



The following presentation has been created by the Florida State University Hazing Prevention Committee



What exactly is hazing?



State of Florida's Definition of Hazing

- "Hazing" means any action or situation that **recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student** for purposes, including, but not limited to, of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization operating under the sanction of a postsecondary institution.

*STATE OF FLORIDA LAW ON HAZING Chad Meredith Act (HB 193) Florida House
of Representatives Law in effect July 1, 2005*

The state of Florida defines hazing as any action or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for purposes, including but not limited to, of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization operating under the sanction of a postsecondary institution.



In the State of Florida, Hazing is a Criminal Offense

- A person commits hazing, a ***third degree felony***, when he or she intentionally or recklessly commits any act of hazing upon another person who is a member of or an applicant to any type of student organization and the hazing results in serious bodily injury or death of such other person.
- A person commits hazing, a ***first degree misdemeanor***, when he or she intentionally or recklessly commits any act of hazing upon another person who is a member of or an applicant to any type of student organization and the hazing creates a substantial risk of physical injury or death to such other person.

In Florida, hazing is a criminal offense. If the act of hazing results in serious bodily injury or death of another, it is a **third degree felony**.

If it creates a substantial **risk** of physical injury or death to another, it is a **first degree misdemeanor**.



Florida's Law on Hazing: The Chad Meredith Act

Chad Meredith's Story


- In 2001, University of Miami student Chad Meredith returned from a concert and began drinking with two officers of Kappa Sigma, a fraternity he wished to join. After several hours of drinking, the group tried to swim across Lake Osceola near campus. Meredith had a blood alcohol level of 0.13. He drowned 34 feet from shore in six feet nine inches of water. Although, the fraternity officers protested that the incident was not a fraternity-sanctioned hazing event, a jury found otherwise, and awarded the deceased student's family a \$12.6 million verdict in a negligence suit based on hazing.

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Although, the fraternity officers protested that the incident was not a fraternity-sanctioned hazing event, a jury found otherwise, and awarded the deceased student's family a \$12.6 million verdict in a negligence suit based on hazing.

As a result of this incident, Florida instituted the anti-hazing law in July of 2005.



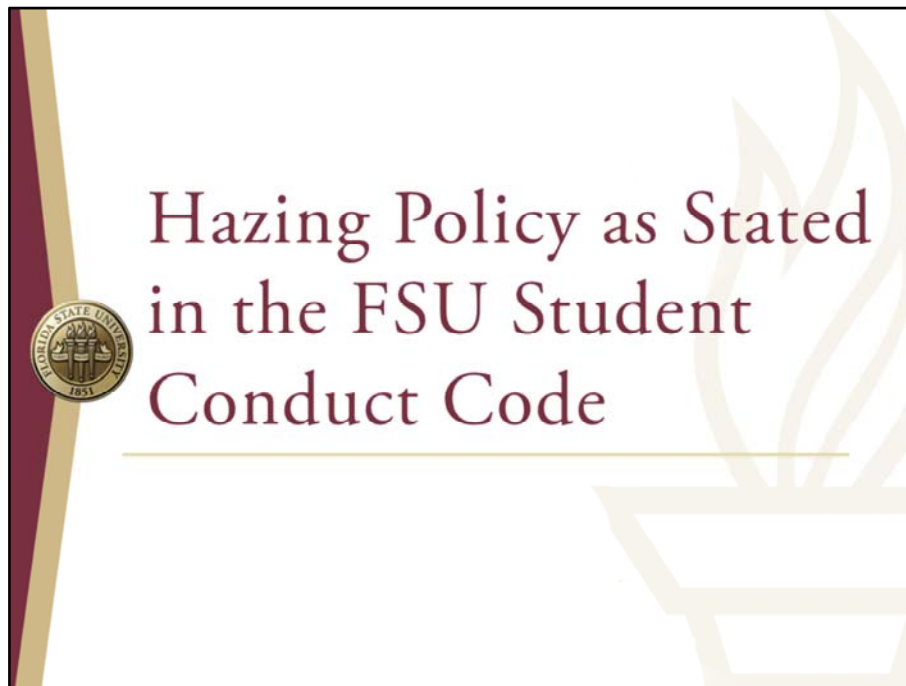
“Hazing” includes, but is not limited to:

- **Pressuring or coercing** the student into violating state or federal law;
- Any **brutality of a physical nature**, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance, or other forced physical activity that which could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the student;
- Any activity which would subject the student to **extreme mental stress**, such as sleep deprivation, **forced exclusion** from social contact, **forced conduct** which could result in extreme embarrassment;
- Other forced activity which could **adversely affect the mental health or dignity** of the student.

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Now let's take a look at FSU's policy regarding hazing.




