SDSU Greek Life – Hazing Policy:

Joining an officially recognized organization should be a positive experience. New member activities and initiation rituals should focus upon the positive aspects of both the organization and the individual. Abusive behavior toward, or hazing of, a member of the campus community is forbidden.

Hazing includes any method of indoctrination, initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization, or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such an organization, which regardless of location, intent, membership status or consent of the participants, causes or is reasonably likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, fright, humiliation, intimidation, degradation, or ridicule, extreme mental stress, or otherwise compromises the dignity of any student or member of the campus community. Hazing also includes any activity that compels an individual to participate in any activity which is unlawful, perverse, publicly indecent, contrary to the rules, policies, and regulations of the University, which is known by the compelling person to be contrary to the individual’s genuine moral or religious beliefs, or will unreasonably or unusually impair an individual’s academic efforts. Hazing does not include customary athletic events or similar contests or competitions. Participation in a hazing practice will result in both individual and organizational disciplinary action, including possible expulsion.

Commission of hazing is also a misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in jail and up to a $5,000 fine. Hazing cases that involve serious bodily injury or death may be charged as felonies. Disciplinary action will also be instituted against officers who permit hazing to occur within their own organization. Any proven hazing incident involving serious bodily injury will result in revocation of University recognition, and where applicable, a recommendation to national organization for revocation of the organizations charter.

Examples of prohibited hazing activities include, but are not limited to:

1. Any form or physically demanding activity (calisthenics, runs, etc.) not part of an organized voluntary athletic contest or not specifically directed toward constructive work.
2. Paddling, shoving, or otherwise striking individuals.
3. Compelling individuals to consume or smoke alcohol, tobacco, or drugs or engage in drinking games.
4. Compelling individuals to eat or drink foreign or unusual substances or compelling the consumption of undue amounts or odd preparations of food or liquids.
5. Having substances thrown at, poured on, or otherwise applied to the bodies of individuals or writing embarrassing or degrading items on the bodies or clothing or possessions of individuals.
6. Morally degrading or humiliating games or any other activities that makes an individual the object of ridicule, amusement or intimidation.
7. Transporting individuals against their will, abandoning individuals at distant locations, conducting any “kidnap,” road trip,” or “ditch” that might in any way endanger or compromise the health, safety, or comfort of any individual.
8. Restraining individuals or intentionally exposing them to extreme temperatures, exposure to the elements or uncomfortable conditions.
9. Causing an individual to be indecently exposed, involved in sexual simulations, or other violations of accepted social customs in regard to sex and relations between the sexes.
10. Activities that require a person to remain in a fixed position for a long period of time.
11. “Line-ups” involving intense or demeaning intimidation or interrogation, such as shouting obscenities or insults.
12. Verbal abuse or assigning derogatory names for members to use when addressing one another.
13. Assigning activities such as pranks or scavenger/treasure hunts that compel a person to deface or steal property, engage in humiliating public acts, stunts of buffoonery, or harass other individuals or organizations.

14. Tests of courage, bravery, or stamina.

15. Physical or mental shocks, regardless of degree or nature.

16. Ceremonial burials or satanic rites.

17. Compelling individuals to wear or carry unusual, embarrassing, degrading, uncomfortable or physically burdensome articles or apparel.

18. Depriving individuals of the opportunity for sufficient sleep (six hours continuous sleep per day minimum), comfortable sleeping arrangements, decent edible meals, or access to means of maintaining bodily cleanliness.

19. Activities that interfere with an individual’s academic efforts by causing exhaustion, loss of sleep, or loss of reasonable study time or by preventing an individual from attending class. New member activities shall normally conclude by midnight on school nights.

20. Personal servitude or requirements that financially take advantage of a new member.

21. Compelling an individual to become branded, tattooed, pierced or shaved.

22. Intentionally deceiving new members prior to initiation to make them believe they will not be initiated or will be hurt or struck.

23. Excluding an individual from social contact for prolonged periods of time.

24. Intentionally creating a mess for others to clean up.

25. Compelling individuals to engage in animal cruelty or mistreatment.

26. Blindfolding individuals in a manner that may place the person in danger.

27. Depriving members access to or use of cellular telephones, wallets, keys and other personal possessions.

Any activity as described above upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with the organization is directly or indirectly conditioned, or implied to be conditioned, or which occurs during a pre-initiation or initiation activity, shall be presumed to be "compelled" activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such an activity notwithstanding.

A group of students acting together may be considered a "student organization" for the purposes of this policy, whether or not they are officially recognized. Neither the express or implied consent of a victim of hazing, nor the lack of active participation while hazing is going on is a defense. **Apathy or acquiescence in the presence of hazing is not a neutral act, and is also a violation of this policy.**

It is the specific responsibility of the organization president to ensure that this policy is communicated to and adhered to by all members and new members.

Organizations are responsible for controlling the behavior of their alumni members during initiation or pre-initiation activities.