DELTA STATE

CAMPUS HAZING TRANSPERANCY REPORT

Pursuant to the Stop Campus Hazing Act (Public Law 118-173), Delta State University provides this bi-annual report of hazing misconduct involving student organizations. The information below includes the name of the student organization, the dates (if known) of the hazing behavior, the date such behavior was reported to the university's office of student conduct and community support, the dates of the investigation and when the organization was found responsible, and a description of the findings. Beginning in the summer of 2025, in accordance with Section 485(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1092(f)), the following will also include whether any findings of hazing involved the abuse or illegal use of alcohol or drugs and the date(s) the university provided notice to the student organization that the incident resulted in a hazing violation.

Any student organization under active investigation will NOT appear on the Campus Hazing Transparency Report. Reports of hazing that did not result in a finding of responsibility are not included. If you have questions regarding an ongoing investigation, please email the Office of Student Conduct and Community Support at (conduct@deltastate.edu). The university will update the below information at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the start of each fall and spring semester (twice each year).

Annual statistics on hazing are available in the university's Annual Security Report (available here: https://www.deltastate.edu/students/police/campus-safety/). Please note that hazing statistics will be included beginning with the 2026 report (covering January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025).

Delta State University prohibits hazing in all forms. Hazing undermines our values, threatens the safety of our students, and will not be tolerated. Under the Stop Campus Hazing Act, Delta State University is mandated to be transparent, to actively implement prevention and educational programing to prevent hazing, and to ensure accountability when acts of hazing occur in our community. This policy is implemented to promote student well-being, support a respectful campus culture, and ensure accountability.

CAMPUS HAZING REPORT:

Date of Report: December 9, 2025
Period Covered in this Report: January 1, 2025–November 30, 2025

Timeline of incident, including the dates which: • *The incident was alleged to have occurred,* • *The investigation of the incident was initiated,* • *The investigation ended with finding that a hazing violation occurred,* • *The institution provided notice to the student organization that the incident resulted in a hazing violation*	***Name of Student Organization***	***General Description of Violation including whether the violation involved the abuse or illegal use of alcohol or drugs***	***Details related to findings of the institution, including any sanctions placed on the student organization***
January 1, 2025 thru November 30, 2025	**N/A*	**N/A*	**N/A*

* N/A – Not applicable

Where items were marked not applicable, there were no incidents involving any student organization for which a finding of responsibility is issued relating to a hazing violation during this reporting period.

DEFINITIONS:

Hazing: 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 that-

- 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 (such as physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team), of physical or psychological injury including:
    - whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing 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 similar activity.
    - causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances.
    - 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 induces, causes, or requires another person to perform a duty or task that involves a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law."

Student Organization: An organization operating under Delta State University (such as a club, society, association, varsity or junior varsity athletic team, club sports team, fraternity, sorority, band, or student government) in which two or more members are students enrolled at Delta State University whether or not the organization is established or recognized by the university.

RELEVANT POLICIES:

Hazing Policy:
https://deltastate.policystat.com/policy/14769527/latest

Student Code of Conduct:
https://deltastate.policystat.com/policy/16387405/latest

SCOPE:

This policy applies to:

- All students (including former and prospective students);
- All recognized and unrecognized student organizations, athletic teams, and groups; and
- Faculty, staff, and advisors who supervise or interact with student groups.

It applies to hazing conduct that occurs on or off campus, including digital or virtual spaces. This policy applies whether or not the person subjected to hazing agreed to participate.

CRIMINAL SANCTIONS UNDER MISSISSIPPI LAW:

Mississippi Hazing Law (§97-3-105. Hazing; initiation into the organization.)

A. A person is guilty of hazing in the first degree when, in the course of another person's initiation into or affiliation with any organization, he intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct that creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person and thereby causes such injury.
    a. Any person violating the provisions of "A" shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than Two Thousand Dollars ($2,000) or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six (6) months, or both.
B. A person is guilty of hazing in the second degree when, in the course of another person's initiation into or affiliation with any organization, he intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct that creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person.

a. Any person violating the provisions of subsection (3) of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars ($1,000.00).

