

Identifying Acts of Hazing and How to Report

Winthrop University is committed to the health and safety of our students. Hazing violates South Carolina State law, University policy, and in the face of fraternities/sororities, their national policies. The **Dean of Students Office, Office of Student Activities, Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs, University Athletics, and Recreational Services** at Winthrop University work collaboratively to ensure that new members and participants are having a safe and healthy experience within their sports team or organization.

The Student Conduct Code has defined hazing as any action taken or situation created, which produces mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Such activities and situations include assault in any form, creation of excessive fatigue; physical and psychological shocks, wearing apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste, nudity; situations or tasks that interfere with scholastics activities, and any other activities which are not consistent with the regulations and policies of Winthrop University and otherwise isolate or create different standards for new members for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with a chartered or non-chartered student organization.

Additionally, Hazing is violation of **South Carolina Law (Section 59-101-200)** which defines hazing as the wrongful striking, laying open hand upon, threatening with violence, or offering to do bodily harm by a superior student to a subordinate student with intent to punish or injure the subordinate student, or other unauthorized treatment by the superior student of a subordinate student of a tyrannical, abusive, shameful, insulting, or humiliating nature. Hazing at all state supported universities, colleges, and public institutions of higher learning is prohibited.

There are three main types of hazing:

Subtle - Subtle hazing includes all activities or attitudes meant to embarrass, humiliate or ridicule a person. Examples include: Issuing demerits; requiring silence periods; planning scavenger hunts for meaningless objects; and name-calling.

Harassment - Harassment hazing includes activities that confuse, frustrate, or cause a member undue stress through mental anguish and physical discomfort. Examples include: Requiring ridiculous costumes or activities; requiring probationary members to perform personal services; verbal abuse; any form of questioning under pressure or in an uncomfortable position; sleep or hygiene deprivation; and expecting new members to harass others.

Violent - Violent hazing includes any activity that causes physical or emotional harm. Examples include: Forcing alcohol consumption; forcing consumption of vile substances; sexual violation; assault; burning; forcing members into life-threatening situations; forcing water intoxication, forcing public nudity; and abducting/kidnapping members.

If you're wondering if something is hazing, look for key indicators and ask some questions.

Warning Signs of Hazing

- Sudden change in behavior or attitude after joining the organization or team
- Wanting to leave the organization or team with no real explanation
- Sudden decrease in communication with friends and family
- Physical or psychological exhaustion
- Unexplained weight loss
- Unexplained injuries or illness
- Change in sleeping or eating habits
- Withdrawal from normal activities
- Expressed feeling of sadness or feeling of worthlessness
- Increase in secrecy and unwillingness to share details

Report Hazing: If you have direct suspicion of hazing or concerns about a student please contact the Assistant Director of Student Activities for Fraternity & Sorority Affairs (if it involves fraternities/sororities, or the Dean of Students Office (if it involves other clubs/organizations/sports). If you witness a hazing incident on campus, call Campus Police right away. **803-323-3333**. There is also have an online reporting form on our website under Quick Links:

www.winthrop.edu/ofsa