

Polk State College District Board of Trustees Rule

Rule Number	Subject	Rule Making Authority	Statutory Reference	SBE Rule Reference	Effective Date
4.33	Hazing	FS 1006.63			1/27/2020

I. Purpose

The purpose of this rule is to prohibit hazing by students, or any other persons associated with Polk State College’s clubs or organizations either on or off campus, and to provide penalties for violation of this procedure.

II. Definition

Florida Statutes (FS) 1006.63 defines hazing as:

Any action or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for purposes including, but not limited to: initiation into any organization operating under the sanction of a postsecondary institution; admission into any organization under the sanction of a postsecondary institution; affiliation with any organization operating under the sanction of a postsecondary institution; or the perpetuation or furtherance of a tradition or ritual of any organization operating under the sanction of a postsecondary institution. The term includes, but is not limited to, pressuring or coercing the student into violating state or federal law; brutality of a physical nature such as whipping, beating, branding, or exposure to the elements; forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance; forced physical activity that would adversely affect the physical health or safety of an individual; or any activity that would subject an individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity that could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the student.

The term does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests, competitions, activities, or conduct that furthers a legal and legitimate objective.

III. Prohibition

A student (or any other person associated with a Polk State College club or organization) is prohibited from engaging in any hazing activity as described above. It is not a defense to state that: the person performing the act or behavior had the consent of the victim; the conduct or activity was not part of an official club, organization, or event; the act was not sanctioned or approved by the club or organization; or that the conduct or activity was not done as a condition of membership. A student who recklessly or intentionally commits any act of hazing is subject to the penalties set forth by this rule.

IV. Penalties

Violations of this rule result in disciplinary action by the Dean of Student Services in accordance with Polk State College Rule 4.01: *Student Code of Conduct*. Violation may also result in fines; withholding of a diploma or transcript; and the imposition of probation, suspension, or expulsion from the College.

All penalties imposed pursuant to this rule are in addition to any penalty imposed for violating any criminal law(s) of this state, as well as for violation of any other College rule.

In the case of an organization or club that authorizes hazing, penalties may include withdrawal of recognition and removal of the organization's or club's charter for at least a year by the Vice President for Student Services (or his or her designee) in accordance with Polk State College Procedure 5029: *Student Code of Conduct Violation*.

V. Distribution

The College provides a copy of this rule, and the penalties for its violation, to each student enrolled at the College.

The inclusion of this rule, and the penalties for its violation, must be included in the bylaws of every club and organization operating under the sanction of the College (as set forth in *Florida Statutes Section 1006.63*).

History:

Adopted: August 31, 1981 (formerly DBOT Rule 4.16, Hazing)

Revised: March 22, 1982; June 26, 1995; January 22, 2007; and January 27, 2020