



SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Section III, Article A: Student Organization Code of Conduct

a. Campus and Organizational Community Values

The University is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy living and learning environment for students, faculty, and staff. Student organizations should choose activities that contribute to this end.

Student organizations recognized by SDSU are subject to this Student Organization Code of Conduct. The University may hold a student organization responsible for the actions of its members when the behavior or activity is related to the organization. Misconduct need not be officially approved by the organization membership in order to be grounds for sanctions against the organization.

The following are some of the pertinent campus policies that may relate to your event or organization. For other campus policies, please search the SDSU website or if you have additional questions or need more information, please contact Student Life & Leadership.

b. Grounds for Student Organization Discipline

Behavior by a student organization that is not consistent with this Student Organization Code of Conduct is addressed through an educational process that is designed to promote safety and good citizenship and, when necessary, impose appropriate consequences.

In addition, the individual members of student organizations will be held accountable for violations of the Student Code of Conduct, as outlined in Section 41301 of the California Code of Regulations and published in the [SDSU General Catalog](#).

The following are the grounds upon which student organization discipline can be based:

- (1) Aiding and Abetting.** Aiding, abetting, encouraging, permitting or assisting a student or student organization to do any act that would violate a University policy or applicable law; or that could subject the student or student organization to discipline.
- (2) Alcohol.** Violation of applicable law or University policy regarding the use, possession, manufacture, or distribution of alcoholic beverages while on or off campus. (See Section II of the *Student Organization Handbook* and the *SDSU Alcohol and Substance Policies*)
- (3) Animals, including:**
 1. Animals shall not be used in pranks or otherwise for amusement or ceremony in connection with any student organization function or activity.
 2. Recognized Student Organizations are expected to uphold University policies for animals, as outlined in Section 26 of the Regulations for Use of SDSU Buildings and Grounds, which include:
 - a. No person shall bring an animal onto the university campus unless the animal is secured to a leash no more than (6) feet in length and in the hand of a person at all

times.

- b. Dumping of unwanted pets or animals on the campus is prohibited.
- c. No animals are allowed in any of the buildings on campus with the exception of an animal serving legally defined disabled or handicapped persons, per Americans with Disabilities Act. These service animals must be licensed in accordance with county regulations, wear a vaccination tag, and may not be disruptive.
- d. Animals maintained for official instructional and/or approved research purposes are exempt from the above regulations.
- e. All California state laws dealing with the care and human treatment of animals are enforced on the campus by University Police.

(4) Assassin Games. Games involving simulated weapons, such as “secret agent,” “tag,” and “assassin,” are exceedingly dangerous and have resulted in the deaths of students nationwide. Student organizations may not organize or engage in such games regardless of location.

(5) Auctioning Policy. In accordance with the principles of the SDSU Principles of Community, fundraising events by student organizations involving the auctioning of a date or to perform services must comply with the following guidelines:

1. If held on campus property, a release of liability waiver must be signed by all participants (including the individuals participating in the auction and the winning bidders).
2. An advisor must be present for the entire duration of the event the event.
3. All participants must do so willingly and without coercion.
4. The event shall not be organized or promoted in any way so as to intend or suggest the services being offered for auction extend beyond the offer of accompaniment for a meal and/or entertainment.
5. Date/service auctions should not have appearance of and the “trappings” of slave auctions.
6. Lewd conduct, remarks and gestures should not be allowed during the event.
7. Participants shall not be required to attend a date with or provide services to the highest bidder if they are uncomfortable doing so. If the event participant does not attend the date or provide services, the bidder shall receive all money they paid during the auction.
8. The sponsoring organization is encouraged to provide a gift certificate(s) for the event participant and bidder to use on the “date” (restaurant, movie theater, etc.).
9. The “date” or service should only occur in public (not inside a private residence), during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.
10. The “date” should end at the conclusion of the meal, event or entertainment.
11. Alcohol may not be present at the auction event. No alcohol shall be consumed during auction, the “date,” or the service provided, regardless of the age of the participants.
12. “Double-dating” with another participating couple is strongly encouraged.
13. If any guidelines are not followed at any time, the advisor must address the behavior immediately and may shut down immediately.

