

The University of Maryland and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (OFSL) believe all aspiring members of all fraternities and sororities should have a meaningful pre-initiation experience that will guide the work they will complete as active members of the Greek community. However, we do not believe this experience should include activities that degrade, manipulate, violate, or subject someone to physical harm. Prior to, or during, any intake/new member period, members of the intake group/orientation group/new member class or the chapter are strongly encouraged to bring any questionable activities to the attention of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

The following section provides the university's definition of hazing, a list of examples, possible sanctions for participation in such events, and contact information for university officials who need to know if a situation of this type has occurred. The items listed below are examples of stereotypical activities considered to be hazing by the University of Maryland, the Pan-Hellenic Council, United Greek Council, Interfraternity Council, and Panhellenic Association. The list is not all-inclusive, thus there may be items that are not listed that would be considered acts of hazing in certain circumstances. We have provided the items below as a guide to help all candidates for membership gain an understanding of how hazing is defined on this campus and how cases of this nature are handled by the university.

University of Maryland Hazing Policy

Hazing is strictly prohibited on this campus and is considered a fundamental violation of human dignity. The University defines hazing as "intentionally or recklessly subjecting any person to the risk of bodily harm, or severe emotional distress, or causing or encouraging any person to commit an act that would be a violation of law or university regulations, for the purposes of initiating, promoting, fostering, or confirming any form of affiliation with a student group or organization, as defined by the Code of Student Conduct. The express or implied consent of the victim will not be a defense.

Examples of Hazing Activities

- Any type of unusual or potentially harmful physical contact
- The use of physical force
- Paddling
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages during recruitment/intake activity
- Forced consumption or required eating of food/beverages
- Interference with academic pursuit, normal rest hours, employment, and family responsibilities
- Forced calisthenics/exercise of any kind
- Servitude
- Sleep deprivation
- Indecent exposure
- Wearing or carrying any unusual object that may cause undue attention and/or potentially harmful objects
- Road trips or kidnapping of pledges/new members/aspirants
- Subjecting pledge/new member/aspirant to extremely loud or repetitious music
- Throwing objects at pledge/new member/aspirant
- Putting pledges/new members/aspirants in a room which is uncomfortable in terms of noise, temperature, size, etc.
- Abusive language or yelling directed at pledges/new members/aspirants
- Forced tattooing or branding
- The use of blindfolds
- The wearing of uniformed clothing or abnormal clothing

Penalties for Hazing

Aggravated violations of this policy (as defined in Part 2 (a) of the Code of Student Conduct) can result in **suspension or expulsion from the University for some, or all of those involved, denial of recognition or registration for a student organization, and/or revocation, suspension, or expulsion of a student organization.** Individuals who participate in acts of hazing are personally accountable under this policy and the Code of Student Conduct regardless of the outcome of any related case brought against a student group or organization.

Reporting

All members of the university community share the responsibility to challenge and make known to the Office of Student Conduct acts of apparent hazing. Apathy in the presence of hazing, or acquiescence to hazing are not neutral acts. Individuals who participate in acts of hazing as perpetrators or victims are personally accountable under the Hazing Policy, and the Code of Student Conduct.

Contacts:

Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life:

(301) 314-7172

Student Conduct:

(301) 314-8204

University Police:

(301) 405-3333

Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life Hazing Hotline:

(240) 432-6053 (Duty Phone)

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Code 1957, Art. 27, s 268H**

**ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND
CODE OF 1957
ARTICLE 27. CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS.
I CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS
Hazing**

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Current through End of 1997 Reg. Sess.

s 268H Hazing students prohibited.

(a) Haze defined. -- In this section "haze" means doing any act or causing any situation which recklessly or intentionally subjects a student to the risk of serious bodily injury for the purpose of initiation into a student organization of a school, college, or university.

(b) Violation constitutes misdemeanor; penalty. -- A person who hazes a student so as to cause serious bodily injury to the student at any school, college, or university is guilty of a misdemeanor and, on conviction, is subject to a fine of not more than \$500, or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both.

(c) Consent of student not defense. -- The implied or expressed consent of a student to hazing may not be a defense under this section.

CREDIT

(1985, ch. 153.)
Code 1957, Art. 27, s 268H
MD CODE 1957, Art. 27, s 268H