

University of Maine
Division of Student Affairs

Hazing Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide the University of Maine (UMaine) with an explicit policy prohibiting hazing, to establish clear procedures and reporting guidelines, to clearly define hazing, and to protect the rights of students involved with groups and organizations at UMaine.

Applicability

This policy is applicable to all UMaine students, faculty, staff and to all involved with any UMaine club, athletic team, organization, association, program or activity under the auspices of UMaine regardless of their student status. This policy is applicable to both recognized and unrecognized groups.

Policy

Certain forms of hazing are against Maine State law (Chapter 159 of the Public Laws of 1983, 20-A M.R.S.A. 10004) and/or the University of Maine System (UMS) Policy against hazing (Student Affairs, Section 503). All forms of hazing are prohibited by the UMaine both on and off campus. Included in this prohibition are actions which intentionally or recklessly put any student or anyone at risk.

Definitions

Hazing: Any activity without reasonable or legitimate educational value expected of someone joining a group or to maintain their status in a group that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional, psychological, and/or physical harm, regardless of a person's willingness to participate (hazingstudy.org). The definitions set forth by Maine state law and by the UMS are also adopted into this policy.

Organization: Any association, organization or group at the UMaine. Recognition is not a factor so organization as used in this policy includes both recognized and unrecognized entities. Examples include but are not limited to: fraternities, sororities, athletic teams, honor societies, clubs, bands, and associations.

Prohibited Activity: Any new member, initiate (pledge) or other group activity that intentionally or recklessly puts a student or person at risk of physical, emotional, psychological, and/or physical harm is prohibited.

Policy Enforcement

Violation of this policy is a violation of the Student Conduct Code, UMS policy and/or state law. Suspected violations of this policy should be referred and reported to the Director of Community Standards, Rights and Responsibilities (207-581-1409) and/or the University of Maine Police (581-4050). In emergency situations call 911.

It is not a defense to violation of this policy to claim that:

- 1) participant consent was obtained;
- 2) participant injury was not a result of participation in a recognized, sanctioned or approved event or activity;
- 3) participant injury was unintentional; or
- 4) participant injury was minimal.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee.

Last Review: 4/6/2011