(6) Charitable Donations. Charitable donations must be made in accordance with the The Internal Revenue Service has tightened the reporting requirements surrounding the receipt of charitable donations. Charitable donations, whether in the form of cash or donated goods and service, must be promptly receipted with notation of any fair market value. Donations must be made to a current 501(c) (3) or similar tax-exempt organization. For Recognized Student Organizations, this may be through Associated Students or the Campanile Foundation. For some, specifically those who have their own Federal Tax ID number, they may use their Federal Tax

ID or their national or state parent affiliation.

(7) Chalking. Per the Regulations for Use of SDSU Buildings and Grounds, chalking is only permitted on the Open Air Theatre Walkway and on the first floor of the Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union Chalkboard.

(8) Compressed Gas Cylinders, including:

(Examples: helium tanks for balloons and carbon dioxide tanks for carbonated beverages)

1. All gas cylinders in service, storage, or during transport while empty or full, shall be securely held in substantial racks or secured to other rigid structures in a manner to prevent them from creating a hazard by tipping, falling or rolling.
2. Compressed gas cylinders shall be stored with regulators closed when not in use and labeled at all times, without regulators connected, and valve protection caps shall be securely attached.
3. During movement, cylinder caps shall be in place.
4. Gas cylinders shall be protected from sunlight or other heat sources.
5. Incompatible oxygen and fuel gases in storage shall be separated by at least 20 feet.

(9) Contracts and Financial Management, including:

1. Organizations may not enter into contracts using the name of the Associated Students or San Diego State University, nor are the Associated Students or the University responsible for financial loss of student organization activities.
2. Contracts and purchases for on campus events should not be completed prior to securing both the event approval by Student Life & Leadership and the confirmation of organization or AS funding.
3. Student organizations are responsible for voluntarily incurred debts to the University, Associated Students, Aztec Shops, and the SDSU Research Foundation and are expected to maintain good credit ratings in the community and employ principles of sound business practice in financial dealings with members.

(10) Discrimination. Discrimination in membership policies on the basis of race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, color, age, gender, gender identity marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or disability (except that the prohibition on membership policies that discriminate on the basis of gender does not apply to social fraternities or sororities or to other university living groups).

(11) Dishonesty, including:

1. Furnishing false information to an official of the University or of a University auxiliary organization or law enforcement agency.
2. Misrepresenting the identity of the organization or misrepresenting the organization to be an authorized agent of the University or a University auxiliary.
3. Forgery, alteration, or misuse of a University document, key, or identification instrument.
4. Collective behavior by organization members involving cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty intended to gain unfair academic advantage or organizational involvement in facilitating academic dishonesty.

(12) Disorderly Behavior. Disorderly, lewd, indecent, or obscene behavior at a University related activity, or directed toward a member of the University community.

(13) Disruption, including:

1. Unauthorized entry into, presence in, use or misuse of University property
2. Willful, material and substantial disruption or obstruction of a University-related activity or any on-campus activity
3. Participating in an activity that substantially and materially disrupts the normal operations of the University, or infringes on the rights of the members of the University community
4. Willful, material and substantial obstruction of the free flow of pedestrian or other traffic, on or leading to campus property or an off-campus University-related activity
5. Impeding an individual or vehicle from entering or exiting a location or otherwise blocking the individual or vehicle's path of travel
6. Disorderly, lewd, indecent or obscene behavior at a University related activity or directed toward a member of the University community
7. Unauthorized destruction or damage to University property or other property in the University community

(14) Drones (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles). As stated in the Regulations for Use of SDSU Buildings and Grounds, drones are currently prohibited on campus without prior approval from University Police. Therefore, the unauthorized use of drones (UAV) on San Diego State University property by student organizations is prohibited without prior approval.

(15) Electronic and Mobile Payment Services. Although not a University recommended or endorsed method of funds collection, electronic and mobile payment services (e.g. PayPal, Venmo, Cash) may be used to collect funds for organizations. Currently, withdrawals from these applications cannot be directly deposited into an Associated Students bank account. To this end, it is the responsibility of the individual member whose bank account is linked with the payment service account to ensure that the organizational funds (e.g. dues, fundraising, donations) are deposited into the Associated Students, or if exempt, the organization's, bank account. The organization's member linked with the Venmo account assumes all financial liability for the funds, including the withdrawal, deposit into the organization's account and any federal tax liability. Additionally:

1. Funds cannot be collected or used to purchase items that are violation of policy or law.
2. Funds collected using electronic and mobile payment services may not be used as petty-cash and may not be used for purchases prior to being deposited into the organization's bank account.
3. Funds collected using electronic and mobile payment services must be deposited in the student organization's bank account within 5 business days of the end of the event.
4. It is prohibited to misappropriate funds collected using electronic and mobile payment services by Recognized Student Organizations and the individual(s) and organization may be investigated.