According to FSU Student Conduct Code

- **Hazing is defined as any group or individual action or activity that endangers the mental or physical health or safety or which may demean, disgrace, or degrade any person, regardless of location, intent, or consent of participant(s).** Although hazing is generally related to a person's initiation or admission into, or affiliation with, any group or organization, it is not necessary that a person's initiation or continued membership is contingent upon participation in the activity, or that the activity was sanctioned or approved by the organization, for a charge of hazing to be upheld. The actions of active, associate, new, and/or prospective members of an organization may be considered hazing.

According to FSU's Student Conduct Code, while hazing is traditionally associated with initiation and admission rites or affiliation with certain groups or organizations, a charge of hazing does not depend on the individual's agreement to participate in nor on an organization having sanctioned or approved the activity.

Any individual or group actions or activities of active, associate, new, and/or prospective members of an organization may be considered hazing if they endanger the mental or physical health or safety of someone, or demean, disgrace, or degrade any individual, regardless of location, intent or the participant's consent.



Hazing includes, but is not limited to:


- Unreasonable interference with a student's academic performance
- **Forced or coerced consumption of food, alcohol, drugs, or any other substance**
- Forced or coerced wearing of apparel which is conspicuous and/or inappropriate
- **Forced or coerced exclusion from social contact**
- Branding
- **Creation of unnecessary fatigue (including but not limited to acts that stem from forced physical activity, such as calisthenics and deprivation of sleep)**
- Deprivation of food
- **Beating, whipping, or paddling in any form**
- Line-ups and berating
- Physical and/or psychological shocks
- **Personal servitude**
- Kidnapping or abandonment
- **Unreasonable exposure to the weather**
- Any activity that would be viewed by a reasonable person as subjecting any person to embarrassment, degradation or humiliation
- **Expectation of participation in activities that are unlawful, lewd or in violation of University policy**
- Retaliation for Reporting Hazing. Retaliating against any individual who reported a hazing violation or suspected hazing violation to University or law enforcement officials.

Please refer to the Florida State University Hazing Policy and Section 1006.63, Florida Statutes, for more details.

Hazing includes, but is not limited to: Unreasonable interference with a student's academic performance; **Forced or coerced consumption of food, alcohol, drugs, or any other substance**; Forced or coerced wearing of apparel which is conspicuous and/or inappropriate; **Forced or coerced exclusion from social contact**; Branding; **Creation of unnecessary fatigue (including but not limited to acts that stem from forced physical activity, such as calisthenics and deprivation of sleep)**; Deprivation of food; **Beating, whipping, or paddling in any form**; Line-ups and berating; Physical and/or psychological shocks; **Personal servitude**; Kidnapping or abandonment; **Unreasonable exposure to the weather**; Any activity that would be viewed by a reasonable person as subjecting any person to embarrassment, degradation or humiliation; **Expectation of participation in activities that are unlawful, lewd or in violation of University policy**;

Also prohibited is Retaliation for Reporting Hazing and Retaliating against any individual who reported a hazing violation or suspected hazing violation to University or law enforcement officials.

Please refer to the Florida State University Hazing Policy and Section 1006.63, Florida Statutes, for more details.



While definitions of hazing vary, some common factors include:


- Power differential between those in a group and those who want to join a group, or between senior and junior members of a group
- Involvement of intentional initiation rite, practice or 'tradition'

Note: Willingness to participate does not absolve either party of responsibility

HazingPrevention.org

Various definitions for hazing exist but the practice includes a power differential between those in a group and those who want to join a group, or between senior and junior members of a group as well as intentional involvement in initiation rites, practices or 'traditions'.

Again, it is stressed that willingness to participate does not absolve either party of responsibility



POTENTIAL 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

HazingPrevention.org

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Increase in secrecy and unwillingness to share details



DID YOU KNOW?



- More than half of college and university students in clubs, sports teams and organizations have experienced hazing.
- A significant number of hazing incidents and deaths involve alcohol consumption
- Hazing is often about power and control. Hazing does not build unity
- Hazing occurs in sports teams, clubs, Greek life, cheerleading, honor societies and more
- Students are more likely to be hazed if they knew an adult who was hazed
- 2 in 5 students say they are aware of hazing taking place on their campus
- Hazing occurs in middle schools, high schools and colleges
- Both male and female students report a high level of hazing

HazingPrevention.org

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And a significant number of hazing incidents and deaths involve alcohol consumption.

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Hazing occurs in middle schools, high schools and colleges

Both male and female students report a high level of hazing



A Community Unconquered By Hazing

We believe no student should be harmed, demeaned, and/or put at any safety risk while joining, during membership, or after membership of any student organization, club, group, or university entity.

At FSU, we are a Community Unconquered By Hazing. We believe no student should be harmed, demeaned, and/or put at any safety risk while joining, during membership, or after membership of any student organization, club, group, or university entity.



Resources

For more information about hazing, please go to <https://hazing.fsu.edu/>

To report hazing, please go to <http://report.fsu.edu/>

To learn more about hazing, go to the hazing prevention training at fsu.prevent.zone

For more information about hazing, please visit the following link: hazing.fsu.edu

To report hazing, go to report.fsu.edu

For additional training on hazing prevention visit fsu.prevent.zone