



HAZING PREVENTION: WHAT THE STOP CAMPUS HAZING ACT MEANS

for OU Students

WHAT IS THE STOP CAMPUS HAZING ACT?

The "Stop Campus Hazing Act" is a new federal law passed in December 2024 that strengthens the fight against hazing on college campuses. At OU, this means hazing is now considered a federal crime in addition to being a state crime and a clear violation of university policy. The act is designed to protect you and your peers by introducing new requirements for transparency, accountability, and prevention. Its goal is to make sure you can participate in campus life safely and without fear of harm.

WHAT IS HAZING?

The law defines hazing as any act, whether you agree to it or not, that causes or risks physical or psychological harm. This includes any action during initiation, affiliation, or to maintain membership in a student organization (like a club, athletic team, fraternity, or sorority, RSO). See the full definition in the [OU Hazing Policy](#).

Some examples of prohibited hazing include:

- Pressure to consume alcohol, drugs, foods, drinks, etc.
- Forced sleep deprivation, isolation, or physical punishment
- Sexual acts or simulated behavior meant to embarrass or endanger
- Forced spending or charging unapproved dues or costs

Hazing is about creating a situation where a person is put in a position of risk for the sake of a group or organization. It's strictly prohibited at OU.

WHAT ARE THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT?

This new federal law is changing how we prevent and address hazing on campus. Here's what you need to know:

1. **Mandatory Reporting**

Anyone in the OU community who is told about, witnesses, or suspects hazing must report it.

2. **Publicly Sharing Hazing Violations**

OU is required to publish the Campus Hazing Transparency Report (CHTR) twice per year. This report promotes accountability and awareness by publicly listing organizations found responsible for hazing. The report, located on the [Stop Hazing website](#), includes the organization name, the violation description, and the sanctions imposed.

3. **Provided Prevention Education & Training**

OU is required to provide hazing prevention and education programming. All incoming students will receive training during Camp Crimson or via online trainings. Students and student organizations can request a customized training session any time through the [Office of Advocacy and Education](#). Additionally, you're encouraged to read this entire informational handout to fully understand what hazing is and how you can help prevent it.

4. **Clear Definitions of Hazing & Student Organization**

The law provides standardized definitions, so there's no confusion about what constitutes hazing or a student organization.

5. **Online Disclosure of Hazing Policies and Violations**

Policies, violations, and so much more can be found on the [Stop Hazing website](#).

WHAT YOU ARE EXPECTED TO DO?

As a student, you are a vital part of creating a safe campus culture. Here's how you can help:

Be a Reporter

If you witness, experience, or hear about hazing, you are expected to report it immediately. Reports can be made through one of the reporting resources outlined below. Reports should include a detailed description of the events that transpired, names of any individuals involved, and if applicable, a description of any actions taken by the student organization, club, college, department, or university program.

a. Hazing Reporting Form:

- i. Report alleged violations of the Stop Campus Hazing Act and University hazing policy – All Campuses: https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.phpUnivofOklahoma&layout_id=0

b. Student Conduct Incident Reporting Form:

- i. Report alleged violations by OU students of the Code of Conduct – All Campuses: <https://www.ou.edu/studentconduct/report-an-incident>

c. OU Report It!:

- i. Report concerns or possible misconduct:
 - 1. OU Norman Campus and OU Online: <https://ou.ethicspoint.com/>
 - 2. OU Health Sciences Campus and Additional Sites: <https://ouhsc.ethicspoint.com/>
 - 3. OU-Tulsa Campus: <https://outulsa.ethicspoint.com>

d. Institutional Equity Reporting Form:

- i. Report alleged student, faculty or staff issues related to Title IX – All Campuses: https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofOklahoma&layout_id=10

e. Campus Security Authority Reporting Form:

- i. Campus Security Authorities may use this form to report alleged Clery Act crimes, including hazing, to OUPD – All Campuses: <https://www.ou.edu/clery/reporting>

f. Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) Reporting Form:

- i. Report a student, faculty or staff member that may be in distress:
 - 1. Norman Campus: <https://www.ou.edu/normanbit>
 - 2. Health Sciences Campus: <https://ouhsc.edu/bit>
 - 3. OU-Tulsa Campus: <https://www.ou.edu/tulsastudentaffairs/resources/bit>

Be an Active Bystander

If you see a situation that doesn't feel right, you have the power to intervene safely.

We call them the 3 Ds:

- **Direct:** Step in and directly address the situation.
- **Distract:** Create a distraction to de-escalate the situation and give the potential victim a way out.
- **Delegate:** Find someone in authority to help, such as a student leader, staff member, or even campus police.

Remember, if you're an officer, leader, or coach of a group, failing to prevent or intervene in a hazing incident is a violation of university policy.

Practice Ethical Leadership

True leadership is about building a positive, non-hazing culture based on respect and trust. It's about transforming your group's culture to prioritize the well-being and dignity of all members. Here's why ethical leadership is key to preventing hazing:

- **Builds a Strong Foundation:** It focuses on values like respect and dignity, which are the building blocks of a healthy group.
- **Creates Positive Norms:** You set an example that encourages others to act with integrity.
- **Empowers Everyone:** It develops leaders and bystanders, so everyone feels they have a role in keeping the group safe.
- **Fosters Trust:** When members trust their leaders, they're more likely to speak up and address issues.

