The following presentation has been created by the Florida State University Hazing Prevention Committee. The mission of the committee is to provide students, staff, and faculty the tools, support, and opportunities to shape a violence-free campus through the design and delivery of innovative and inclusive programming and services.
What is hazing?

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:

- (a) Initiation into any organization operating under the sanction of a postsecondary institution;
- (b) Admission into any organization operating under the sanction of a postsecondary institution;
- (c) Affiliation with any organization operating under the sanction of a postsecondary institution; or
- (d) The perpetuation or furtherance of a tradition or ritual of any organization operating under the sanction of a postsecondary institution.

(Section 1006.63, Florida Statutes)

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 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:

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(d) The perpetuation or furtherance of a tradition or ritual of 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, solicits a person to commit, or is actively involved in the planning of any act of hazing as defined in subsection upon another person who is a member or former member of or an applicant to any type of student organization and the hazing results in a permanent injury, 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, solicits a person to commit, or is actively involved in the planning of any act of hazing as defined in subsection upon another person who is a member or former 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**.
“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, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance, or other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the student;
- any activity that would subject the student to **extreme mental stress**, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct that could result in **extreme embarrassment**, or other forced activity that could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the student.

(Section 1006.63, Florida Statutes)
Amnesty

- A person may not be prosecuted under this section if he or she establishes all of the following:

1. That he or she was present at an event where, as a result of hazing, a person appeared to be in need of immediate medical assistance.
2. That he or she was the first person to call 911 or campus security to report the need for immediate medical assistance.
3. That he or she provided his or her own name, the address where immediate medical assistance was needed, and a description of the medical issue to the 911 operator or campus security at the time of the call.
4. That he or she remained at the scene with the person in need of immediate medical assistance until such medical assistance, law enforcement, or campus security arrived and that he or she cooperated with such personnel on the scene.

(Section 1006.63, Florida Statutes)

In 2019, legislation was updated outlining criteria for how parities involved in a hazing related incident may not be prosecuted under the statute if all of the following criteria are met:

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2. That he or she was the first person to call 911 or campus security to report the need for immediate medical assistance.
3. That he or she provided his or her own name, the address where immediate medical assistance was needed, and a description of the medical issue to the 911 operator or campus security at the time of the call.
4. That he or she remained at the scene with the person in need of immediate medical assistance until such medical assistance, law enforcement, or campus security arrived and that he or she cooperated with such personnel on the scene.
Now let’s take a look at FSU’s policy regarding hazing.
According to FSU’s Student Conduct Code, hazing is defined

any individual action or situation, which occurs on or off University property, that intentionally, recklessly, or negligently endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for purposes including, but not limited to, initiation or admission into or affiliation with any University student organization or other group whether or not officially recognized by the University, or the perpetuation or furtherance of a tradition or ritual of any such student organization or group.

Soliciting another or aiding or assisting another to engage in any act of hazing as defined in this Code, or active involvement in the planning of such action.

Observing or participating in any conduct defined as hazing pursuant to the Code by a member of the student organization or group who is not themselves an affected/reporting individual, without reporting the incident to a University official.
Hazing includes, but is not limited to:

- brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of food, liquor, drug, or other substance;
- subjecting a person to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment, or other forced activity that could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of a reasonable person;
- pressuring or coercing a person into violating local, state, federal law and/or University policy;
- interfering with or impeding a person's academic pursuits, employment, religious observances, or affiliation with other individuals, groups, or activities;
- otherwise infringing upon a person's personal or property rights or substantially interfering with a reasonable person's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the University.

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b. subjecting a person to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment, or other forced activity that could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of a reasonable person;
c. pressuring or coercing a person into violating local, state, federal law and/or University policy;
d. interfering with or impeding a person's academic pursuits, employment, religious observances, or affiliation with other individuals, groups, or activities; or
e. otherwise infringing upon a person's personal or property rights or substantially interfering with a reasonable person's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the University.
According to FSU Student Conduct Code

• A student may commit an act of hazing whether the student is a prospective, current, or former member of the organization or group.

• The actions of active, associate, new and/or prospective members, former members, or alumni of a student organization or group may be considered hazing under this Code.

• The following circumstances are not a defense to a violation of this provision:
  - express or implied consent of a victim, the conduct or activity was not part of any official organizational event or otherwise sanctioned or approved by the student organization, or the conduct or activity was not a condition of membership into a student organization.

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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

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
More than half of students in colleges and universities involved in clubs, sports teams and organizations have experienced hazing.

And 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.
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