

Hazing Prevention Consortium



Hazing Definitions Summary

University of Central Florida

Definition of Hazing:

The University does not condone hazing in any form and defines hazing to include but not limited to:

- a. Any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health and/or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or admission into, or association with, any organization operating under registration with the University.
- b. Brutality of a physical nature such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements; forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substances; or other forced elements; or other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental or physical health or safety of the individual.
- c. Any activity that could subject the individual to mental or physical stress such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced contact which could result in embarrassment, or any other activity that could adversely affect the mental or physical health or dignity of the individual.
- d. Forcing or requiring the violation of University policies, federal, state, or local law.
- e. Any activity, as described above, upon which the initiation or admission into or association with a University organization may be directly or indirectly conditioned, shall be presumed to be a "forced" activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such an activity notwithstanding.

This definition applies to acts conducted on or off campus whenever such acts are deemed to constitute hazing.

Source for the Above: <http://fsl.sdes.ucf.edu/docs/policies/Non%20Hazing%20Compliance.pdf>

Additional Information: <http://antihazing.sdes.ucf.edu/info>

University of Arizona

Definition:

"Hazing" means any intentional, knowing or reckless act committed by a student, whether individually or in concert with other persons, against another student, and in which both of the following apply:

1. The act was committed in connection with an initiation into, an affiliation with or the maintenance of membership in any organization that is affiliated with the University;
and
2. The act contributes to a substantial risk of potential physical injury, mental harm or degradation, or causes physical injury, mental harm or personal degradation.

Source for the above and additional information from site: <http://policy.arizona.edu/hazing>

Cornell University

Cornell Hazing Definition & Policy

According to the Cornell University Campus Code of Conduct (Article II.A.1.f)

"To haze another person, regardless of the person's consent to participate. Hazing means an act that, as an explicit or implicit condition for initiation to, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in a group or organization, (1) could be seen by a reasonable person as endangering the physical health of an individual or as causing mental distress to an individual through, for example, humiliating, intimidating, or demeaning treatment, (2) destroys or removes public or private property, (3) involves the consumption of alcohol or drugs, or the consumption of other substances to excess, or (4) violates any University policy."

Source: <https://www.gannett.cornell.edu/hazing/issues/laws/>

Additional Source: <https://hazing.cornell.edu/>

University of Virginia

Definition

“Hazing” refers to any activity that is expected or required of someone to join or maintain status within a group that humiliates, degrades, or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person’s willingness to participate. Often times, those initiating hazing practices consider them harmless pranks or comical antics – here at UVA, we do not see hazing this way.

Hazing means to recklessly or intentionally endanger the health or safety of a student or students or to inflict bodily injury on a student or students in connection with or for the purpose of initiation, admission into or affiliation with or as a condition for continued membership in a club, organization, association, fraternity, sorority, or student body regardless of whether the student or students so endangered or injured participated voluntarily in the relevant activity.

Source: <http://www.virginia.edu/hazing/what-is-hazing/>

Additional Source: <http://www.virginia.edu/hazing/resource/>

Lehigh University

What is Hazing?

Hazing is intentionally or unintentionally creating a situation that would cause and/or risk embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule; risks physical, emotional and/or mental harm to members or an organization or team, whether they are new or not, and regardless of the persons' willingness to participate.

Hazing is defined by the Code of Conduct as:

1. Hazing is any action taken or situation created, whether on or off campus, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Hazing includes but is not limited to any brutality of a physical nature, such as paddling, whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, or any other forced physical activity that would subject the individual to physical harm or mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which would adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual. Among prohibited activities are forced or coerced activities which create excessive fatigue; cause physical and psychological shocks; involve kidnapping; involve morally questionable quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, or any other such activities; involve publicly wearing apparel that is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; cause students to engage in public stunts and buffoonery, morally degrading or humiliating games and activities, or late night activities which interfere with scholastic activities. Also prohibited are any activities that are in violation of federal, state, or local laws, this Code of Conduct, or accepted standards of good taste or propriety. For purposes of this definition, any activity described in this paragraph upon which the admission into or affiliation with an organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be "forced or coerced" activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding. (University Conduct System; Article III- Expectations of Conduct)

Source: <http://studentaffairs.lehigh.edu/content/hawks-against-hazing>

Additional Source: <http://studentaffairs.lehigh.edu/content/councils>

University of Kentucky

Hazing

1. Hazing means any action or situation created by a member of the University Community against another member of the University Community for the purpose of affiliation with a group or organization that:
 - (a) Is negligent or reckless in nature;
 - (b) Is humiliating or endangers an individual; or
 - (c) Unreasonably interferes with scholastic or employment activities.

Source: <http://www.uky.edu/regs/files/ar/AR6-10.pdf>

Additional Source: <http://www.uky.edu/regs/updates.htm>

University of Maine

What is hazing?: refers to any activity expected of someone joining a group (or to maintain full status in a group) that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate (stophazing.org, 2005).

Source: <http://umaine.edu/studentlife/hazing/hazingdefinitions/>

OR

Hazing: Any activity without reasonable or legitimate educational value expected of someone joining a group or to maintain their status in a group that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional, psychological, and/or physical harm, regardless of a person's willingness to participate (hazingstudy.org). The definitions set forth by Maine state law and by the UMS are also adopted into this policy

Source: <http://umaine.edu/handbook/policies-regulations/hazing-policy/>

Additional Source: <http://umaine.edu/studentlife/hazing/>

Texas A & M University

Hazing Definitions:

Hazing refers to any activity expected of someone joining a group (or to maintain status in a group) that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. In years past, hazing practices were typically considered harmless pranks or comical antics associated with young men in college fraternities.

Today we know that hazing extends far beyond college fraternities and is experienced by boys/men and girls/women in school groups, camps, religious organizations, university organizations, athletic teams, the military, and other social and professional organizations. Hazing is a complex social problem that is shaped by power dynamics operating in a group and/or organization and within a particular cultural context.

Hazing is a process, based on a tradition that is used by groups to maintain a hierarchy (i.e., a pecking order) within the group. Regardless of consent, the activities require individuals to engage in situations which are physically and psychologically stressful.

Hazing activities are generally considered to be: physically abusive, hazardous, and/or sexually violating. The specific behaviors or activities within these categories vary widely among participants, groups and settings. While alcohol use is common in many types of hazing, other examples of typical hazing practices include: personal servitude; sleep deprivation and restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/rookies; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; brandings; physical beatings; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault.

These activities can be humiliating, demeaning, intimidating, and exhausting, all of which results in physical and/or emotional discomfort. Hazing is about group dynamics and proving one's worthiness to become a member of the specific group.

Hazing practices can quickly skid out of control and cause significant and lasting physical and/or psychological damage. When hazing occurs everyone in the group, including the perpetrators, (those who planned and carried out the actions) bystanders (those who watched and did not actively participate) and victims, (those who were receiving the hazing) may be psychologically traumatized. When hazing occurs, family members, friends, advisors, coaches and other supervisors may also be traumatized; even if they were not present during the hazing activities.

Source: <http://stophazing.tamu.edu/definitions>

Additional Sources: <http://stophazing.tamu.edu/rules-and-laws/student-rules>

<http://stophazing.tamu.edu/rules-and-laws/texas-law>

<http://stophazing.tamu.edu/definitions/hazing-examples>