

## Hazing Information and Resources

There are many positive methods for building unity, loyalty, and trust within a group. Hazing is NOT one of them. Although some might argue that hazing builds respect and discipline, research demonstrates that the results are most often apathy, alienation, and mistrust. Hazing is inconsistent with the ideals of Trinity University, as well as the stated principles of every single one of its student organizations. Trinity defines “hazing” as

*“any reckless or intentional act, occurring on or off campus, that produces physical, mental, or emotional pain, discomfort, humiliation, embarrassment, or ridicule directed toward other students or groups (regardless of their willingness to participate), that is required or expected of new members and which is not related to the mission of the team, group, or organization. This includes any activity, whether it is presented as optional or required, that places a new member in a position of servitude as a condition of membership. Prohibited acts of hazing include those covered under Texas State Law.”*

Though it would be impossible to list all behavior that could be deemed to be hazing, the following are some typical examples of hazing and are prohibited:

1. Any physical act of violence expected of, or inflicted upon, another
2. Any physical activity expected of, or inflicted upon, another, including calisthenics
3. Pressure or coercion of another to consume any legal or illegal substance (including food)
4. Making available unlawful substances
5. Excessive fatigue or sleep deprivation as a result of any activities
6. Forced exposure to the weather
7. Kidnapping, forced road trips, and abandonment
8. Required carrying of or possessing of a specific item or items
9. Any physical act of violence expected of, or inflicted upon, another
10. Any physical activity expected of, or inflicted upon, another, including calisthenics
11. Pressure or coercion of another to consume any legal or illegal substance (including food)
12. Making available unlawful substances
13. Excessive fatigue or sleep deprivation as a result of any activities
14. Forced exposure to the weather
15. Kidnapping, forced road trips, and abandonment
16. Required carrying of or possessing of a specific item or items

Alleged violations of this policy will result in campus judicial action and may be subject to criminal prosecution. Any retaliation against any person who reports, is a witness to, or is involved with or cooperates with the adjudication of hazing is strictly prohibited.

### **A person commits an offense if the person:**

1. Engages in hazing;
2. Solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another in engaging in hazing;
3. Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly permits hazing to occur; or
4. Has firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident involving a student in an educational institution, or firsthand knowledge that a specific hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fails to report said knowledge in writing to the Dean of Students or other appropriate officials of the institution.

### **An organization commits an offense if the organization:**

Condone or encourages hazing or if an officer or any combination of active members, new members, or alumni of the organization commits or assists in the commission of hazing.

### **What to look for:**

Trust your common sense. Ask yourself if the tasks at hand are inconsistent with your own character, if they are abusive, or if the activities will cause embarrassment. If the answer is yes, it is most likely hazing. If the active members of the organization are not willing to participate in the same activity asked of its new members, it is most likely hazing. If you are too ashamed to conduct the activity in front of your parents, friends, or unaffiliated peers, then it is most likely hazing. Whatever the nature or severity of hazing, it is wrong and it is illegal.