

Victoria College Hazing Policy

To view the Board policies associated with this section, please visit <https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Code/1189?filter=FLBC>

Prohibition of Hazing

Hazing is prohibited at Victoria College, on Victoria College property, or while attending Victoria College-sponsored activities on or off campus. The following information is taken from the Texas Education Code Chapter 37, Subchapter F, Section 51.936 of the Texas Higher Education Code, and Board policy FLBC (LEGAL).

Definition of Hazing

“Hazing” means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off a Victoria College campus by one (1) person alone or acting with others, directed against a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization if the act:

1. Is any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity;
2. Involves sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other similar activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
3. Involves consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance, other than as described by number 5 below, that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
4. Is any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the Texas Penal Code; or
5. Involves coercing, as defined by Section 1.07, Texas Penal Code, the student to consume:
 - a. a drug; or
 - b. an alcoholic beverage or liquor in an amount that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student is intoxicated, as defined by Section 49.01, Texas Penal Code.

Definition of Student

For the purpose of this policy, “student” means any person who:

1. Is registered in or in attendance at an educational institution;
2. Has been accepted for admission at the educational institution where the hazing incident occurs; or
3. Intends to attend an educational institution during any of its regular sessions after a period of scheduled vacation.

Definition of Organization

For the purpose of this policy, “organization” means a fraternity, sorority, association, corporation, order, society, corps, club, or student government, a band or musical group or an academic, athletic, cheerleading, or dance team, including any group or team that participates in National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) or National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) competition, or a service, social, or similar group, whose members are primarily students.

Personal Hazing Offense

A person commits an offense if the person:

1. engages in hazing;
2. solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another in engaging in hazing;
3. recklessly permits hazing to occur; or
4. has firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident involving a student at Victoria College, or has firsthand knowledge that a specific hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fails to report that knowledge in writing to the dean of students or other appropriate Victoria College official.

Organization Hazing Offense

An organization commits an offense if the organization:

1. condones or encourages hazing; or
2. if an officer or any combination of members, pledges, or alumni of the organization commits or assists in the commission of hazing.

Hazing Report

Not later than the 14th day before the first (1st) class day of each fall and spring semester, the Dean of Student Services Office will distribute to each student enrolled at Victoria College a summary of the hazing provisions and an electronic link to a copy of the report on hazing committed on or off campus by an organization registered with or recognized by Victoria College. The report will include information regarding each disciplinary action taken by Victoria College against an organization for hazing and each conviction of hazing under Section 37.153, Texas Higher Education Code by an organization during the three (3) years preceding the date on which the report is issued or updated, including:

1. the name of the organization disciplined or convicted;
2. the date on which the incident occurred or the citation was issued, if applicable;
3. the date on which Victoria College's investigation into the incident, if any, was initiated;
4. a general description:
 - a. of the incident;
 - b. the violations of Victoria College's Student Code of Conduct or the criminal charges, as applicable;
 - c. the findings of Victoria College or the court; and
 - d. any sanctions imposed by Victoria College, or any fines imposed by the court, on the organization; and
5. the date on which Victoria College's disciplinary process was resolved or on which the conviction became final.

To view Victoria College's most recent hazing report, contact the Dean of Student Services Office at (361) 582-2516 or visit VictoriaCollege.edu/DeanOfStudentServices