

CAL POLY

SAN LUIS OBISPO

Dean of Students

Fraternity & Sorority Life

No Hazing Policy

The Dean of Students office at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo has a zero tolerance policy against hazing. Hazing refers to any activity that causes physical or emotional harm, degradation, or humiliation during initiation into a student organization. The various actions that may constitute hazing, regardless of a person's willingness to participate, include binge drinking, sexual harassment and assault, ridicule, sleep or food deprivation, personal servitude, physical beatings, emotional distress, embarrassing outfits or actions in public, or water intoxication. This definition applies to incidents that occur both on and off campus involving members of the campus community. Hazing is violation of Cal Poly's [Standards for Student Conduct](#), as well as the California Penal Code Section 245.6. Students, who participate in hazing, even if only as an observer, may face sanctions from both the university and the criminal justice system.

California Penal Code Section 245.6

- (a) It shall be unlawful to engage in hazing, as defined in this section.
- (b) "Hazing" means any method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or student body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury to any former, current, or prospective student of any school, community college, college, university, or other educational institution in this state. The term "hazing" does not include customary athletic events or school-sanctioned events.
- (c) A violation of this section that does not result in serious bodily injury is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100), nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year, or both.
- (d) Any person who personally engages in hazing that results in death or serious bodily injury as defined in paragraph (4) of subdivision (f) of Section 243 of the Penal Code, is guilty of either a misdemeanor or a felony, and shall be punished by imprisonment in county jail not exceeding one year, or by imprisonment in the state prison.
- (e) The person against whom the hazing is directed may commence a civil action for injury or damages. The action may be brought against any participants in the hazing, or any organization to which the student is seeking membership whose agents, directors, trustees, managers, or officers authorized, requested, commanded, participated in, or ratified the hazing.
- (f) Prosecution under this section shall not prohibit prosecution under any other provision of law.