

West Coast University Anti-Hazing Policy

In accordance with federal and state regulations, hazing is prohibited in any form and is inconsistent with the values of our institution. This policy is designed to comply with the Federal Stop Campus Hazing Act, as well as applicable state laws, to prevent, address, and educate the campus community on the dangers of hazing.

Hazing is 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, which 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 of physical or psychological injury. Planning, soliciting, or aiding in any act of hazing is also a violation of this policy. The following list of activities contains examples that qualify under the definition of hazing and is not intended to be an exhaustive list:

- ▶ 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 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 local, State, Tribal, or Federal law; and
- ▶ Any activity that includes, causes, or requires another person to perform a duty or task that involves a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law.

A student organization is defined as an organization at WCU, such as a club, society, association, 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.

This policy applies to all members of the WCU community.

Hazing, as defined in this policy, is prohibited in all forms. The consent of a participant is not a defense to hazing.

Acts of hazing that violate this policy may also constitute criminal offenses under applicable state law. State-specific hazing laws where WCU campuses are located are provided here:

[California Education Code Ch 5.1 Section 66308](#)

[Texas Education Code Ch. 51 Sec. 936](#)

[Florida Statutes Chapter 1006.63](#)

Reporting, Investigation and Sanctions

Any member of the WCU community who witnesses or experiences hazing should report it immediately to:

- ▶ Student Affairs Office on your campus
- ▶ Community Standards Manager (Email: pHolt@westcoastuniversity.edu)
- ▶ Reporting through the university's reporting portal (with an option for anonymous reporting):
[WCU Hazing Reporting Form](#)

WCU Anti-Hazing Policy (cont.)

WCU will investigate all reports of hazing in accordance with the same process used for violations of the Student Code of Conduct. Any reports of alleged hazing activity involving associates or faculty will be directed to Human Resources for investigation. Retaliation against individuals who report hazing is strictly prohibited and subject to disciplinary action.

Individuals and organizations found responsible for hazing may face:

- ▶ Disciplinary action (e.g., suspension, expulsion, loss of organization recognition)
- ▶ Legal consequences (e.g., criminal prosecution, civil lawsuits)
- ▶ Educational sanctions (e.g., mandated training, community service)

WCU is committed to educating the campus community about hazing education and prevention. Primary prevention training will be provided to the community.

Educational materials and resources are available from the Community Standards Manager and Office of Student Affairs.

Campus Hazing Transparency Report: The first report will be available on December 1, 2025. This report is updated every six months. Additional information on hazing incidents is also provided in the Annual Security Report on the institution's website.