

As part of MiraCosta's culture of care, this procedure is designed to support student success. As a community college, all stakeholders, including students, have responsibilities to ensure a safe and productive learning environment, free of hazing. This procedure defines hazing and sets forth a procedure for the reporting, investigation, and resolution of complaints of hazing through the MiraCosta College Standards of Student Conduct (Administrative Procedure 5500) and Student Conduct Procedures (Administrative Procedure 5520). This procedure protects current, former, or prospective students. It is not intended to serve as a substitute for criminal or civil proceedings that may be initiated by other agencies. Rather, this is an educational and developmental approach that is designed to uphold students' rights and ensure safety throughout our community.

Definitions

- A. Hazing: Any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person against another person regardless of the willingness of such other person to participate, in connection with initiation, affiliation, or continued membership in a student organization, that creates a risk of or causes physical or psychological injury beyond the reasonable risks of normal participation in the district or organization.

Hazing may include, but is not limited to: whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking; sleep deprivation, exposure to extreme elements, or excessive physical exertion; forced consumption of alcohol, drugs, or other harmful substances; coerced sexual acts; activities that induce fear of bodily harm or violate local, state, tribal, or federal laws.

- B. Student Organization: An organization at the district in which two or more of the members are students enrolled at the district, regardless of whether the organization is established or recognized by the district. A student organization may include a student club, society, association, athletic team, club sports team, fraternity, sorority, band, or student government.

Prohibited Conduct

The district prohibits students, student organizations, and employees from engaging in, encouraging, or facilitating hazing. The district strictly prohibits retaliation against individuals who report hazing.

Reporting Hazing

Individuals may report hazing using the following methods:

- **Immediate Danger:** Call 911 or College Police at 760.795.6640.
- **Anonymous Reports:** Individuals may report hazing anonymously by submitting a CARE Referral Form without providing their identity.
- **Confidential Reports:** Individuals may also report hazing via a confidential reporting method by submitting a CARE Referral Form with their identifying information. The reporting party may also contact the Health Services mental health counseling team for confidential support.

Investigation and Student Conduct Process

The Office of Student Affairs will investigate reports of hazing as outlined in Administrative Procedure 5520: Student Conduct Procedures with confidentiality protected to the extent permitted by law.

Violation of the district's prohibition on hazing will result in appropriate action, up to and including termination of employment or expulsion. Student organizations recognized by the district that permit hazing may face suspension, revocation of recognition, or other student conduct actions.

Action by the district may include referral for criminal prosecution, if applicable.

Annual Reporting and Transparency

The district collects and reports statistics on hazing incidents in its annual security reports (See Administrative Procedure 3515: Reporting of Crimes).

The district also publishes an annual Campus Hazing Transparency Report on its website. The Campus Hazing Transparency Report summarizes hazing incidents and identifies the student organization found responsible for hazing. The district updates this report at least twice per year and maintains the Campus Hazing Transparency Report for five years.

Prevention and Education

The district provides a comprehensive prevention and outreach program addressing hazing for students, employees, and college police. The comprehensive prevention program includes components on identifying hazing, hazing prevention, and bystander intervention strategies. The district's outreach program informs students of the district's policy on the prohibition of hazing and include a process for contacting and informing students, athletic programs, and affiliated student organizations about the district's prohibition on hazing.

The district requires all students involved in student organizations, clubs, or athletic teams to complete hazing prevention training annually. Additionally, all employees who advise or oversee student groups must also complete hazing prevention training.