

# SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE HAZING POLICY

## ***Anti-Hazing Policy Statement***

Hazing is abusive, degrading, psychologically damaging, and may be life-threatening. It is unacceptable in all forms and has no place in the Spartanburg Methodist College community. Student groups, organizations, and athletic teams are important contributors to a vibrant and positive campus life and are expected to treat others with respect and act in accordance with the SMC Honor Code, Code of Conduct, and other college policies. Hazing by individuals and student organizations is prohibited in any form both on campus and off campus.

## ***Relevant Local Law***

South Carolina law also makes it unlawful for a person to intentionally or recklessly engage in acts which have a foreseeable potential for causing physical harm to a person or the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with a chartered or non-chartered student, fraternal, or sororal organization. See S.C. Code Ann. 16-3-510, et al.

## ***Definitions***

- Hazing:** 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:
  - Is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in, a student organization; and
  - 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 participation in an athletic team), of physical or psychological injury. The following are non-exhaustive examples of conduct that causes or creates such a risk:
    - Whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on someone's body, or similar activity;
    - Causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity;
    - Causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances;
    - Causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to perform sexual acts;
    - Any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct;
    - Any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of applicable local, South Carolina, State, Tribal, or Federal law; and
    - 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.
- Student Organization:** An organization at an institution of higher education (such as a 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 established or recognized by the institution.

## ***Reporting Incidents of Hazing***

Spartanburg Methodist College encourages the reporting of incidents of hazing and takes every such report seriously. It will investigate all reports diligently and thoroughly in accordance with the Code of Conduct and/or other applicable policies and procedures. Individuals found responsible for committing, soliciting, encouraging, directing, aiding, or recklessly permitting hazing to occur will be subject to disciplinary action that could include suspension or expulsion.

Any person may report hazing in person, by mail, by telephone, by e-mail, using the contact information listed for the Dean of Students below, or by utilizing the online incident reporting form.

J. Allen Lollis, *Dean of Students*

Phone: **(864) 699-4632**

Email: [lolliisa@smcsc.edu](mailto:lolliisa@smcsc.edu)

Mailing Address:

**1750 Powell Mill Road  
Spartanburg, SC 29301**

## **Private or Confidential Reporting**

Spartanburg Methodist College will respect the privacy of reporters but cannot guarantee confidentiality for hazing reports. The information you provide to a non-confidential resource will be relayed only as necessary to investigate and/or seek a resolution and/or to comply with other appropriate policies and procedures, and any federal, state and/or local laws, rules and regulations. SMC will limit disclosure as possible, even if the institution determines that the request for confidentiality cannot be honored.

Offices and officials who are confidential resources will not report to law enforcement or college officials without a complainant/reporting party's permission, except for extreme circumstances, such as a health and/or safety emergency. This confidentiality does not extend to other roles these individuals may hold, such as teaching responsibilities. At SMC, the following individuals are considered confidential resources *when acting within their professional capacity to provide confidential services*:

- Tracey Brannon, *Director of Counseling Services*
- Rev. Tim Drum, *Chaplain*

## **Amnesty Related to Hazing Reports**

SMC recognizes that students are sometimes reluctant to report hazing activity, due to a fear of potential consequences for their own conduct. For this reason, the College has adopted an amnesty policy which states that a student who acts in good faith to report activity that may fall within the definition of hazing and/or a victim who cooperates fully as a witness in the investigation and disciplinary process may not be subject to student conduct sanctions related to their own participation in hazing behavior and other behavior including related to alcohol and/or drug violations, as determined by the College in its sole discretion.

In the event amnesty is granted for self-reported behaviors, if evidence is presented that the student has continued to engage in hazing behaviors or has knowledge of hazing activity that was not reported, they may be held accountable for past behavior. Students who choose to report and request amnesty for their own conduct should know that amnesty does not apply to any criminal or civil action that may be taken by any law enforcement agencies, including SMC Campus Safety.

## ***Investigation Process***

After a report is received, the College will quickly review the submission and determine the next appropriate actions. If a report is criminal in nature, Campus Safety and/or local law enforcement will be contacted. The College will also conduct its own investigation to prevent a recurrence of the alleged hazing

and to determine if there are potential violations of the Code of Conduct and/or any other applicable processes depending upon the nature of the complaint.

### ***Retaliation***

No person may intimidate, threaten, coerce or discriminate against any individual because the individual made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this Hazing Policy and Procedure. Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed with the Dean of Students and/or Human Resources. Any reports of retaliation involving an employee covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement will be addressed through the appropriate processes.

### ***Hazing Prevention & Awareness***

In accordance with the Stop Campus Hazing Act, Spartanburg Methodist College is committed to creating a safe, respectful campus environment through hazing education and prevention efforts. Our approach emphasizes proactive education and community responsibility.

All new students receive training on hazing awareness, prevention, and reporting during first-year programming. Hazing prevention is also a topic within SMC 101 courses, where students engage in dialogue about building healthy, supportive communities.

Student organization leaders are required to complete annual hazing prevention training as part of their leadership development. In addition, coaches, advisors, and other faculty and staff who work directly with student groups receive education on hazing prevention, intervention, and response protocols.

These efforts reflect our commitment to ensuring the health, safety, and dignity of every member of the Pioneer community.