ALLEGATIONS AND REPORTING PROCEDURES:

Any person may file a report concerning the alleged violation(s) of the university Hazing policy by any student acting individually, or as part of a registered student organization/intercollegiate athletic team. Reports shall be prepared in writing, either by the individual reporting the hazing conduct or by the Program Manager for Student Conduct & Community Support (conduct@deltastate.edu) taking a verbal referral, and submitted online via:

https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?DeltaStateUniv&layout_id=5

A report should be submitted as soon as possible after the alleged hazing takes place.

The Program Manager for Student Conduct & Community Support shall determine if a report alleges or addresses a potential violation of the *Hazing Policy* and will notify the respondent of the allegations. The decision to continue the matter through the adjudication procedures outlined in the *Student Code* is at the discretion of the Program Manager for Student Conduct & Community Support. Any hazing incident, regardless of formal or informal adjudication, will be published in the *Campus Hazing Transparency Report* and the *Annual Security Report*, as mandated by the revisions to the *Clery Act*.

Generally, the Program Manager for Student Conduct & Community Support will assign a case manager, who may be the Program Manager for Student Conduct & Community Support, who will investigate and schedule administrative conferences with the respondent(s) and other individuals as deemed necessary and appropriate.

INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION:

The Vice President for Student Affairs may impose an interim suspension, an interim Removal from Housing, an interim Loss of Recognition, and/or other necessary restrictions on a student or student organization prior to a *Student Code* resolution. Such action may be taken when, in the professional judgment of the University official, a threat of imminent harm to persons or property exists.

Interim administrative action is not a sanction. Instead, it is taken in an effort to protect the safety and well-being of the respondent, the complainant, others, the University, or property. Interim administrative action is preliminary in nature; it is in effect only until there is a resolution of the student conduct matter.

A student who has received an interim administrative action has the right to request a hearing with the Vice President for Student Affairs to be held within five business days from the date the action was imposed. The request must be in writing and submitted within two days of being notified of the interim action. Interim action is in effect during this period.

ADJUDICATION PROCESS:

Determination of Facts Relative to an Alleged Violation:

The standard used in determining whether the respondent violated the *Hazing Policy* is a preponderance of the evidence (whether it is more likely than not that a violation occurred).

Administrative Conferences:

An administrative conference is a meeting between a respondent or student complainant, if applicable, and a case manager to review a report, explain the student conduct process as it relates to the alleged violation of the *Hazing* Policy, and review possible options for resolving the matter.

After reviewing the incident, the case manager will determine any appropriate alleged violation(s), if any, and whether or not the situation may be resolved by signing an administrative agreement with the respondent. If the matter is unable to be resolved through the administrative conference, the case manager may refer the matter for a formal investigation.

Findings of "not in violation" result in the matter being closed.

A respondent, and student complainant, if applicable, who agrees to resolve any alleged violations and applicable sanctions by signing an administrative agreement shall have no right to appeal.

Formal Investigations:

If a matter cannot be resolved through the initial administrative conference, the case manager will either assume the role of investigator or another individual will be assigned as the investigator. A fair and impartial investigation will be conducted.

The respondent and complainant, if applicable, may provide information in person and/or submit a written account, provide the names of incident witnesses for possible interviews with the investigator, and provide witness statements and any documentation that may be relevant to the facts of the incident. Pertinent records, exhibits, and written statements should be provided during the investigation stage of the process. The investigator will make a reasonable effort to obtain supporting documentation regarding the incident from other University entities or other resources. The investigator will determine the relevancy of the information proposed and/or provided.

Upon completion of the investigation, the investigator will send the respondent a copy of the completed investigation report and hold an administrative conference with the respondent to review the investigation findings. The report will outline the factual findings based on the preponderance of evidence standard. If the investigation report includes a recommendation that a student be found "in violation" for one or more allegations, the investigator will also review any recommended sanctions.

The respondent and investigator may choose to resolve the matter through an administrative agreement. A respondent who agrees to resolve any alleged violations and applicable sanctions by signing an administrative agreement shall have no right to appeal.

