

VSU Greek Life

Potential/New Member Bill of Rights

There are a number of activities that are constructive parts of new member education and will contribute to your becoming a more active and productive member of your organization. However, there are other activities in which you might be asked to take part that are a violation of the Valdosta State University Student Code of Conduct, Georgia State Law and/or inter/national fraternity regulations. These activities may constitute “hazing.”

Listed below is a *Potential/New Member Bill of Rights* that specifically outlines activities that fraternity or sorority members **cannot** require of you.

If they do so, the fraternity or sorority and the individual member(s) in question may be subject to severe penalties up to and including permanent removal of VSU recognition for the organization, suspension/removal from VSU for the individuals involved, and possibly removal of the chapter’s national charter.

Potential/New members participating in “hazing” activities may also be subject to judicial sanctions. Please study your rights and make certain that they are not violated.

No new member shall be required by any person or persons to perform any act which:

1. Interferes with the academic process – causes a potential/new members to miss or be ill prepared for classes, labs, study sessions, or tests
2. Causes the potential/new member to violate the VSU Code of Conduct, VSU policies, or reflects negatively upon the reputation of Valdosta State University, the participants, or the organization
3. Requires or pressures a potential/new member to consume any substance (including alcohol)
4. Prevents a potential/new member from securing normal amounts of sleep (no activities between the hours of midnight and 7 a.m. on weeknights)
5. Requires a potential/new member to perform personal services for collegiate or alumni members (including, but not limited to, driving around members and/or their guests, “shopping” for members, etc.)
 - Services performed by all members maybe allowed for the benefit of the organization, once approved by the Greek Life office
6. Treats a potential/new member in a “sub-human” manner
7. Is illegal – including the use of drugs and alcohol
8. Places a potential/new member in physical danger or in jeopardy of losing his or her life
9. Places severe emotional stress upon a potential/new member
10. Requires a potential/new member to be present at activities for unreasonable periods of time
11. Requires more than six hours/week on potential/new member activities (not including study hours), unless activities are approved by the Greek Life office.
12. Coerces potential/new members to attend meetings/activities through fines/sanctions that are not also levied against existing members

13. Requires a potential/new member to participate in any form of “line-ups” – defined as lining up and being required to answer questions, followed by punishment if they get it wrong.
 14. Requires a potential/new member to answer the telephone in a manner unlike a member would answer it
 15. Involves the abandonment of potential/new members or organization members thereby requiring them to find their own way back to campus
 16. Requires the blindfolding of a potential/new member (exceptions: during low ropes course with trained facilitator, or as prescribed in writing for Ritual)
 17. Requires ONLY potential/new members to stand when a collegiate or alumna/us member enters a room
 18. Requires a potential/new member to intentionally deface a house/chapter room/suite/apt. etc.; or requires a potential/new member to clean the house/chapter room/suite/apt., etc. of others
 19. Requires a potential/new member to enter the house/suite/building only from a specific door (outside of formal Initiation)
 20. Requires potential/new members to attend unscheduled meetings or sleep in the house/suite/apt. together for any length of time
 21. Requires potential/new members to participate in scavenger hunts or similar activities by any name that involves taking of items, time deadlines, etc.
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THIS LIST IS IN NO WAY INCLUSIVE.

Any questions regarding believed hazing or violations of new members’ rights or other questionable activities should be reported to the Office of Greek Life at 229.333.5674.

Each new member must sign the Anti-Hazing agreement as confirmation that they acknowledge their understanding and support of our zero tolerance for Hazing.