

State of Texas Definition of Hazing

Hazing is defined as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization if the act:



State of Texas Definition of Hazing (cont.)

(A) Any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of harmful substances on the body, or similar activity;

(B) Involves sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other similar activity that subjects the students to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;



State of Texas Definition of Hazing (cont.)

(C) involves consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance, other than as described in Paragraph (E), that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of that student;

(D) Is any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the penal code; or



State of Texas Definition of Hazing (cont.)

(E) Involves coercing, as defined by Section 1.07, Penal Code, the student to consume:

(i) A Drug; or

(II) An alcoholic beverage or liquor in an amount that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student is intoxicated, as defined by Section 49.01, Penal Code.



UT Dallas Policy on Hazing

UT Dallas has a zero-tolerance policy on hazing. The University neither tolerates, excuses or acknowledges hazing, i.e., “it was just a little hazing.”

In an effort to encourage the reporting of hazing incidents, the law grants immunity from civil or criminal liability to any person who reports a specific hazing event and immunizes that person from participation in any judicial proceedings resulting from that report.

UT Dallas Community Standards: <https://conduct.utdallas.edu/hazing/>



National Data on Hazing

Reported being hazed:

74% of varsity athletes

73% of Fraternity/Sorority members

64% of club sports members

56% of performing arts members

28% of academic organization members

20% of honor society members

25% of students believed an advisor or coach knew of hazing

47% of students arrive at college having experienced at least one hazing incident



State Hazing Penalties

*Criminal penalties for **failure to report** include a fine of up to \$2,000, up to 180 days jail time or both*

*Penalties for **other hazing offenses** vary according to the severity of the injury:*

Range from \$500- \$10,000 in fines

Up to two years confinement

*Civil penalties for **failure to report**: an individual can be personally sued, and wages garnished, if found guilty.*

Criminal charges and university sanctions may be applied to both the individual and the student organization for hazing offenses.



Potential UT Dallas Penalties

Individual Discipline

The Community Standards and Conduct Office may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of violating the hazing prohibition policy.

Organizational Discipline

The Community Standards and Conduct Office may also initiate disciplinary proceedings against an organization accused of violating hazing prohibition policy.

Criminal and Civil Liability

Through the criminal process, the District Attorney's office can investigate and press charges against the organization and the individual(s). Through civil process, individuals can be sued as an organization and as individuals.



Examples of Hazing

Subtle Hazing

Requiring new members to perform duties not assigned to other members
Calisthenics such as push-ups, or any form of physical exercise
Sleep deprivation
Confinement in a small space

Harassment Hazing

Interrogation
Yelling or screaming
Personal servitude or chores
Lineup for the purpose of interrogation, demeaning or intimidation
Wearing of embarrassing or uncomfortable clothing
Assigning pranks such as stealing, painting objects or harassing other organizations

Violent Hazing

Capturing or kidnapping
Total or partial nudity at any time
Pushing, shoving, tackling or any other physical contact
Forced consumption of any liquid or food
Paddling or whipping swats



What about consenting to hazing activities?

Texas Law

Sec.37.154 states that Consent is NOT a Defense: “It is not a defense to prosecution for the offense under this sub-chapter that the person against whom the hazing was directed consented to or acquiesced in the hazing activity.”

University Policy

The fact that a person consented to or acquiesced in a hazing activity not a defense to prosecution for hazing under the law.



Recognize – Identify - Do Something

Recognize the Existence of Hazing

You Must be able to name the problem to begin to change it

Educate yourself on the common indications of hazing:

Excessive fatigue

Appearing disheveled

Wearing odd clothing

Interpret The Practices as a Problem

Something that may seem silly or stupid to you, may be harmful and illegal as its realities to the hazing policies of The University and Texas State Law

Remember, if you are aware of hazing practices and do not report them, you can be held accountable under the law.

Responsibility To Do Something

Empower yourself and your organization members to tell someone if they believe hazing is occurring

Educate yourself and your organization about the consequences that surround any involvement in hazing activities

Is it worth it for your organization's reputation to continue hazing?



Know what to do

If you are being hazed:

- Stay connected with friends outside of the group
- Talk with others about what you are going through
- Seek guidance from your parents/ guardians or other family members
- Refuse to participate
- Leave the group
- Report hazing to campus authorities

If a friend is being hazed:

- Tell the person that you are concerned
- Ask your friend what they had to do as part of joining the group
- If you suspect that your friend is being hazed, but they won't say so, ask if there are things going on that they are not supposed to talk about. If that is the case, it's very likely that the person is being hazed
- Let your friend know that it's okay to withdraw from an organization at any point
- Offer your support
- Let your friend know what resources are available

Know what to do

If your organization hazes:

Raise your concern with other members that you trust

If the group has relationships with alumni members, seek their support

Frame your argument at multiple levels

Offer ideas for alternatives to hazing

Give examples of groups that have developed strong, non-hazing new member programs

REPORTING OBLIGATION

Must Report:

If you believe you have been subjected to hazing

If you have knowledge of hazing activities

Note: No person is required to report hazing to the alleged offender

University Resources

If you become aware of, or were subjected to hazing, please report the incident to any of the following

Fraternity and Sorority Life

- [FSL contact page](#)
- 972-883-6173
- fsl@utdallas.edu

Office of Community Standards & Conduct

- [OCSC Contact page](#)
- 972-883-6330
- ocsc@utdallas.edu

Dean of Students Office

- [Dean of Student Contact page](#)
- 972-883-6391
- dos@utdallas.edu

UTD Police Department

In an emergency, dial 911 immediately
972-883-2222

Student Counseling Center

- [UTD Counseling Center contact](#)
- 972-883-2575
- counselingcenter@utdallas.edu

UTD 24/7 Talk Line

[24/7 Crisis Hotline](#)
972-UTD-TALK (972-883-8255)