If the matter is not resolved through the administrative conference, it will be referred to a formal administrative hearing.

Administrative Hearings:

If the matter cannot be resolved through an administrative conference, the Program Manager for Student Conduct & Community Support will assign a decision-maker/hearing body to conduct a formal administrative hearing. An administrative hearing allows for full consideration of an allegation that a student has violated the *Hazing Policy*. Hearing participants may include the investigator, the respondent(s), the complainant(s), the reporting party, witnesses, the hearing board advisor, and a support person/advisor for each respondent or complainant.

All participants are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the direction of the hearing body.

Hearings may be held in person or virtually. The Program Manager for Student Conduct & Community Support will determine the appropriate venue. If either the respondent or the complainant requests a virtual hearing, the request will be granted.

The respondent and complainant, if any, shall have the right to:

- Be notified of all alleged violations by means of the student's address (University e-mail, residence hall address, or permanent address) listed in the University's student information system. Typically, this will be done via e-mail, which will provide a link to the documentation.
- Review the complete investigation report, which includes all supporting documentation.
- Be informed about the hearing process.
- A reasonable period of time to prepare for a hearing.
- Request a delay of a hearing due to extenuating circumstances. The decision to grant or deny any such request is within the discretion of the hearing body.
- Be notified of the identity of witnesses who have been called by the hearing body to speak at the hearing or provide written information for the hearing.
- Be accompanied by a support person/advisor during the portions of the hearing in which the student participates. A student should select a support person whose schedule allows attendance at the scheduled date and time for the administrative hearing because delays will not be allowed due to the scheduling conflicts of a support person.
- Be present at the pertinent stages of the hearing process as indicated by the Program Manager for Student Conduct & Community Support. The deliberations of the hearing body are private.
- Submit a written response to the investigation report prior to the hearing. The decision not to present information is not an admission of responsibility.
- Respond to statements and other information presented at the hearing.
- Present a personal or community impact statement to the hearing body upon a finding of "In Violation."

A hearing body shall conduct an administrative hearing in accordance with the procedures listed below. When a university official serves as the sole member of the hearing body, that official may also be referred to as the "hearing body."

- Formal rules of process, procedure, and/or technical rules of evidence, such as those applied in criminal or civil court, are not used in these proceedings.

- A hearing shall be conducted privately.
- All procedural questions are subject to the final decision of the hearing body or the hearing advisor.
- Admission of any person into the hearing shall be at the discretion of the hearing body. The hearing body shall have the authority to discharge or remove any person whose presence is deemed unnecessary or obstructive to the proceedings.
- When a hearing involves more than one respondent, the Program Manager for Student Conduct & Community Support may, at the Program Manager's discretion, permit the administrative hearings concerning each student to be conducted either separately or jointly.
- If a respondent and/or complainant, after receiving notification, does not appear for a hearing, the hearing will proceed without the party.
- Except as directed by the hearing body, the support person/advisor's role in a hearing shall be limited to that of a consultant to the respondent or complainant.
- Whether the case manager/investigator is present at the hearing is at the sole discretion of the Program Manager for Student Conduct & Community Support.
- The respondent, complainant, and any witnesses will provide information to and answer questions from the hearing body. Questions may be suggested by the respondent and complainant to be answered by each other or by other witnesses. Questioning will be conducted by the hearing body, with such questions directed to the hearing body, rather than the individuals directly. This method is used to preserve the educational tone of the hearing and to avoid the creation of an adversarial environment. Whether a question is relevant will be determined by the hearing body.
- Pertinent records, exhibits, and written statements should be provided during the investigation stage of the process. Any additional information may be accepted for consideration by the hearing body at its discretion as long as such information was provided in accordance with the *Student Code*. Information presented by a student during a hearing indicates a different violation of the *Student Code* may be investigated at a future time.
- The hearing body will review the final investigation report to determine whether the investigation was conducted in a fair, impartial, and reliable manner; whether the information is sufficient to support the factual findings; and whether there is a rational basis, applying a preponderance of the evidence standard for the recommended findings regarding a potential

violation of the *Student Code*. In conducting the hearing, the hearing body may accept or reject the investigator's findings in whole or in part.

