
Policy: Hazing Prevention and Reporting

No: 3.37

Approved: May 2025

POLICY FOR HAZING PREVENTION AND REPORTING

Purpose

SUNY Sullivan is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and respectful campus environment. In compliance with the Stop Campus Hazing Act (S.2901, H.R. 5646), which amends the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act, this policy establishes clear guidelines to prevent hazing, educate the campus community, and ensure transparent reporting of hazing incidents. Our goal is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of all students while empowering them and their families with information to make informed decisions about campus involvement.

Scope

This policy applies to all members of the SUNY Sullivan community, including students, faculty, staff, recognized student organizations, athletic teams, and any other groups affiliated with the college to include contracted staff and vendors. It covers all campus locations, off-campus college-sponsored events, and activities associated with college-recognized groups.

Definition of Hazing

In accordance with the Stop Campus Hazing Act, hazing is defined as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off campus, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of that student for the purpose of joining, affiliating with, or maintaining membership in any organization or group recognized by SUNY Sullivan. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Physical abuse (e.g., beating, forced exercise, or branding)
- Forced consumption of alcohol, drugs, or other substances
- Sleep deprivation or confinement
- Humiliation, degradation, or psychological coercion
- Any activity that violates federal, state, or local laws or college policies

This definition applies regardless of a student's willingness to participate. **Consent does not exempt an act from being considered hazing.**

Policy Statements

1. Prohibition of Hazing

Hazing in any form is strictly prohibited at SUNY Sullivan. Individuals or groups found responsible for hazing will face disciplinary action, which may include suspension, expulsion, or termination of organizational recognition, in addition to potential legal consequences.

2. Hazing Prevention Education

- All students will participate in a mandatory hazing prevention presentation during orientation. This presentation will cover the definition of hazing, its risks, college policies, reporting procedures, and bystander intervention strategies.
- Student organization leaders, athletes, and other group members will receive additional targeted training to recognize and prevent hazing within their communities.
- Faculty and staff will be trained to identify signs of hazing and support reporting efforts.

3. Reporting Requirements

- In compliance with the Stop Campus Hazing Act, SUNY Sullivan will document and disclose all hazing incidents reported to campus security authorities or local police agencies in its Annual Security Report (ASR), as required under the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act.
- The ASR will include:
 - Statistics on hazing incidents, compiled per incident (multiple acts by the same individual(s) with insignificant time/place separation will count as a single incident).
 - A list of student organizations found responsible for hazing violations.
 - A summary of the college's hazing prevention programs and policies.
- The ASR will be publicly available on the college website and distributed to students and families annually by October 1, beginning in 2026.

4. Incident Reporting Process

- Any individual may report suspected hazing to SUNY Sullivan Public Safety in person, by telephone, email or via an anonymous online reporting system at <https://sunysullivan.edu/safety-security/>
- Reports will be promptly investigated by the SUNY Sullivan Office of Public Safety.
- Investigations will be conducted confidentially to the extent permitted by law, with findings reported to the Dean of Student Development Services for disciplinary action.

5. Support for Victims

- Students affected by hazing will have access to counseling services, academic accommodations, and other support resources.
- Retaliation against individuals who report hazing or participate in investigations is prohibited and will result in additional disciplinary measures.

6. Transparency and Accountability

- SUNY Sullivan will maintain a public webpage listing student organizations found responsible for hazing, including the date and nature of the violation, updated annually with the ASR as is required by the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act (20 U.S.C. § 1092(f)).
- The college will cooperate fully with law enforcement and federal reporting requirements as mandated by the Stop Campus Hazing Act.

Enforcement

Violations of this policy will be adjudicated through the college's Student Code of Conduct process or employee disciplinary processes, as applicable. Sanctions may include:

- For individuals: Warning, probation, suspension, expulsion, or termination.
- For organizations: Probation, loss of recognition, or restrictions on activities.

Implementation and Review

- This policy will take effect on June 23, 2026, aligning with the Stop Campus Hazing Act's timeline.
- This policy will be reviewed and updated to ensure compliance with federal and state laws, incorporating feedback from the campus community.

Contact Information

For questions, reporting, or support, contact the SUNY Sullivan **Office of Public Safety at (845) 434-5750 Ext. #4315**

This policy reflects the Stop Campus Hazing Act's emphasis on disclosure, prevention, and education while adapting to the scale and resources of SUNY Sullivan. It ensures compliance with federal law while fostering a proactive approach to eliminating hazing on campus. Let me know if you'd like adjustments or additional details.