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Group Responsibility

The Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities applies to the behavior of recognized student organizations both on and off campus. Marshall University has established the following group responsibility policy to define organizations' responsibility for the actions of their members. This policy pertains, but is not limited, to incidents involving hazing, discrimination, vandalism, theft, alcohol or substance abuse, dishonesty, disorderly conduct, violence, misuse of organization or University funds and any other violations of the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

Upon registration or recognition, or application for recognition, by the University, each student organization becomes responsible for acting in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities and all other applicable University and community policies and standards. Official University action will be taken when the behavior of the members of a student organization violates community standards and interferes either with the University's educational purpose, or with its duty to protect individual health, welfare, and property.

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 in the four categories listed below. Student organizations may be held responsible for the acts of individual members,

- ✦ when a member of an organization is violating local, state, or federal law or University regulations and other members present, by failing to discourage such activity, tacitly condone the behavior;
- ✦ when the acts grow out of or are directly related to the student organization's activities or an environment created by the organization;
- ✦ when the acts are those of guests of an organization, or persons authorized or permitted to represent themselves as connected with the organization;
- ✦ when an organization places prospective members in a subordinated status prior to achieving full membership, or imposes any kind of probationary period prior to full membership, and hazing occurs.

In addition to the group being held culpable, members and officers may be cited and held responsible as individuals for their roles in any violations of the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

2005 – 2007 Student Handbook www.marshall.edu/student-affairs