- When a respondent has been found "in violation" of the *Hazing Policy* under the *Student Code*, the hearing body shall review the student's academic transcript and conduct history, hear the respondent's and complainant's impact statements, and impose the appropriate sanction(s). Character references and/or letters of support are not accepted.
- Following the hearing, the hearing body shall advise the respondent in writing of its determination and the sanction(s) imposed, if any. In addition, the hearing body will disclose to the alleged victim of any crime of violence, non-forcible sex offense, or sexual harassment the results of the hearing, in writing, regarding factual determination(s) and sanction(s) that specifically pertain to the alleged victim.
- All formal administrative hearings will be recorded, and the University will maintain the audio recordings consistent with Mississippi state law. All such recordings are the property of the University. Participants are prohibited from making their recordings. Upon written request, a respondent or complainant may review the audio recording and make appropriate arrangements for it to be transcribed on university premises. Arrangements for a transcriber and all associated costs involved in the transcription will be the responsibility of the requesting individual.

Hearing Body Membership:

The University conduct hearing body is responsible for adjudicating allegations of *Hazing Policy* violations referred by the Program Manager for Student Conduct & Community Support or designee. The full panel membership consists of:

- A minimum of four (4) faculty and/or staff members recommended and appointed by the Vice President for Student Affairs for one-year terms, which begin with the fall term.
- A minimum of four (4) undergraduate student members and four (4) graduate student members, recommended and appointed by the Student Government Association President for a one-year term, beginning in the fall term.

Each conduct hearing body shall have a faculty or staff member appointed by the Program Manager for Student Conduct & Community Support or designee to serve as the panel chair. The Program Manager for Student Conduct & Community Support or designee shall serve as hearing body coordinator and shall appoint a qualified conduct officer to present the case to the conduct hearing body. All conduct hearing

body members must undergo training conducted through the Program Manager for Student Conduct & Community Support before participating in conduct hearings.

Hearing Body Appointment:

All student appointments shall be for one-year terms beginning in the fall term. Students, faculty, and staff are eligible to serve multiple terms. To be eligible for appointment or service, a student must possess a minimum of 2.5 cumulative grade point average and not be under current disciplinary sanction from the University. Additional members may be appointed as needed.

Hearing Body Removal:

The Program Manager for Student Conduct & Community Support or designee, with the approval of the Vice President for Student Affairs, may remove University conduct hearing body members for cause, including, but not limited to, not attending training, falling below the minimum grade point average, repeated absences, violating the Code of Student Conduct or other applicable laws or policies, or not responding to repeated attempts of communication. Notification shall be made in writing to the University conduct hearing body member prior to removal, whenever possible.

Quorum for Hearing Body:

A quorum for a conduct hearing shall be no fewer than four (4) voting members of the conduct hearing body, which shall include no fewer than two (2) student members. A conduct hearing body shall consist of no more than six (6) voting members, with a minimum of half the conduct hearing body being students. A faculty or staff member will be appointed to chair the conduct hearing body. In the event there is an even number of panelists, and the vote is split, the following steps will be taken before reaching a final decision.

- The hearing body chair will go over the facts of the case, re-open discussion and allow panel members to make arguments for their decision.
- Once all conversation has been exhausted, the panel chair will ask the panel to vote anonymously.

- If after the second vote there is still a split decision, the student will be found not responsible.

Appeals:

A decision reached through an administrative hearing may be appealed by the respondent(s) or complainant(s) to the Vice President for Student Affairs within five business days of the decision. All findings and/or sanctions are in effect at the conclusion of the administrative hearing and will remain in effect throughout the appeal process. All appeals shall be in writing and delivered to the appeal officer via the mechanism identified by the Program Manager for Student Conduct & Community Support. The decision reached due to an administrative conference may not be appealed.

Except as required to explain the basis of new information, an appeal shall be limited to a review of the case file. The audio recording of the administrative hearing shall be available for the appeal officer to review, as necessary.