(16) Failure to Comply. Failure to comply with directions or interference with any University official or any public safety officer while acting in the performance of their duties.

(17) Fire and Life Safety. Recognized student organizations must follow all San Diego State University Regulations for Building and Grounds, as well as all directives by Environmental Health & Safety at SDSU, including, but not limited to:

1. If required, failure to submit a diagram for review and approval for campus events that include, but are not limited to, portable, prefabricated or site built structures.
2. Failure to comply with a request by an EHS representative while they are acting in

accordance of their duties, including table/booth inspection, or ensuring compliance with regulations.

(18) Fireworks. Fireworks are prohibited unless a permit has been obtained from the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Requests to use fireworks shall be directed to EHS at (619) 594-6778. All requests shall be made at least 30 days prior to the date of the event. The unapproved use of fireworks is strictly prohibited.

(19) Harassment and Abusive Behavior, including:

1. Recognized organizations may not engage in any organizational activities involving sexually abusive or obscene activity.
2. Recognized organizations may not engage in any organizational activity that makes specific members of the campus community the subject of harassment, intimidation, or hostility because of their race, religion, color, ethnicity, citizenship, gender, gender identity or expression, disability, sexual orientation, or national origin.
3. Recognized organizations shall not engage in any physical abuse of the person or property of any member of the campus community nor may organization members threaten such physical abuse.

(20) Hazing or conspiracy to haze. 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.

1. Hazing is defined as any method of indoctrination, initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization, or any other organization-related activity, which, regardless of location, intent, membership status or rank of the participants, or the express or implied consent of the participants, causes, or is reasonably likely to cause, physical or mental injury, substantial mental or physical discomfort or stress, personal degradation, harassment or intimidation of or to any former, current or prospective student of any educational institution.
2. Hazing also includes any activity that compels a student to participate in any activity that is unlawful, publicly indecent or contrary to the policies and regulations of the University, or any activity that unreasonably and materially interferes with a student's academic efforts.

The term "hazing" does not include customary athletic events or University sanctioned events. 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 and students who allow themselves to be hazed may also be subject to disciplinary action. 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 organization's charter.

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

- Any form or physically demanding activity (calisthenics, runs, etc.) not part of an organized voluntary athletic contest or not specifically directed toward constructive work.

- Paddling, shoving, or otherwise striking individuals.
- Compelling individuals to consume or smoke alcohol, tobacco, or drugs or engage in drinking games.
- Compelling individuals to eat or drink foreign or unusual substances or compelling the consumption of undue amounts or odd preparations of food or liquids.
- 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.
- Morally degrading or humiliating games or any other activities that makes an individual the object of ridicule, amusement or intimidation.
- Abduction or 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.
- Restraining individuals or intentionally exposing them to extreme temperatures, exposure to the elements or uncomfortable conditions, or confinement to a small space.
- Causing an individual to be indecently exposed, or nonconsensual sexual contact, or sexual situations that make an individual uncomfortable.
- Activities that require a person to remain in a fixed position for a long period of time.
- “Line-ups” involving intense or demeaning intimidation or interrogation, such as shouting obscenities or insults.
- Verbal abuse or assigning derogatory names for members to use when addressing one another.
- 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.
- Tests of courage, bravery, or stamina.
- Physical or mental shocks, regardless of degree or nature.
- Ceremonial burials or satanic rites.
- Compelling individuals to wear or carry unusual, embarrassing, degrading, uncomfortable or physically burdensome articles or apparel.
- 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.
- 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.
- Personal servitude or requirements that financially take advantage of a new member.
- Compelling an individual to become branded, tattooed, pierced or shaved.
- Intentionally deceiving new members prior to initiation to make them believe they will not be initiated or will be hurt or struck.
- Excluding an individual from social contact for prolonged periods of time.
- Intentionally creating a mess for others to clean up.
- Compelling individuals to engage in animal cruelty or mistreatment.
- Blindfolding individuals in a manner that may cause intimidation or place the person in danger.
- Depriving new members access to or use of cellular telephones, wallets, keys, and other personal possessions during initiation week.
- Confinement to unreasonably small, poorly ventilated, unsanitary or unlighted areas.
- Any new member, initiation, pre-initiation, or post-initiation event involving alcohol

where it is expressed or implied that new members must or feel compelled to consume alcohol or other drugs.

