

Anti-Hazing Statement

The below statement must be signed by the Organization Executive Board and Adviser at the beginning of each academic year as part of the organization re-registration process and when the organization first applies for recognition from the office of Student Life and Leadership. This form will be included in your online registration packet for re-registration. It will be in the paper packet for new organization registration.

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 college 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 (1) 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 Leadership 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. Such activities and situations include paddling in any form; creation of excessive fatigue; physical and psychological shocks; quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips or any other such activities, wearing apparel in public which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts of buffoonery; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; late work sessions which interfere with scholastic activities; and any other activities which are not consistent with the regulations and policies of Austin Peay State University. Hazing shall be identified in two categories:

Physical:

1. Paddling;
2. Kidnapping;
3. All forms of physical activity which are used to harass or which 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, which 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 them from moving on their own;
11. Requiring or suggesting prospective members or members to obtain articles which would be either illegal to obtain or possess (items for a scavenger hunt);

Psychological:

1. Psychological hazing, which is defined as any act which 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, in public, 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.