

# HAZING

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What is it and how it affects you.

## Myths and Facts About Hazing

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- ❑ **Myth #1:** Hazing is a problem for fraternities and sororities primarily.
  - ❑ **Fact:** *Hazing is a societal problem. Hazing incidents have been frequently documented in the military, athletic teams, marching bands, religious cults, professional schools and other types of clubs and/or, organizations. Reports of hazing activities in high schools are on the rise.*
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## Myths and Facts

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- ❑ **Myth #2:** It's difficult to determine whether or not a certain activity is hazing--it's such a gray area sometimes.
  - ❑ **Fact:** *It's not difficult to decide if an activity is hazing if you use common sense and ask yourself the following questions:*
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## What is Hazing?

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- ✓ Is alcohol involved?
  - ✓ Will active or current group members refuse to participate in what new members are being asked to do?
  - ✓ Does the activity risk emotional or physical abuse?
  - ✓ Is there a risk of injury or a question of safety?
  - ✓ Will the participant discuss the activity with a parent, professor, University official, or the police?
  - ✓ Would you object to the activity being photographed for newspaper or TV?
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## NCAA Definition

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"Any activity expected of someone joining a group that humiliates, degrades, abuses or endangers regardless of the person's willingness to participate. This does not include activities such as rookies carrying the balls, team parties with community games, or going out with your team mates, unless an atmosphere of humiliation, degradation, abuse or danger arises."



## More Myths and Facts

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- ❑ **Myth #3:** If someone agrees to participate in an activity, it can't be considered hazing.
  - ❑ **Fact:** *In states that have laws against hazing consent of the victim can't be used as a defense in a civil suit. This is because even if someone agrees to participate in a potentially hazardous action it may not be true consent when considering the peer pressure and desire to belong to the group.*
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## Hypothetical Situation

Monday, September 28th was initiation night for the Water Frisbee Sport Club at Iowa Overland University - good Ole IOU. John, a freshman, was trying to become a member of the team and was now going to be put through the tasks and events to see if he was worthy of being called a "team member" by the others. For the next few hours John would be humiliated and degraded by his future teammates.

John was taken to one of the team member's homes where he was handcuffed to a radiator. While there he was forced to consume large volumes of alcohol resulting in his becoming sick. John was then taken upstairs where he was handcuffed to a toilet. He managed to break loose from the handcuffs and escaped down a third story window and attempted to slide down a drain pipe, when he fell and sustained serious injuries. As a result John sued the University, the sports club and the individual members. He claimed that the University was aware of these types of initiations and had a responsibility to prevent them from occurring.

- Was such conduct hazing or good natured fun?
- Who determines whether or not the acts constitute hazing?
- Can the University be responsible for an incident that took place off campus?
- Can the individual members be responsible?

## Washington State Laws

### § 28B.10.900

- "hazing" includes any method of initiation into a student organization or living group, or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such an organization or living group that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm, or serious mental or emotional harm, to any student or other person attending a public or private institution of higher education or other postsecondary educational institution in this state. "Hazing" does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions.

## Washington State Laws

### § 28B.10.901

- No student, or other person in attendance at any public or private institution of higher education, or any other postsecondary educational institution, may conspire to engage in hazing or participate in hazing of another.
- Any organization, association, or student living group that knowingly permits hazing is strictly liable for harm caused to persons or property resulting from hazing. If the organization, association, or student living group is a corporation whether for profit or nonprofit, the individual directors of the corporation may be held individually liable for damages.

## Washington State Laws

### § 28B.10.902

- A person who participates in the hazing of another shall forfeit any entitlement to state-funded grants, scholarships, or awards for a period of time determined by the institution of higher education.
- Any organization, association, or student living group that knowingly permits hazing to be conducted by its members or by others subject to its direction or control shall be deprived of any official recognition or approval granted by a public institution of higher education.

## Western Student Code

### 516-23-320

- Hazing is defined as any act by members of a student organization or individuals which endangers, or is likely to endanger, the mental or physical health or safety of a student, for the purpose of initiation, affiliation with, and as a condition for continued membership and/or participation in an activity, a group or university organization. This includes violation of laws and the destruction or removal of public or private property as requested by a student group or activity.

## Even More Myths and Facts

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- ❑ **Myth #4:** Hazing is no more than foolish pranks that sometimes go awry.
  - ❑ **Fact: *Hazing is an act of power and control over others*** --- *it is victimization. Hazing is pre-meditated and NOT accidental. Hazing is abusive, degrading and often life-threatening.*
  - ❑ **Myth #5:** Hazing is an effective way to teach respect and develop discipline.
  - ❑ **Fact: *First of all, respect must be EARNED--not taught. Victims of hazing rarely report having respect for those who have hazed them. Just like other forms of victimization, hazing breeds mistrust, apathy and alienation.***
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## Hazing and Drinking

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- ❑ Hazing + Drinking = Severe Consequences
  - ❑ A research report by Rutledge indicates that 90% of all hazing deaths involve extreme alcohol consumption
  - ❑ The average number of hazing deaths in the US has increased by 500% since the 1970s
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## How do we stop this behavior?

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1. Establish a strong policy that is consistent on your campus with other institutional rules and student conduct code.
  2. Provide educational programs that are mandatory for team leaders.
  3. Address and make participants aware of individual criminal and civil liability and the collateral consequences that accompany such behavior.
  4. Work to reduce "binge" or "risk" drinking.
  5. Stay informed and be aware of activities and provide adequate advising and monitoring for events.
  6. Provide adequate sanctions for those who violate rules and regulations.
  7. Offer alternative methods of initiation rights, encourage all members to participate in community building activities.
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