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/ae members during initiation or pre-initiation activities. If there is a concern for alumni/ae member(s) of the organization, the organization must disclose the concern to Student Life & Leadership.

Questions concerning this policy should be directed to Student Life & Leadership or the Center for Student Rights & Responsibilities.

(21) Health and Safety. Conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person within or related to the University community, including physical abuse, threats, intimidation, harassment, sexual misconduct, throwing bottles or objects that could result in personal injury, or where three or more members of a student organization engage in group violence or taunt others to engage in violence.

(22) Illegal Drugs, including:

1. Use, possession, manufacture, or distribution of illegal drugs or drug-related paraphernalia, (except as expressly permitted by law and University regulation) or the misuse of legal pharmaceutical drugs at an organization-related event.
2. Use, possession, manufacture, or distribution of illegal drugs or drug-related paraphernalia, (except as expressly permitted by law and University regulation) or the misuse of legal pharmaceutical drugs at an organization-related facility.
3. Failure to terminate the such activity of organization members and initiate organization disciplinary action against the members engaged in misconduct by officers.

(23) Misuse of University Technology, including:

1. Misuse of computer facilities, computers, electronic media, social media, mobile applications and all other technologies owned, operated or provided by the University.
2. Failure to follow the campus procedures related to Smart Classroom technology for student organizations.
3. Misuse of the Presence platform, including the posting of events that are or may promote violation of any laws or published University policies.

(24) Noise, including:

1. Violation of municipal noise ordinances, including but not limited to failure to obtain a required noise permit for an off-campus event.
2. Excessive noise which disrupts the campus or surrounding community, including but not limited to use of amplified sound on campus (except as expressly permitted in compliance with the *Regulations for Use of San Diego State University Buildings and Grounds*).

(25) Open Membership. Eligibility for membership or appointed or elected student officer positions may not be limited on the basis of race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, color, age, gender, gender identity, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or disability. The organization shall have no rules or policies that discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, color, age, gender, gender identity, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or disability. Social fraternities, sororities or other university living group and may impose a gender limitation as permitted by Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Section 41500.

(26) Organization Facilities, including:

1. Operating a facility owned, leased, occupied or used by the organization in violation of local zoning ordinances.
2. Failure to maintain safe and sanitary physical conditions in a facility owned, leased, occupied or used by the organization as required by applicable law and University policy.
3. Failure to maintain a facility owned, leased occupied or used by the organization in compliance with the exterior appearance standards.

(27) Promoters. Student organizations wishing to contract with promoters should contact Student Life & Leadership BEFORE entering into an agreement. Student organizations may not engage in any on-campus activities on behalf of commercial entities that involve any form of sale or contractual agreement (including credit card sign-ups).

(28) Property Damage. Unauthorized destruction, defacement or damage to University property or property of others, including placement of words, symbols or graphics on the property of others, or unauthorized removal, of signs or banners of other student organizations.

(29) Recognition Reinstatement. Student organizations that have their recognition suspended or removed must make a formal request for to be reinstated to the Office of Student Life & Leadership and the Dean of Students before they can be considered to return to campus. This includes organizations whose national organization or affiliation removed their recognition or approval of the local organization. Once a formal request has been made, a review of the student life community will be conducted in collaboration with student organization governing boards and a decision to return will be based on feasibility of the organization in the campus community and governing board policy and procedures. This process supersedes all letters issued prior to an organization leaving or being removed from campus and this process must be adhered to prior to re-chartering

(30) Smoking. All Recognized Student Organization events on campus must be completely smoke-free in accordance with San Diego State University's [*Smoke Free Policy*](#). Members of the organization and guests are not permitted to smoke on SDSU's property--at the event site and at all other campus locations. Per SDSU policy, "smoking is defined as inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying a lighted or vapor-producing tobacco product. Tobacco is defined as all tobacco-derived or containing products, including, but not limited to, cigarettes (clove, bidis,

kreteks), electronic cigarettes, cigars and cigarillos, hookah smoked products, and oral tobacco (spit and spitless, smokeless, chew, snuff).”