Build Strong Groups without Hazing

You may have heard that hazing strengthens group bonds, but research shows this isn't true—it often has negative consequences. Instead, focus on strategies that truly build group cohesion and reinforce your group's values. Here are some positive ways to build strong bonds:

- **Create a Shared Purpose:** Work together on a meaningful project or goal.
- **Build Psychological Safety:** Make sure everyone feels safe to be themselves and share their ideas without fear of judgment.
- **Use Positive Traditions:** Create rituals and traditions that are fun, meaningful, and inclusive.
- **Encourage Connection:** Plan social activities that allow members to get to know each other in a positive way.
- **Practice Inclusive Leadership:** Encourage new members to step up and take on leadership roles.
- **Resolve Conflict Proactively:** Address disagreements with respect and open communication.

For more information on hazing prevention strategies and reporting, visit ou.edu/stop-hazing.



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A REPORT IS MADE?

When a hazing report is received, OU will conduct a fair and impartial investigation in accordance with university policy. If the investigation confirms that hazing occurred, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. Any student organization found responsible will be publicly listed on the Stop Hazing website in the campus hazing transparency report.

In accordance with the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act, all hazing reports are shared with the OU Police Department (OUPD) for inclusion in the daily crime log. They are also reviewed to determine if a serious threat to campus safety exists. If a threat is confirmed, the university may issue a Timely Warning Notification to the campus community. These actions are taken to ensure the safety and well-being of the entire campus community.

DEFINITIONS

1. **Hazing**

Hazing is any act or activity that is:

- a. Intentional, knowing, or reckless, and
- b. Committed or coerced by a person (alone or with others) regardless of rank, role, or university employment status, and
- c. Is committed against another person or people regardless of their willingness to participate that:
 - i. Is committed during an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in, a Student Organization/University Program; and
 - ii. Causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or a Student Organization/University Program (such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team), of physical or psychological injury including but not limited to:
 1. Physical Contact: Includes hitting, paddling, whipping, beating, striking, kicking, slapping, electronic shocking, branding/burning, placing harmful substance on a person's body, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, sleep deprivation, forced consumption of any food or substance, or other similar activities.
 2. Mental Harm: Involves psychological harm such as humiliation, intimidation/placing a person in reasonable fear of harm, threats, social isolation, sleep deprivation, confinement in a space, exposure to the elements, use of blindfolds, or other similar activities.
 3. Forced Consumption: Requires, encourages, or coerces the consumption of alcohol, drugs, food, or any other substance.
 4. Alcohol or Drug Misuse: Involves use of alcohol or drugs.
 5. Sexual Activities: Includes any sexually oriented activity that humiliates, degrades, endangers, or threatens a student including, but not limited to, sexual assault, sexual battery, indecent exposure, forced or coerced sexual contact with another person, forced or coerced simulated sexual activity, sexting, or other similar activities.

6. Financial Obligations: Requires a person to pay dues or fees, or requires or coerces individuals to purchase items or assume financial obligations, beyond those approved by the University for membership in a. Student Organization/University Program
7. Violation of University Policy or Law: Involves any activity that violates, or forces or coerces another to violate, university policies or local, state, tribal, or federal laws.

1. Student Organization

For the purposes of this policy, Student Organization is defined as an organization at the University in which two or more of the members are enrolled students at the University – whether or not the organization is established or recognized by the University – including clubs, societies, associations, athletic teams, club sports teams, Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) including fraternities and sororities, bands, or student government.

2. University Program

For the purposes of this policy, University Program is defined as any group, area, unit, organization, or department/office at the University in which two or more of the members are employed at the University – whether or not the program is established or recognized by the University – including clubs, societies, or associations.

OKLAHOMA ANTI-HAZING LAW

Title 21, Section 1190 Oklahoma Statutes

A. No student organization or any person associated with any organization sanctioned or authorized by the governing board of any public or private school or institution of higher education in this state shall engage or participate in hazing.

B. Any hazing activity described in subsection F of this section upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with an organization sanctioned or authorized by a public or private school or by any institution of higher education in this state is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be a forced activity, even if the student willingly participates in such activity.

C. A copy of the policy or the rules and regulations of the public or private school or institution of higher education which prohibits hazing shall be given to each student enrolled in the school or institution and shall be deemed to be part of the bylaws of all organizations operating at the public school or the institution of higher education.

D. Any organization sanctioned or authorized by the governing board of a public or private school or of an institution of higher education in this state which violates subsection A of this section, upon conviction, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and may be punishable by a fine of not more than One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) and the forfeit for a period of not less than one (1) year all of the rights and privileges of being an organization organized or operating at the public or private school or at the institution of higher education.

E. Any individual convicted of violating the provisions of subsection A of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and may be punishable by imprisonment for not to exceed ninety (90) days in the county jail, or by the imposition of a fine not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by both such imprisonment and fine.

F. For purposes of this section:

1. "Hazing" means an activity which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization operating subject to the sanction of the public or private school or of any institution of higher education in this state;
2. "Endanger the physical health" shall include but not be limited to any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, alcoholic beverage as defined in Section 506 of Title 37 of the Oklahoma Statutes, low-point beer as defined in Section 163.2 of Title 37 of the Oklahoma Statutes, drug, controlled dangerous substance, or other substance, or any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual; and
3. "Endanger the mental health" shall include any activity, except those activities authorized by law, which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as prolonged sleep deprivation, forced prolonged exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual.

