



UMBC Hazing Policy
UMBC Policy V-8.00.01

I. POLICY STATEMENT

Hazing violates federal¹ and state² law, and is strictly prohibited at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (“UMBC”, or the “University”).

II. PURPOSE FOR THE POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the University’s approach to preventing, reporting, and responding to Hazing with the goal of creating a safe, inclusive, and respectful campus, and to ensure compliance with Federal, State, and local laws, as well as applicable University policies, procedures, and guidance governing and related to Hazing.

III. APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all members of the UMBC community, including, but not limited to, students, faculty, staff, Student Organizations, and persons associated with Student Organizations. This policy applies to acts of Hazing on- and off-campus.

IV. CONTACTS

Subject	Contact	Telephone	E-Mail
Policy Clarification or Interpretation	Office of Campus Life, Student Engagement and Belonging	410-455-3462	campuslife@umbc.edu
Reports of Hazing	Police Department Division of Student Affairs, Student Conduct and Community Standards	410-455-5555 410-455-2453	conduct@umbc.edu

V. UNIVERSITY POLICY

¹ Stop Campus Hazing Act, [Pub. L. No. 118-173](#), 138 Stat. 2597 (2024).

² Md. Code Ann., Crim. Law [§ 3-607](#) (2024).

Hazing is prohibited at UMBC. Hazing poses risks to the health, safety, and welfare of students and the broader University community, and therefore, all students, faculty, and staff share the responsibility to oppose Hazing and to report acts of apparent Hazing. The implied or expressed consent of a person to Hazing is not a defense under applicable State or Federal law as identified herein, or to this policy.

Culpability for any violations of this policy may be attributed to the perpetrators, the Student Organization, and/or members and/or elected or appointed officers of a Student Organization. A Student Organization may be found culpable if there is a preponderance of evidence that the organization did not discourage or did not take reasonable steps to prevent Hazing by its members or affiliates.

VI. DEFINITIONS

Hazing	<p>Any action committed by a person, either acting alone or together with others, against another person(s) regardless of the willingness of such other person(s) to participate, occurring on- or off-campus, that is intentional, knowing, or reckless, and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in, a Student Organization; and2. causes or creates a risk above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation at the University or the Student Organization (such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team) of physical or psychological injury or degradation. <p>Actions and activities that may constitute Hazing pursuant to this policy include, but are not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. whipping, beating, striking, paddling, branding, tattooing, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on someone's body, or similar activity;b. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity;c. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances, or to have food, waste, paint, or other materials thrown at, poured on, or otherwise applied to their bodies;d. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to wear degrading or uncomfortable clothing or to participate in morally degrading or humiliating games, or any activity that makes the new, prospective, or continuing member the object of amusement, ridicule, or intimidation;
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to perform real or simulated sexual acts; any hazing that involves activities of a sexual nature may also be subject to the University policy on Title IX/Sexual Misconduct; f. endangering behavior or behavior that has the potential to cause harm or to affect the health or safety of any individual; g. kidnapping or road trips (a mandatory/forced off-campus trip as part of new, prospective, or continuing member activity); h. activities that interfere in any way with a new, prospective, or continuing member's academic efforts, employment, or family obligations; any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct; i. any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law; and j. any activity that induces, causes, or requires another person to perform a duty or task that involves a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law.
Responsible Administrator	The Vice President or senior administrator charged with the responsibility for creating, implementing, updating and enforcing University Policies as required in their area of administrative authority.
Responsible Department or Office	At the direction of the Responsible Administrator, the Responsible Department or Office develops and administers policies and procedures and assures the accuracy of its subject matter, its issuance, and timely updating.
Student Organization	An organization (such as a club, society, association, varsity or junior varsity athletic team, club sports team, fraternity, sorority, band, or student government) or group in which two or more of the members are students enrolled at UMBC, whether or not formally established or recognized by UMBC.

VII. APPROVAL AND PROCEDURES

A. Pre-approval is not applicable.

B. Approval is not applicable.

C. Procedures

1. **Policy Enforcement.** Complaints or reports of alleged incidents of hazing should also be directed to [Student Conduct and Community Standards](#) who will then work with the appropriate University officials to investigate the report and ensure compliance with the Campus Security Act.
2. **Interim Suspension of Student Organization or Student Organization Activities.** A student or Student Organization may be suspended or restricted from University property or campus for an interim period pending disciplinary proceedings. A Student Organization may also have its activities

suspended on an interim basis at the discretion of the University pending disciplinary proceedings. Any such interim suspension or restriction from University property shall be subject to the procedures described in the Code of Student Organization Conduct.

3. **Sanctions.** Violations of this policy will be treated as violations of the UMBC Code of Student Conduct and/or the UMBC Code of Student Organization Conduct and may be subject to penalties under applicable law. Violations of this policy are subject to referral to appropriate law enforcement and/or campus agencies, as well as to regional- and national-affiliated offices, for action or prosecution.

VIII. DOCUMENTATION

None

IX. RESTRICTIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

None

X. RELATED ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

[USM Policy V-8.00 Policy on Event-Related Student Misconduct](#)

[UMBC Code of Student Conduct](#)

[UMBC Code of Student Organization Conduct](#)

XI. RELATED RESOURCES

Stop Campus Hazing Act, [Pub. L. No. 118-173](#), 138 Stat. 2597 (2024).

Md. Code Ann., Crim. Law [§ 3-607](#) (2024).

Administrator Use Only

Policy Number: V-8.00.01

Policy Section: Student Affairs

Responsible Administrator: VP of Student Affairs

Responsible Office: Student Affairs

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