(31) Student Organization Banking. Per California State University guidelines, all student organizations, unless granted an exemption, must bank with the on-campus banking entity (Associated Students). Violations of this policy include:

1. Maintaining an off-campus bank account without an exemption, no matter the circumstance (e.g. maintaining an Associated Students account in addition to the off-campus bank account).
2. Operating off-campus bank accounts that are in addition to and separate from the account associated with the exemption.

(32) Student Organization Events

1. Sponsoring, co-sponsoring or conducting an on-campus event, other than a regular organization business meeting, without the approval of Student Life & Leadership (See event approval procedures in Section II of the *SDSU Student Organizations Handbook*)
2. Failure to comply with event approval conditions imposed by Student Life & Leadership or other University offices.
3. Failure to comply with the policies governing student organization events held on campus or funded by the University or a University auxiliary organization.

(33) Theft, including:

1. Theft of property or services from the University community, or misappropriation of University resources for the benefit of the organization.
2. Unauthorized removal of University property from common use areas.
3. Possession by the student organization or presence at organization-related facilities of stolen property or University property that has been removed from common use areas without authorization.
4. Unauthorized mass removal of publications from campus distribution racks with the intent of limiting public access to the materials.
5. Theft of property or services from Recognized Student Organizations, student organization events or student organization facilities. “Pranks” where theft is involved are considered to be a violation of this policy.

(34) Unauthorized entry into, or presence in:

1. Any facility owned or operated by the University or a University auxiliary organization, or use of property or equipment of the University or a University auxiliary organization, except in accordance with University policies.
2. Trespassing on private property.
3. Violation of visitation policies of University or University auxiliary owned or operated student residential facilities and student organization residential facilities.
4. Violation of University policies regarding entry into and conduct inside fraternity and sorority houses.

(35) Unauthorized use of SDSU name, symbol(s) and logo(s). Unauthorized use of San Diego State University or SDSU name, logo or symbols or use not in compliance with University policies.

(36) Violation of Policies. Violation of any published University policy, rule, regulation or presidential order, including without limitation:

1. Violation of University policies and procedures pertaining to student organizations set forth in the *Student Organizations Handbook*
2. Violation of the *Regulations for Use of San Diego State University Buildings and Grounds*
3. Violation of [Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union Building Use Guidelines](#)
4. Violation of any other published University policy, rule, regulation or presidential order.

(37) Violations of Law. Any organization-related act chargeable as a violation of federal, state, or local law.

(38) Violation of the Student Organization Conduct Procedures, including:

1. Falsification, distortion, or misrepresentations of information related to a student organization discipline matter.
2. Disruption or interference with the orderly progress of a student organization disciplinary matter.
3. Attempting to discourage a person from participating in a student organization disciplinary matter.
4. Attempting to influence the impartiality of any participant in a student organization disciplinary matter.
5. Verbal, written or physical harassment, intimidation or retaliation of any participant in a student organization disciplinary matter.
6. Failure to comply with the sanction(s) imposed under a student organization disciplinary proceeding.

(39) Weapons. The possession and/or use of firearms, ammunition, fireworks, explosives, highly flammable materials, weapons, projectile devices, guns, knives, pellet/air soft or BB guns, replica weapons, dangerous chemicals or any other weapon or material or instrument which poses or may imply a risk of danger is prohibited on campus, at University-related events, and at all student organization functions and facilities (with the exception of properly stored kitchen knives, janitorial supplies and activities with prior authorization of the University President or designee).

c. Application of this Code

Sanctions for the conduct listed above can be imposed on student organizations. Student Organization conduct is within the jurisdiction of the SDSU Student Organization Code of Conduct regardless of whether it occurs on or off campus. Nothing in this Code may conflict with Education Code Section 66301 that prohibits discriminatory action against students based on behavior protected by the First Amendment.

d. Procedures for Enforcing this Code

The University, through authority given by the University President to the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Office of the Student Life & Leadership, maintains the exclusive right to impose sanctions upon student organizations for acts that violate this Student Organization Code of Conduct. The Office of Student Life & Leadership shall develop and adopt procedures to ensure student organizations are afforded notice and the opportunity to be heard before the University imposes any sanction for a violation of the Student Organization Code of Conduct.