

HAZING MYTHS

Myth: Hazing only exists in fraternities and sororities.

Reality: Hazing incidents have occurred across the country in athletic teams, military units, performing arts groups, religious groups, and other types of clubs and organizations. Hazing occurs in high schools as well as on college campuses.

Myth: If someone agrees to participate in an activity, it can not be considered hazing.

Reality: In states that have laws against hazing, consent of the victim can not be used as a defense. This is because even if someone agrees to participate in a potentially hazardous action, it may not be true consent because of peer pressure, intentional or unintentional threats, and the withholding of information about what will occur.

Myth: Since alumni and current members were hazed it is only fair that the new members go through it too.

Reality: "Tradition" does not justify subjecting new members to abuse. Traditions are created by groups, and groups hold the power to change or eliminate them.

Myth: Hazing is really just a prank that goes wrong.

Reality: Accidents can happen during hazing, but hazing is not accidental. It is premeditated abuse that can be emotionally traumatic, physically dangerous, or even life-threatening.

Myth: Hazing only "a little bit" is not really that bad.

Reality: While there are more and less severe forms of hazing, even low level hazing crosses the line. Even a "little" hazing can have an unintended negative impact on new members. And if the action meets the definition of hazing, the group **WILL** get in trouble if caught.

Data From: StopHazing.org

CONTACTS & RESOURCES

Office of Student Involvement & Leadership
Fraternity & Sorority Life
518-442-5566

University Police Department
518-442-3131

Conflict Resolution & Civic Responsibility
518-442-5501

University Counseling Center
518-442-5800

Middle Earth Peer Assistance Hotline
518-442-5777

Office of Campus Recreation
518-442-2627

Department of Athletics
518-442-2562

Department of Residential Life
518-442-5875

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Gordie.org

HazingPrevention.org

Hazingstudy.org

StopHazing.org



UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

State University of New York

HAZING

- ✓ RECOGNIZE IT
- ✓ HELP STOP IT

WHAT EVERY

STUDENT

SHOULD KNOW



HAZING LAWS

HAZING IS AGAINST THE LAW

New York State Penal Law, Chapter 716, Section 1
(effective November 1, 1988)

120.16: Hazing in the first degree:

A person is guilty of hazing in the first degree when, in the course of another person's initiation into or affiliation with any organization, he intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person and thereby causes such injury.

(Hazing in the first degree is a class A misdemeanor)

120.17: Hazing in the second degree:

A person is guilty of hazing in the second degree when, in the course of another person's initiation or affiliation with any organization, he intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person.

(Hazing in the second degree is a violation)

HAZING IS A VIOLATION OF THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Hazing is addressed in the Student Code of Conduct and all students who take part in a hazing activity, in any capacity, including willing participation, will be held accountable.

CHECK BEFORE YOU JOIN

Before you consider joining a group or organization be sure it is recognized by the University. To check, contact the Office of Student Involvement & Leadership at 518-442-5566 or online at albany.edu/involvement. You can also view all recognized student groups, fraternities, and sororities on MyInvolvement.org.

82% of deaths from hazing involve alcohol

✓ RECOGNIZE IT

WHAT IS HAZING?

Hazing is any reckless or intentional conduct in connection with the initiation into, or affiliation with, any organization which degrades, humiliates or endangers the mental or physical health of any person, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. It can also include activities that damage, destroy or remove any public or private property. Hazing is a premeditated act of power and control over others and is considered victimization. It is abusive and often life-threatening. Soliciting, directing, aiding or otherwise participating, actively or passively, in such activities constitutes hazing. In addition, apathy or acquiescence in the presence of hazing is not a neutral act and is considered approval of the hazing behavior.

STILL CONFUSED? ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS:

Am I being asked to keep these activities a secret?

Does participation violate my values or those of my organization?

Is it causing emotional distress or stress of any kind to myself or others?

Do I feel pressure to participate in order to be accepted into the organization?

STAND UP! » TAKE ACTION

visit: albany.edu/stophazing

✓ HELP STOP IT

DO SOMETHING!

If you or someone you know has experienced or witnessed hazing, you can help yourself, your friend, or an organization by taking action to help stop and prevent future occurrences. The first step is to report observations directly or confidentially either via the web or phone.

✓ **To report an emergency dial 911 from any phone**

✓ **To report directly to police:**

Albany City Police...518-438-4000 or text "APDTips" to the anonymous tip line at 847411 (Tip411)

University Police...518-442-3131 or submit anonymous report at http://police.albany.edu/crime_report.shtml

✓ **To confidentially report via the web:** albany.edu/stophazing

✓ **To confidentially report via phone:** Office of Student Involvement & Leadership at 518-442-5566