

ANTI-HAZING STATEMENT

All student organizations are responsible for encouraging an atmosphere of learning, social responsibility and respect for human dignity and for providing a positive influence and constructive development for members and aspiring members. All organizations are expected to utilize good judgment to determine the abilities of individual students as they relate to organizational activities and requirements. Hazing is unproductive and hazardous behavior that is incongruous with this responsibility and has no place in our University life, either on or off campus.

The state of Tennessee law on hazing, as well as the APSU Student Code of Conduct, states, “‘**Hazing**’ means any intentional or reckless act in Tennessee on or off the property of any higher education institution by one student acting alone or with others which is directed against any other student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of that student, or which induces or coerces a student to endanger such student's mental or physical health or safety.” (Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-7-123 (2005))

The Office of Student Life and Engagement further defines hazing as any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off campus, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule. Hazing shall be identified in two categories:

Physical

1. paddling
2. kidnapping
3. all forms of physical activity used to harass or that are not part of an organized athletic context and not specifically directed toward constructive work
4. road trips (involuntary excursions)
5. spraying, painting or pelting with any substances
6. burying in any substances
7. requiring or compelling activities creating unnecessary work, duties, detention or any duties which impair or do not allow adequate time for study
8. requiring or compelling the forced consumption of any liquid (including alcohol) or solid substance
9. burning, branding or tattooing any part of the body, or any other activity, whether voluntary or involuntary, that may cause physical injury or endanger the life of the individual being hazed
10. binding or restricting any person's arms or legs in any fashion that would prohibit that person's ability to move them
11. requiring or suggesting prospective members or members obtain articles that are either illegal to obtain or possess (items for a scavenger hunt)

Psychological

1. psychological hazing, which is defined as any act that is likely to (a) compromise the dignity of a member or prospective member, (b) cause embarrassment or shame to a member or prospective member, (c) cause a member or prospective member to be the object of malicious amusement or ridicule, or (d) cause psychological harm or substantial emotional strain
2. confinement in any room or compartment
3. nudity at any time
4. requiring or compelling exposure to uncomfortable elements
5. verbal harassment
6. requiring or compelling the wearing of apparel which is not in good taste
7. depriving students of sufficient sleep (six consecutive hours per day is normally considered to be a minimum)
8. misleading prospective members in an effort to convince them that they will not become members, that they will be hurt during induction/initiation or any other activity that would cause extreme mental stress
9. carrying any item (shields, paddles, bricks, hammers, etc.) that serve no constructive purpose or that are designed to punish or embarrass the carrier
10. blindfolding and parading individuals in public areas, blindfolding and transporting in a motor vehicle or privately conducting blindfolding activities that serve no constructive purpose

Hazing as defined in this statement is prohibited under Austin Peay State University policy. Organizations found to be in violation of this policy may face sanctions ranging from a warning to loss of status as a recognized student organization. Campus privileges may be revoked, recognition rescinded or disciplinary sanctions imposed on groups or their individual officers or members. Individuals found to be in violation of this policy may face sanctions from a warning to suspension.