

## **OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS**

<https://www.usm.edu/student-affairs/about-dean-students-office.php>

### **The District Policy**

Last updated July 2015

The University of Southern Mississippi celebrates 100 years of excellence, and for that century there has been The District. The historical District of Southern Miss has acted as a gathering place since the founding of the university. The District is the icon of Southern Miss heritage, traditions and memories. It is the home of our pride and the heartbeat of our cherished history.

The District has been touched by time and in ways that are unexplainable. It is where one can go to truly feel the spirit of the university. To participate in The District is to gain one's ownership of Southern Miss. It is the builder of loyalty and admiration.

The District represents an opportunity to take a walk in the Rose Garden, see the Dome at night, view the black-eyed Susans in the spring, admire the Eagle Walk in the fall, and hear voices cheering "Southern Miss to the Top!"

The importance of The District cannot be overstated. Current students, alumni and guests to the university have the responsibility to respect it, as have the hundreds of thousands who preceded them. No matter the year or what the next century might bring, there will always be one constant — The District at Southern Miss!

Three primary areas comprise The District:

1. The District "core" south of the Ogletree House
2. The District lawns adjacent to the Ogletree House and the Honor House

### **THE DISTRICT TAILGATING CODE OF CONDUCT**

- A. The District maintains a student- and alumni-centered focus with the basic understanding that all participants will respect the area and their fellow Golden Eagles while visiting.
- B. Tailgating in The District is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.
- C. Automobiles are prohibited from the grassy and tree-lined areas. Limited drop-off access is available at the west end of The District for quick delivery of tailgating essentials. However, at appropriate times, all vehicular traffic to The District will be prohibited to protect the safety of those gathered.

- D. All tents in The District should register with the safety and security booth identifying the name of the organization or individual sponsoring the tent. Due to the proximity of those assembled, 12' x 12' or smaller is an appropriate size for each tent.
- E. Lawn furniture only may be used. Residential furniture is not appropriate.
- F. Small, portable, single-unit grills are permitted. Open fires are prohibited. Professional, industrial and catering-style cookers are prohibited.
- G. Glass containers are prohibited.
- H. No animals are allowed in The District.
- I. The university alcohol policy remains in effect.
- J. For the respect and regard of all tailgating, amplified sound at an audible/volume detracting from others' experiences is prohibited at each respective tailgating area. The District will provide either a band or DJ for entertainment.
- K. Place all trash in its proper place.
- L. The university is not responsible for lost, stolen or misplaced items.
- M. The District opens at noon the day before a home game.
- N. Tailgating in The District will end by midnight on any given evening or as deemed necessary by university officials.
- O. All tailgating materials should be removed from The District within 24 hours after kickoff. A minimum of \$100 will be charged for material pickup.

The University Code of Conduct remains in effect at all times. Violations of The District policies will be managed by the Dean of Students office and the University Police Department.

Questions regarding The District should be directed to the Southern Miss Dean of Students office at 601.266.6028.

### **Institutional Policy on Hazing**

<https://www.usm.edu/institutional-policies/policy-stua-ds-010.php>

The University of Southern Mississippi is a state institution of higher education devoted to excellence in teaching, research and service to the people of the state. A part of that mission is fulfilled by the university's commitment to the development of students through academic and extracurricular activities. In keeping with its commitment to a positive academic environment, The University of Southern Mississippi has unconditionally opposed any situation created intentionally or unintentionally to produce mental, physical, psychological or emotional discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule.

The University of Southern Mississippi interprets hazing in a manner consistent with the Association of Fraternity Insurance Purchasing Group (FIPG) in its statement of hazing and pre-initiation activities. The University of Southern Mississippi follows all state and federal guidelines concerning hazing and any other behavior that could be interpreted as such. In essence, hazing shall include any or all of the following:

- A. Any willful act or practice by a member or new member directed against a member or new member that, with or without intent,
1. is likely, with reasonable possibility, to cause bodily harm or danger, offensive physical punishment or disturbing pain;
  2. is likely to (a) compromise the dignity of a member or new member, (b) cause embarrassment or shame to a member or new member in public, (c) cause a member or new member to be an object of malicious amusement or ridicule, (d) cause psychological harm or substantial emotional strain; or
  3. will, unreasonably or unusually impair a member's or new member's academic efforts.
- B. Any requirement that compels a member or new member to participate in any activity that is illegal, which is known by the compelling person or group to be contrary to the moral or religious beliefs of a member or new member, or that is contrary to any rules or regulations of this university, constitutes hazing. Hazing by individuals or organizations is strictly prohibited at The University of Southern Mississippi. Individuals and organizations both must be responsible for ensuring that all activities exclude any form of hazing. While chapter members may not be present at a new-member activity, it is still the chapter's responsibility to ensure the activity does not include hazing. It is important that chapters realize they are responsible for the new-member activities and are held accountable for hazing violations if they occur. In conjunction with the statement made by the Association of Fraternity Advisors, the following is a list of some fraternity activities considered to be hazing by The University of Southern Mississippi. These are only examples of some hazing activities and are not the only activities considered to be hazing. The University of Southern Mississippi follows all state and federal guidelines concerning hazing and any other behavior that could be interpreted as such.
- C. Any action taken or situation created intentionally, whether on or off fraternity premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment or ridicule constitutes hazing. Such activities may include, but are not limited to, the following: use of alcohol; paddling in any form; creation of excessive fatigue; physical and psychological shocks; quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips or any other such activities carried on outside or inside of the confines of the chapter house; wearing of public apparel that is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts and buffoonery; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; and any other such activities that are not consistent with academic achievement, fraternal law, ritual or policy, or the regulations and policies of the educational institution, or applicable state law

## **University Anti-Bullying Policy**

It is the policy of the University that no student, faculty or staff member should be subjected to bullying or harassing behavior by any other student, faculty or staff member. Furthermore, no person should engage in any act of reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness or anyone with information about an act of bullying or harassing behavior.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

“Bullying or harassing behavior” is defined as any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic, that takes place on any property owned or controlled by the University of Southern Mississippi, or during any activity in whatever place sponsored by, directed or controlled by the University of Southern Mississippi, and that also fulfills ONE of the following conditions:

- EITHER places a student, faculty or staff member in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property.
- OR creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student’s educational performance, opportunities or benefits.

“Hostile environment” is defined as the condition wherein the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior AND the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree it is bullying or harassing behavior.

“Suitable party” is defined as a person with responsibility to prevent bullying or harassing behavior within or during a particular activity, class, building or function. In the case of a student being subjected to bullying or harassing behavior a suitable party might be an instructor, residence hall staff, or a counselor. In the case of a faculty or staff member being subjected to bullying or harassing behavior a suitable party might be a Dean, Academic Chair, or a superior.