



# Division of Student Affairs

## Hazing Policy

[www.umb.edu/life\\_on\\_campus/student\\_affairs](http://www.umb.edu/life_on_campus/student_affairs)

**Issuing Office:** Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

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**Policy Name:** Hazing Policy

**Original Date Issued:** Tuesday, August 21, 2018

**Applicable to:** All Campus Divisions and Students

### I. PURPOSE:

The University of Massachusetts Boston (**UMB**) is a State Institution of Higher Education devoted to excellence in teaching, research, and service. A part of that mission is fulfilled by the university's commitment to the development of students through academic and extracurricular activities. **UMB** is committed to promoting a safe and healthy environment for all members of the community and to preventing hazing before it occurs, and/or providing appropriate remedial action in instances when hazing occurs.

This policy applies to all members of the University faculty, staff and students. It applies to on- and off-campus behavior.

### II. DEFINITIONS:

a) *The Student Code of Conduct defines hazing as the following:*

Hazing is any conduct or method of initiation, admission into, or as a condition of membership into any group, organization or Student Organization as defined under this Code, or maintaining membership in a group, organization, or Student Organization, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any student or other person. Consent to hazing will not be a defense under this Code. Examples of such behavior include but are not limited to sexual or gender humiliation, any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation or forced violation of the law or University policy.

b) *Massachusetts General Law (MGL) -Hazing - Ch. 269 sec.17, 18, 19*

*269:17 Hazing; Organizing; or Participating; Hazing Defined:*

*Section 17.* Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing, as defined herein, shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one, [1] year, or both such fine and imprisonment.

The term "hazing" as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or another person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action.

**269:18 Failure to Report Hazing:**

**Section 18.** Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1000)

**269:19 Copy of secs. 17-19; issuance to students and student groups, teams and organizations; report**

**Section 19.** Each institution of secondary education and each public and private institution of post secondary education shall issue to every student group, student team or student organization which is part of such institution or is recognized by the institution or permitted by the institution to use its name or facilities or is known by the institution to exist as an unaffiliated student group, student team, or student organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen; provided, however, that an institution's compliance with this section's requirements that an institution issue copies of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to unaffiliated student groups, teams, or organizations shall not constitute evidence of the institution's recognition or endorsement of said unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations.

Each such group, team or organization shall distribute a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to each of its members, plebes, pledges or applicants for membership. It shall be the duty of each such group, team or organization, acting through its designated officer, to deliver annually, to the institution an attested acknowledgement stating that such group, team or organization has received a copy of this section and said sections seventeen and eighteen, that each of its member, plebes, pledges, or applicants has received a copy of sections seventeen and eighteen, and that such group, team or organization understands and agrees to comply with the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post-secondary education shall, at least annually, before or at the start of enrollment, deliver to each person who enrolls as a full-time student in such institution a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post secondary education shall file, at least annually, a report with the regents of higher education and in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education, certifying that such institution has complied with its responsibility to inform student groups, teams or organizations and to notify each full time student enrolled by it of the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen and also

certifying that said institution has adopted a disciplinary policy with regard to the organizers and participants of hazing, and that such policy has been set forth with appropriate emphasis in the student handbook or similar means of communication the institution's policies to its students. The board of regents and, in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports, and shall forthwith report to the attorney general any such institution which fails to make such report.

### **III. POLICY:**

#### ***A. Prohibition on Hazing:***

UMB strictly prohibits any action taken or situation created, whether voluntary or involuntary, for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a group or organization, which endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, creates risk of injury, causes mental or physical fatigue or distress, discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, ridicule, or intimidation, causes damage to or destruction of property, or which is a violation of law, University policy, or the Code of Student Conduct. Such activities include, but are not limited to, the following: striking another student by hand or with any instrument; requiring or advocating alcohol or other drug use; late sessions/meetings that interfere with academic activities; tattooing, branding, or piercing; physical or psychological shocks; wearing of apparel in public that is embarrassing, humiliating, or degrading; or games/activities causing or resulting in fatigue, sleep deprivation, mental distress, panic, embarrassment, or humiliation.

#### ***B. Reporting Instances of Hazing :***

Victims or anyone who witnesses instances of hazing are strongly encouraged to report them. Faculty and staff with information relating to an instance of hazing are required to immediately report such information to:

***UMass Boston Police Department (UMBPD)***

*Emergency phone: 911*

*Non-emergency Phone: 617-287-1212*

*Quinn Administration Plaza level*

*[Web: www.umb.edu/public\\_safety](http://www.umb.edu/public_safety)*

***Office of the Dean of Students:***

***John Silveria***

***Dean of Students/Associate Vice Chancellor***

***Campus Center fourth floor Room 4100***

***Phone: 617-287-5800***

***[john.silveria@umb.edu](mailto:john.silveria@umb.edu)***

***[https://www.umb.edu/life\\_on\\_campus/student\\_affairs](https://www.umb.edu/life_on_campus/student_affairs)***

***Office of the Human Resources:***

***Marie H. Bowen***

***Vice Chancellor of Human Resources***

**Quinn Administration Building, third floor Room 0076**  
**Phone: 617-287-5150**  
***marie.bowen@umb.edu***  
<https://www.umb.edu/hr>

**C. *Interim Administrative Action:***

The Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, or designee, may impose an interim “University Suspension,” an interim “Removal from Housing,” an interim “Loss of Recognition,” and/or other necessary restrictions on a Respondent or Student Organization prior to or during an Administrative Review of an alleged violation. Such action may be taken when, based on the information provided and in the professional judgment of a University official, a threat of harm to persons or property exists, or to protect the safety of any person.

Interim administrative action is not a sanction. It is taken in an effort to protect the safety and well-being of the Complainant, Respondent or Student Organization, other members of the University Community, the University, or property. Interim administrative action is preliminary in nature; it is in effect only until an Administrative Review has been completed. However, violations of interim administrative action may result in additional violations and sanctions including University Suspension, University Expulsion, or Loss of Recognition.

**D. Investigation/Resolution :**

Students and Student Organizations must uphold The Code and obey University policies, rules, and procedures as well as federal, state, and local laws. The Office of the Dean of Students, or designee, shall make the final determination on what constitutes a potential violation of The Code and shall establish the specific behavioral allegations(s) as appropriate.

**IV. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The University of Massachusetts Boston will not tolerate retaliation against any person who in good faith makes a report of hazing. Any person who retaliates directly or indirectly against a victim, witness, person reporting hazing, a respondent and/or charged party or any person involved in any aspect of a complaint or resolution of an allegation of hazing will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination (if an employee) or expulsion (if a student).