

STOP CAMPUS HAZING ACT (SCHA)

POLICY STATEMENT

This Policy conforms to the Stop Campus Hazing Act (SCHA) regulations, which took effect January 1, 2025.

The Stop Campus Hazing Act (SCHA) amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require colleges and universities to disclose hazing incidents in their annual security reports. It mandates institutions to define hazing, compile statistics on reported cases, and establish transparent policies for reporting and prevention. The Act also requires institutions to implement research-based prevention programs and ensure compliance with local, state, and tribal laws, enhancing student safety and accountability.

Upon receiving a complaint of hazing (see definition below), SJVC will take reasonable and prompt steps to stop any such conduct, prevent its recurrence, determine what occurred, and remedy any subsequent effects. SJVC provides all parties with opportunities to present facts, identify witnesses, and reach reasonable conclusions based on the evidence collected. SJVC will take appropriate action against those engaging in hazing, including disciplinary measures when warranted, up to and including permanent separation from the institution.

The College will maintain and publicly report findings of hazing violations by any student organization. The report will include any violations of the code of conduct, anti-hazing policies, or state or federal laws relating to hazing or offenses related to alcohol, drugs, sexual assault, or physical assault.

DEFINITION

Hazing: Hazing is any expressed or implied action, activity, or expectation of someone seeking to join or participate in a group or student organization that humiliates, degrades, abuses, or endangers a person, regardless of the person's willingness to participate.

Hazing includes any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person or group, regardless of whether the victim consents, that:

1. Occurs during initiation, affiliation, or membership maintenance in a student organization, whether the organization is established or recognized by the institution.
2. Creates a risk (beyond ordinary activities) of physical or psychological injury, including:
 - Physical Abuse.
 - Forced consumption of substances.
 - Sleep deprivation, exposure to elements, or extreme calisthenics.
 - Sexual exploitation or coercion.
 - Threats and/or intimidation.
3. Any act violating local, state, tribal, or federal laws

This includes participating in, condoning, encouraging, requiring, observing, or allowing an opportunity for hazing. Any violation of Hazing prohibitions in the Student Conduct Code of Conduct or state law, and any act of Hazing as defined in the Stop Campus Hazing Act.

CAMPUS HAZING TRANSPARENCY REPORT

The key requirement of the Stop Campus Hazing Act, the Campus Hazing Transparency Report, is designed to enhance public awareness of hazing incidents in higher education and help create a system of accountability. It mandates that colleges and universities participating in federal financial aid programs collect and publicly disclose information about student organizations found responsible for hazing violations.

Key Features of the Report:

1. Collection of Information:

- Institutions must begin gathering hazing incident data by July 1, 2025.
- Incidents concerning student organizations that are established or recognized by the institution are found to violate the institution's standards of conduct relating to hazing.

Public Availability:

- The report must be made available on the institution's public website within 12 months of the Act's enactment.
- It must be updated at least twice a year to reflect new incidents.
- The report must remain publicly available for at least five years after publication.

2. Contents of the Report:

For each hazing violation, the report must include:

- Name of the student organization involved.
- A general description of the violation that resulted in a finding of responsibility, including whether the violation involved the abuse or illegal use of alcohol or drugs, the findings of the institution, and any sanctions placed on the student organization by the institution, as applicable. Institution's findings and any sanctions imposed on the organization.
- Key dates, including:
 - When the alleged incident occurred.
 - When the investigation started and concluded.
 - When the institution notified the organization of the findings.
- The report must not include personally identifiable information about individual students, ensuring compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

REPORTING

All members of the college community have a duty to promptly report good-faith concerns about potential hazing that may impact another member of the campus community. Specifically, if any such individual holds firsthand knowledge about hazing, whether that hazing has already occurred or is set to occur in the future, they must make a reasonable effort to report the hazing-related information immediately.

A victim or witness of hazing has the right to file a Formal Complaint against anyone engaging in hazing. To initiate a Formal Complaint, a Complainant must submit an email to Emily.Ware@sjvc.edu.

Good Faith Reporting and Amnesty

Students who report hazing in good faith will not face disciplinary action for minor policy violations (e.g., drinking on campus) uncovered as part of the investigation. This provision aims to encourage reporting and prioritize student safety.

Retaliation

Submission of a good-faith complaint of hazing will not affect the complainant's future grades, learning, or academic environment. SJVC will discipline or take appropriate action against anyone who retaliates against any person who reports an incident of hazing, who testifies, assists or participates in a proceeding, investigation or hearing related to such hazing.

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS POLICY

Hazing perpetrators will face disciplinary action in accordance with applicable policies and procedures, up to and including termination from the College.

Campus Hazing Transparency Report – Found Hazing Violations

The following report includes information related to hazing violations where a recognized student organization was found responsible for violating the College's hazing policy.

- July 1, 2025 – December 23, 2025 – No violations to report.

This report does not reflect or pertain to any investigations that are currently pending.

Last updated: 12/23/2025