HAZING 101

Hazing is prohibited under the State statute on hazing (Virginia Hazing, Civil and Criminal Liability, Code of Virginia, 18.2-56) as well as by University policy and the University’s Standards of Conduct.

WHAT IS HAZING?

As defined by the University of Virginia, the term “hazing” means any action taken or situation created by a member(s) of a student organization toward one or more organization members or toward prospective members (as a part of the new member selection process), that occurs on University-owned or leased property or at University-sponsored or supervised functions or at the local residence of any University student, faculty member, or employee, and that is designed to or produces mental or physical harassment, discomfort, or ridicule. Such activities and situations include, but are not limited to, creation of excessive physical or psychological shock, fatigue, stress, injury, or harm.

HAZING HOTLINE

Did you know that the Office of the Dean of Students/Fraternity & Sorority Life has a Hazing Hotline to allow for any anonymous reporting of hazing concerns? The Hazing Hotline number is (434) 243-HAZE (4293). All calls are sent directly to the Office of the Dean of Students/Fraternity & Sorority Life. All reports are handled discreetly.

RESOURCES & MORE INFORMATION:

- www.hazingprevention.org
- www.stophazing.org
- Gordie Center for Alcohol and Substance Abuse Education: www.virginia.edu/case
- The Office of the Dean of Students/ Fraternity and Sorority Life: Stop by (Newcomb 171), call (434) 924 7430, or visit www.virginia.edu/fsl/policies/hazing.html for more information

COULD IT BE HAZING? QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- Is there secrecy around the activity?
- Is there pressure to participate in the activity?
- Is a specific group of individuals singled out?
- Does it reflect the values of the organization? University?
- Does it risk emotional or physical abuse or injury?
- Would you be willing to allow your parents or University officials to witness the activity?
- What if the local news showed up?

If you have to ask if it’s hazing...it probably is!
Hazing 101

IT’S NOT JUST ABOUT ALCOHOL...

Hazing could include many activities, including but not limited to:

- Any forced drinking or eating
- Sleep deprivation
- Forced exercise
- Humiliation
- Wearing of costumes
- Emotional or psychological degradation
- Financial burdens
- Servitude to senior members
- Isolation

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO COMBAT HAZING:

- Educate yourself and the other members of your group; Visit the FSL web site (www.virginia.edu/fsl) for resources about hazing.
- Respond quickly and appropriately to decisions and/or incidents that are not aligned with expectations.
- If it makes you uncomfortable, stand up for yourself and the values of your organization: say no. Report hazing activities.
- To report hazing:
  - Call the Hazing Hotline (434-243-4293) or call 911 in the event of an emergency.
- Record and report important facts such as date, time, location, organization involved, individuals involved, and type of activity. If there are other witnesses or other people involved, note and share this information, as well. Fact-based reporting is critical to responding to hazing incidents.

CONSIDER THE FACTS:

- More than half (55%) of students involved in college or university sports teams, clubs, and other organizations report being hazed.
- 74% of students involved in social fraternities and sororities specifically report being hazed.
- Students who have experienced hazing are highly unlikely to talk to their advisor (8%), a police officer (1%), or college staff or faculty (4%) about their experience.
- Both men and women haze.
- More than half (57%) of hazing activities take place in off-campus areas, while about one third (33%) take place on-campus.

Hazing can cause more than just temporary discomfort; it can have a serious negative academic, emotional, and physical impact.

National Study of Student Hazing, Allan & Madden, 2008