

Conduct

Standards for Student Organization Conduct

The University is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy living and learning environment for students, faculty and staff. Student organization behavior that is not consistent with the St. Cloud State University Student Code of Conduct is addressed through an educational process that is designed to promote safety and good citizenship, and when necessary, impose appropriate consequences. The Student Code of Conduct applies to student organizations both on and off campus. Upon registration or application for registration by the University, each student organization becomes responsible for acting in accordance with the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct and all other applicable university, state and federal policies and standards. Official University action will be taken when the behavior of the members of a student organization violates the Student Code of Conduct and/or interferes with the University's educational purpose. The degree to which an organization is responsible for the activity of its members is not necessarily dependent upon the number of members engaging in the activity, but depends upon whether the activity is related to the organization as described below.

Student Organization Collective and Member Responsibilities

As members of the St. Cloud State University community, students are expected to act as good citizens, and to engage in responsible behaviors that reflect well upon their student organization and University; to be civil to one another and to others in the campus community; and to contribute positively to student and University life. Members of student organizations are expected to become familiar with the Student Code of Conduct and all applicable University and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) policies, federal, state and local laws to best serve the campus community and uphold strong individual and group conduct.

A student organization and its officers may be held collectively and/or individually responsible when violations of the Student Code of Conduct by those associated with the organization have received explicitly, tacit or overt consent or encouragement of the organization or of the organization's leaders, officers, or spokespersons. Student organizations may be held responsible for individual member behavior when:

- A member of an organization is violating local, state, or federal law or University or MnSCU policies and other members are present, and condone the behavior by failing to discourage the activity;
- Acts grow out of or are directly related to the student organization's activities or an environment created by the organization;
- Acts are committed by guests of an organization, or persons authorized or permitted to represent themselves are connected with the organization.

To determine whether a student organization bears responsibility for a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, the following questions may be asked:

- How many organization members were involved in the event/activity? How many members were there?
- Were organization funds used for the event/activity?
- Was the organization executive board involved in approval, pre-planning, and/or support of the alleged activity?
- Was the event advertised or announced by the organization? If so, how?
- Were any organization members present and/or participating in the alleged infraction regardless of whether the member was acting in an official capacity?
- Did any members of the organization attempt to cover up the alleged incident and/or to protect the organization members involved in the alleged infraction?

- Did the event/action take place in a space owned, operated, rented, or commonly used by the organization?

The response to just one or two of these questions may indicate that this was an organization activity. Each activity is likely to have a unique set of circumstances. As leaders, you should evaluate each activity separately. Please use these questions to assist you in planning safe and responsible events. If you have any questions or would like to discuss risk management further, contact the CSOLD office at csold@stcloudstate.edu, 320-308-3004, or stop by AMC 139.

Non-Discrimination

As a condition of registration with the University, all student organizations must comply with Affirmative Action policies, including Title IX, and state it under the membership section of the constitution. *The statement reads: St. Cloud State University is committed to providing equal education and employment opportunities and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, membership on a local commission, or status with regard to public assistance.*

Hazing

Hazing, which includes any form of mental, physical, or emotional harassment, degradation, intimidation or harm, is strictly prohibited. Organizations found to be incorporating any form of hazing activities into their recruitment, new member or ongoing organizational activities, will face appropriate sanctions for violation of campus, local, and state policy and/or law. St. Cloud State University strongly discourages the use of alcohol and other substances as part of club, group, and organizational activities. Further information on hazing may be found in the Student Code of Conduct.

Alcohol and Illegal Drugs

Student groups and organization are subject to the SCSU Alcohol and Other Drug Policy available in the St. Cloud State University Student Code of Conduct at www.stcloudstate.edu/studenthandbook/policies/default.asp. The illegal use, possession, distribution, manufacture or sale of any controlled substance, drugs, or alcoholic beverages is prohibited for individual students or student organizations:

- at University events on or off-campus;
- on travel status when representing the University (e.g., as a member of athletic team, sports club, Student Government Association, student organizations and groups, member of a University group, delegation, etc.).
- Further restrictions or allowances for legal and responsible use of alcohol may apply to individual students or student groups on travel status, based on the specific program's needs and direction of the faculty or staff supervisors/ advisers.

No registered organization may advertise or participate in fundraisers involving alcohol or any illicit drug on or off campus. Any non-fundraising events that involve alcohol may in no way expose a St. Cloud State University registered student organization or St. Cloud State University to a position of liability. If alcohol is served at a function it must be served or distributed by a licensed and bonded/insured third party. In addition, alcohol cannot be the focus of any organizational event.

Student Organization Sponsored On-Campus Events

Alcohol service is not permitted at student organization sponsored events on the St. Cloud State University campus.

Student Organization Conduct Procedures

Initial investigations may be conducted by CSOLD Office and referred to the Office of Student Life and Development.