connecticut Anti-Hazing Law** as any action which recklessly or intentionally endangers the health or safety of a person for the purpose of

initiation, admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a student organization.

Hazing includes but is not limited to:

- Confinement of the person to unreasonable small, unventilated, unsanitary or unlighted areas, any assault upon the person, physical abuse (e.g., hitting, branding, paddling, exposure to extreme elements),
- Requiring the ingestion of any substance or any other physical activity which could adversely affect the health or safety of the individual. The term shall not include an action sponsored by an institution of higher education which requires any athletic practice, conditioning, or competition or curricular activity and or the forced consumption of alcohol, drugs, or any other substances,
- Deprivation of food, water, or sleep,
- Personal servitude or forced labor,
- Requiring any activity that would subject the person to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation or extended isolation from social contact, psychological abuse (e.g., line-ups, verbal harassment, threats),
- Acts of sexual degradation or lewd behavior,
- Requiring indecent exposure of the body, public humiliation or forced nudity.

III. Definition of Student Organization

“Student Organization” Is defined under **Stop Campus Hazing Act of 2024** as an organization at an institution of higher education (such as club, society, association, varsity or junior varsity athletic team, club sports team, fraternity, sorority, band, or student government) in which two or more of the members are students enrolled at the institution of higher education, whether or not the organization is stable or recognized by the institution.

“Student Organization” is defined under **The Connecticut Anti-Hazing Law** as a fraternity, sorority or any other organization operating at an institution of higher education.

- This section shall not in any manner limit or exclude prosecution or punishment for any crime or any civil remedy.

IV. Reporting Hazing

Any member of the SHU community who observes or suspects hazing is expected to report it immediately. Reports can be submitted via:

- **Online:** [Anonymous Hazing Report](#)
- **Phone:** 203-416-3144 or 203-416-3420
- **In Person:** Office of Community Standards, HC 119

Reports may be made anonymously. Retaliation against individuals who report hazing is strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action. Students who report hazing in good faith or seek emergency medical help for someone in danger due to hazing may fall under the Good Samaritan policy as defined in the Student Handbook.

V. Investigation and Disciplinary Action

The university will promptly investigate all reported incidents of hazing. If found in violation of the policy, university sanctions for organizations and individuals may include, but are not limited to:

- Fines
- Community Service
- Educational sanctions
- Probation or suspension of the organization/team
- Individual suspension or expulsion
- Referral to law enforcement

Under **The Connecticut Anti-Hazing Law**, a student organization which violates the law may:

- Be subject to a fine of not more than one thousand five hundred dollars;
- Forfeit for a period of not less than one year all of the rights and privileges of being an organization organized or operating at an institution of higher education

Under **The Connecticut Anti-Hazing Law**, a member of a student organization who violates the law may be subject to a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

SHU reserves the right to impose sanctions even if the conduct occurs off-campus or during breaks.

This shall not in any manner limit or exclude prosecution or punishment for any crime or any civil remedy.

VI. Annual Reporting

In compliance with the **Stop Campus Hazing Act of 2024**, SHU will publish a public hazing report each academic year detailing:

- All substantiated hazing violations,
- The names of organizations involved,
- A brief summary of each incident and resulting sanctions.

The most recent report will be accessible online in accordance with federal law.