



Hazing Policy

Young Harris College upholds the position on hazing adopted by the Association of Fraternity Advisors (AFA) and Fraternal Information and Programming Group (FIPG). However, for brevity the following policy should be the guideline used by all student organizations. Enforcement of this policy comes under the jurisdiction of the Vice President for Student Development or a designee. In this regard, the College defines hazing as follows:

Any activity or situation, intentionally or unintentionally created, with or without consent, whether on or off the organization's premises, which endangers the mental or physical health of participants; which provides physical discomfort; which subjects the individual to embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule; which creates excessive fatigue, physical, or psychological shocks to the individual; which requires participation by the individual in quests, treasure/scavenger hunts, stunts, morally degrading or humiliating games and activities, road trips or any other such activities; which requires late or early work sessions or any activity which is not consistent with the academic achievement, laws, rituals, and/or policies of the organization or the regulations and policies of the College or applicable state law.

Any individual member or members of the organization participating in hazing activities will forfeit the organization's campus privileges, including its right to license or exist on campus.

Examples of Hazing Activities and Conduct:

- Actions that recklessly or intentionally endanger the physical and mental health or safety of students;
- Forced or required consumption of any food, drug, or any other substance;
- Forced or required participation in physical activities, such as calisthenics, exercises, or so-called games;
- Exposure to the weather;
- Excessive fatigue resulting from sleep deprivation, physical activities, or exercises;
- Assignment of activities that would be illegal or unlawful, or might be morally offensive to the individual;
- Physical brutality, including paddling, striking with fists, open hands, or objects, and branding;
- Kidnapping, transporting, or stranding of individuals ("road trips");
- Verbal abuse including "line-ups" and berating of individuals;

- Forced or required conduct that could embarrass or adversely affect the dignity of the individual, including the wearing of apparel that is conspicuous or extraordinary, or the performance of public stunts and activities;
- Forced servitude including errands and clean-up activities;
- The intentional creation of clean-up work or labor for new members by active members or alumni;
- Denial of sufficient time to study;
- Nudity or lewd behavior;
- Any activity, ceremony, or ritual using live animals;
- Any other activities not consistent with the philosophy and policies of the College.

State of Georgia Hazing Law - OCGA16-5-61

As used in this Code section, the term:

- "Haze" means to subject a student to an activity which endangers or is likely to endanger the physical health of a student, regardless of a student's willingness to participate in such activity.
- "School" means any school, college, or university in this state.
- "School organization" means any club, society, fraternity, sorority, or a group living together which has students as its principal members.
- "Student" means any person enrolled in a school in this state.
- It shall be unlawful for any person to haze any student in connection with or as a condition or precondition of gaining acceptance, membership, office, or other status in a school organization.
- Any person who violates this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

Is It Hazing?

Five Questions to Ask

1. Will active/current members of the organization refuse to participate with the new members and do exactly what they're being asked to do?
2. Is there risk of injury or a question of safety?
3. Would you object if the activity were featured in the newspaper or on a local TV news program?
4. Would you have any reservation about describing and justifying the activity to your parents, to a professor, or to the President of the College?
5. Would you have any reservations informing the Office of Campus Activities what you are doing?

If the answer to any one of these simple questions is "yes," the activity is probably hazing. You should be proud of all the activities you ask your new members to do.