



Hazing Acknowledgement Form

Fraternity/ Sorority Organization _____ Local Designation _____

I. Policy Statement:

“Hazing” is against the law (Section 3-607, Criminal Law Article, Annotated Code of Maryland) and is strictly prohibited at Towson University (“University”). Hazing risks human lives, mistreats those involved and jeopardizes the affiliation of campus organizations at this University. The most damaging action a campus organization (social, honor, service, athletics) can take is to engage in hazing.

II. Definitions:

A. “Hazing” is defined as any action taken or situation created intentionally, whether on or off campus, inflicted on person(s) joining a group or member(s) of a group, that a reasonable person would consider as having the potential to create mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule, without the individual’s consent. Hazing includes any mental or physical requirement, request, or obligation which emphasizes one individual’s or a group’s power over others and/or a perceived necessity/obligation to participate; that could cause pain, disgrace, or injury; that is personally degrading; and/or that violates federal, state local law or University policy.

Such activities and situations include, but are not limited to:

1. Team initiations.
2. Kidnapping.
3. Requiring inappropriate dress (including, but not limited to: militaristic

garb and/or apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste, for the purpose of public embarrassment.)

4. Paddling in any form.

5. Creation of excessive fatigue for inappropriate reasons.

6. Road trips taken that have not been authorized by the University senior administrators (i.e., the Associate Vice President of Campus Life or the Director of Athletics and/or their designees).

7. Scavenger hunts without prior approval from the University senior administrators (i.e., the Associate Vice President of Campus Life or the Director of Athletics and/or their designees).

8. Inappropriate labor required by a specific group (e.g., labor which is not inherent in the scope of the group's activities. Examples of labor inherent in the group's activities would include following appropriate direction given by University representatives with authority over the group, such as coaches or faculty advisors requiring members of the group to put away equipment after using it).

9. Mandated branding or tattooing, or any form of body mutilation.

10. Any act of physical abuse, psychological abuse, or verbal abuse (including but not limited to "line-ups," forced calisthenics (unless part of an organized athletic activity sponsored by a recognized/sanctioned sports program), surprise or fake initiations, etc.

11. Exposing participants to adverse weather conditions.

12. Engaging in public stunts and humiliating games and activities.

13. Mandated late night sessions that interfere with scholastic and occupational activities.

14. Running personal errands for members or mandating tasks only of new members.

15. Mandated consumption, included but not limited to: illegal substances, food, alcohol, or any other type of liquid.

16. Inappropriate activities required of a specific group (new member, rookie, etc.) including but not limited to new member all-nighters, shaving of heads, servitude, etc.

17. Any other activities not consistent with the academic mission of the University.

B. "Inappropriate" will be determined by the Office of Student Conduct and Civility Education.

C. "University Community" means Towson University students, faculty and staff

VI. Procedures:

A. General:

1. Anyone experiencing or witnessing a violation of this hazing policy is encouraged to report the incident to the Office of Student Conduct and Civility Education (OSCCE). Any individual or group alleged to have engaged in hazing will be referred to OSCCE, which will handle allegations in accordance with its usual procedures for alleged violations of University policies, except as otherwise noted in this policy.

2. If OSCCE finds that a student organization has engaged in hazing, or that the organization did not take reasonable steps to prevent hazing by its members or affiliates, culpability may be attributed to the individual perpetrators, the student organization, its members, and/or its elected or appointed officers, subject to the defense that the individual student could not reasonably have prevented the hazing.

3. All students, including potential new members and current members of any student group or organization, have a responsibility to avoid participating in hazing activities.

B. Process for Greek Chapters at Towson University:

Any sanctions will be imposed by OSCCE. This decision will include input from the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs- Campus Life, the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, and the Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life. Previous violations of this policy will also be considered in the sanctioning process.

By signing this form, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Towson University Hazing Policy.

