

Ways to Identify Hazing

Office of Student Activities and Leadership

Hazing Policy

University Statement Against Hazing:

It is the responsibility of all student organizations to encourage an atmosphere of learning, social responsibility, and respect for human dignity and to provide positive influence and constructive development for members and aspiring members. As such, these organizations are expected to utilize good judgment to determine the abilities of individual students as they relate to organizational activities and requirements. "Hazing" is an unproductive and hazardous custom that is incongruous with this responsibility and has no place in university life, either on or off campus. Hazing, as defined in this policy, is prohibited. Students and organizations that are found to have engaged in hazing may be disciplined in accordance with the University's disciplinary procedures.

The purpose of this policy is to define hazing and to provide guidelines with regard to hazing that student organizations and their members must follow.

Hazing is:

Hazing is defined as an intentional, knowing, or reckless action taken toward any student on or off campus by a student organization or any of its members, any students perceived to be members, or former members, to produce public humiliation, physical discomfort, bodily injury, or public ridicule; or to create a situation where public/private humiliation, physical discomfort, bodily injury, or public/private ridicule occurs.

The following are examples of actions that might constitute hazing. As it is impossible to anticipate every situation that could involve hazing, this list should not be considered to be all-inclusive.

- Paddling
- All forms of physical activity which are used to harass or which are not a part of an organized athletic contest and not specifically directed toward constructive work (may include forced running, push-ups, calisthenics, etc.)
- Requiring a particular group to "line up" or walk a particular way
- Expecting members to use separate entrances to facilities such as a house, gym or building
- Requiring members to carry items such as rocks, coins, paddles, books, food, chains, athletic equipment, bricks, etc.

- Road trips (involuntary excursions or “kidnapping” of members)
- Confining another in any room or compartment
- Spraying, painting, or pelting another with any substance
- Burying in any substance
- Requiring or compelling others to engage in activities creating unnecessary work, duties, detention, or any duties which impair academic efforts
- Requiring or compelling exposure to uncomfortable elements
- Verbal harassment
- Requiring or compelling the wearing, in public, of apparel which is not in good taste (this could include clothing that is embarrassing or identical in nature)
- Requiring or compelling the forced consumption of any liquid or solid substance
- Depriving students of sufficient sleep (six consecutive hours per day is normally considered to be a minimum)
- Preventing or restricting class attendance or employment requirements
- Mandating any sorts of personal servitude
- Scavenger hunts or any activity which requires members to search for various items around a location in a certain amount of time
- Burning, branding, or tattooing any part of the body; or any other activity, whether voluntary or involuntary, which may cause physical injury or endanger the life of the individual being hazed.

Psychological hazing, which is defined as any act which is likely to:

(a) encourage or intimidate a student to subject her/himself to any activity that could be defined as hazing,

(b) cause embarrassment or shame to a member or pledge, cause a member or pledge to be the object of malicious amusement or ridicule, or

(c) cause psychological harm or substantial emotional strain.

Initiation and Induction Into Student Organizations

The initiation and induction of students into student organizations shall be in a manner consistent with the purpose stated in section A above and shall not include any form of hazing, as defined in section C.

Responsibility

The vice president for student services and dean of students or the vice president's designated representative is the university official who has primary responsibility for administering this policy.

Relationship of This Policy to the Code of Virginia

The “Code of Virginia,” Section 18.2-56, which declares hazing illegal, establishes conditions for civil and criminal liability and outlines the duties of the University when an individual student has been found guilty of hazing. It is hereby incorporated as part of this policy and will serve as a guide for action by the University when hazing results in bodily injury.

Definition of “Student Organization”

For the purpose of this policy, “student organization” is defined as an organization classified as departmental interest, general fraternity, general sorority, honorary, political, professional, religious, service, special governing board, special interest, athletic, or any other organizations with student membership.

For additional information, please refer to the [Old Dominion University Student Handbook](#).

Please contact the Office of Student Activities & Leadership if you would like to report incidents of hazing or have other questions about hazing.