The review shall be for one or more of the following purposes:

- To determine if a procedural irregularity that would change the outcome occurred.
- To consider new information sufficient to alter a decision or other relevant facts not brought out in the original hearing because such information and/or facts were not known to the person appealing at the time of the original administrative hearing.
- To determine whether a member of the hearing panel showed undue bias in his or her decisions.

If the appeal officer grants an appeal, the matter shall either be referred to the original hearing body for re-opening of the administrative hearing to allow reconsideration of the original determination or grant a new hearing. If an appeal is denied, the matter shall be considered final and binding upon all involved.

POTENTIAL SANCTIONS:

Sanctions for violating the *Hazing* policy are educational in nature. More than one sanction or any combination of sanctions may be imposed for any violation. The following list is an example of sanctions; however, it is not all-inclusive of all possible sanctions.

- Status Sanctions:
    - Warning: A notice that the student has violated the *Hazing Policy* and a warning that another violation will likely result in a more severe sanction, which could include Conduct Probation, Suspension, or Expulsion.
    - Conduct Probation: An official warning that the student's conduct violates the *Hazing Policy* but is not sufficiently serious to warrant expulsion or suspension. A student on conduct probation may face expulsion or suspension if found responsible for another violation. A student may also be ineligible to represent the University. Additional restrictions or conditions may be imposed depending on the nature and seriousness of the misconduct as specified in the sanction.
    - Suspension: Separation of the student from the University for a defined period.
    - Revocation of recognition for student organizations.
    - Expulsion: Separation of the student from the University whereby the student is never eligible for readmission to this university.
- Additional Sanctions: The following may be given in conjunction with any of the above:
    - Campus/Community Service: The student and/or student organization may be assigned to a community service site located on or off campus, with acceptance by the agency or organization. A predetermined number of hours must be completed by the given date.
    - Loss of Campus Housing: Removal from University housing.
    - Loss of Privileges: The withdrawal of specified privileges for a defined period.
    - No Contact: The student is directed to have no contact with another University member until the order is lifted in writing. The student(s) are to refrain from contacting or communicating through a third party in any way, at any time, sending anything, or any other means of communication.
    - Restitution: A payment for financial reimbursement in cases involving property loss, destruction, or deception.

- Educational Initiatives: A stipulation to complete a specific educational requirement directly related to the violation of the *Hazing Policy and/or Student Code of Conduct* committed. Educational requirements may include but are not limited to completing a hazing prevention training, alcohol or drug education course, an integrity course, essays, reports, etc.

EDUCATION AND PREVENTION:

Delta State University is committed to ongoing prevention and awareness programs related to hazing. Starting in the Fall 2025 semester, a hazing prevention committee will meet regularly to discuss and organize campus hazing prevention and education efforts. This committee is committed to comprehensive programing that aspires to reach every Delta State University student, as a recognition that hazing behaviors may not be limited to certain populations (athletics, Greek community, etc.).

In accordance with the Stop Campus Hazing Act, Delta State University will:

- Provide annual hazing awareness and prevention education to all students and student organization advisors, including a clear explanation of what constitutes hazing, applicable laws, the consequences of participation, and how to report hazing.
- Distribute this policy to all incoming students during orientation (FYS modules) and annually.
- Require training for leaders of student organizations, athletic teams, and campus recognized groups.
- Provide regular educational programing to appropriate Delta State University employees regarding prevention and awareness of hazing (Residence Life staff, etc.).

NO RETALIATION POLICY:

Retaliation against any person who makes a good faith report of hazing or participates in an investigation is strictly prohibited and may result in disciplinary action.

TRANSPARENCY AND ANNUAL REPORTING:

To promote accountability:

- Delta State University will publish this Campus Hazing and Transparency Report of substantiated hazing incidents, including date of incident, organization name, a description of the violation, and any outcomes. The transparency report will be posted to the university's website and updated biannually (in January and July).
- This report will be maintained in a publicly accessible database for at least seven (7) years.
- Beginning with the Annual Security Report (ASR) due October 2026, all reports of hazing will be included in the ASR for the previous three (3) calendar years, consistent with federal law.

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