

HAZING PREVENTION FOR RESIDENT ASSISTANTS

Understanding the Issue and the Ways
Resident Assistants (RAs) Can Help

WHO GETS HAZED?

"55% of college students involved in clubs, teams, and organizations experienced hazing."¹



WHAT IS HAZING?

"Hazing is any activity expected of someone joining or participating in a group that humiliates, degrades, abuses, or endangers them regardless of a person's willingness to participate."¹



WHICH GROUPS HAZE?

Hazing is often thought of as a problem specific to Greek Life, but any organization can haze its members. Hazing can occur in varsity athletic teams, social fraternities and sororities, club sports teams, performing arts organizations, service organizations, intramural teams, academic clubs, and honor societies.¹

HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO RESIDENT ASSISTANTS?

- 1.) RAs are community resources and have frequent student-facing interactions.
 - As residents spend more time in a community (with their RAs), their usual behaviors and mannerisms become more apparent. RAs can help identify change(s) in behavior.
- 2.) Students may be more comfortable sharing hazing incidents with peers.
 - RAs are fellow students, and those who have experienced hazing may feel safer confiding in an individual near their age.



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KEY TAKEAWAY

If you notice unusual student behaviors, the best course of action is to report it. Follow your instincts, and be willing to listen if a student comes to you.



BEHAVIORS TO LOOK OUT FOR

1.) Changes in personality or habits

- Are they more withdrawn than in previous interactions?
- Are they coming in or leaving the residence hall at odd or different hours?

2.) Changes in physical or mental health

- Is the student seeming to be consuming a change in amount of illicit substances?
- Does the student have injuries that they try to brush off?
- Do they seem more exhausted than usual?
- Does this change coincide with the student joining a new club or organization?

3.) Out-of-the-ordinary behaviors

- Is the student participating in a behavior that would be atypical for them (e.g., chanting publicly by themselves)?
- Are they wearing attire that is inappropriate for the weather?
- Is there an unusual object that they seem to always have in their possession (e.g., a pin, deck of cards, children's book)?



RESOURCE REFERRALS

If a student approaches you about their experience with hazing, consider the following resources:

1.) Campus Health & Well-being Resources

- Campus health and wellness services can provide students with support while processing the incident.

2.) Campus Safety

- Help students report an incident(s).
- Campus safety officers and safety reporters can help protect those who come forward to report hazing from retaliation.

REPORTING HAZING

There are several different ways to report hazing incidents, and it is important to recognize the resources your campus has made available. Further, when students approach you about hazing incidents, validate their decision to report, and remind them that this can help other students too.

1.) Use the campus hazing hotline

- Many campuses have a number to call to report incidents of hazing anonymously.
- Some campuses have an electronic form to anonymously report hazing behaviors.

2.) File an incident report

- If you notice unusual behaviors or a student discusses an incident with you, it is crucial to file an incident report.
 - Your campus may have an immunity clause that prevents those who report hazing incidents from getting in trouble with the Conduct Office.
- Follow up with your supervisor. There may be additional information to provide them.
- Check-in on the student after the report is filed and remind them reporting was the right choice!

3.) Connect with campus partners

- For concerns related to a specific organization, contact the associated office.
- Your supervisor may be a good resource to facilitate making campus connections.
 - Ex: Campus Activities, Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, Athletics Department, Club Sports

Learn more at
stophazing.org

