



University of Alabama in Huntsville Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life Hazing Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to assist fraternities and sororities at the University of Alabama in Huntsville with their New Member Process. This document is meant to educate UAHuntsville Fraternity & Sorority members, their advisors, and aspiring members about the expectations of the University of Alabama in Huntsville's Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life. The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life believes in partnerships with Greek members, Graduate/Chapter Advisors, and (inter) national headquarters/boards to ensure a successful and positive experience for all involved. *It is our philosophy that New Member activities should support the mission and core values of the University of Alabama in Huntsville, the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life, and each (inter) national organization.*

Privacy Statement

To protect the interests, privacy, and confidentiality of all chapters conducting a New Member process, the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life ensures that all documents submitted regarding New Member Process will be kept confidential. Only the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life, UAHuntsville administrators, corresponding Graduate/Chapter Advisors, corresponding Chapter Presidents, corresponding New Member Coordinators and their assistants, and corresponding headquarters/regional staff/representatives will have access to these files.

Prohibition of Hazing

Hazing, as defined by Section 16-1-23, Code of Alabama (1975)

(a) **Hazing** is defined as follows:

(1) Any willful action taken or situation created, whether on or off any school, college, university, or other educational premises, which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of any student, or

(2) Any willful act on or off any school, college, university, or other educational premises by any person alone or acting with others in striking, beating, bruising, or maiming; or seriously offering, threatening, or attempting to strike, beat, bruise, or maim, or to do or seriously offer, threaten, or attempt to do physical violence to any student of any such educational institution or any assault upon any such students made for the purpose of committing any of the acts, or producing any of the results to such student as defined in this section.

(3) The term **hazing** as defined in this section does not include customary athletic events or similar contests or competitions, and is limited to those actions taken and situations created in connection with initiation into or affiliation with any organization. The term **hazing** does not include corporal punishment administered by officials or employees of public schools when in accordance with policies adopted by local boards of education.

(b) No person shall engage in what is commonly known and recognized as **hazing**, or encourage, aid, or assist any other person thus offending.

(c) No person shall knowingly permit, encourage, aid, or assist any person in committing the offense of **hazing**, or willfully acquiesce in the commission of such offense, or fail to report promptly his knowledge or any reasonable information within his knowledge of the presence and practice of **hazing** in this state to the chief executive officer of the appropriate school, college, university, or other educational institution in this state. Any act of omission or commission shall be deemed **hazing** under the provisions of this section.

(d) Any person who shall commit the offense of **hazing** shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor as defined by Title 13A.

(e) Any person who participates in the **hazing** of another, or any organization associated with a school, college, university, or other educational institution in this state which knowingly permits **hazing** to be conducted by its members or by others subject to its direction or control, shall forfeit any entitlement to public funds, scholarships, or awards which are enjoyed by him or by it and shall be deprived of any sanction or approval granted by the school, college, university, or other educational institution.

(f) Nothing in this section shall be construed as in any manner affecting or repealing any law of this state respecting homicide, or murder, manslaughter, assault with intent to murder, or aggravated assault.

In recognition of FIPG and (inter) national organizational standards, the activities listed below are also considered hazing by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life:

- requiring active members to be called a particular title other than those prescribed by the (inter) national organization (if any)
- throwing harmful substances at members
- any activity requiring members to march around particular locations or act in synchronized movement
- treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, quests and abandonment
- wearing of uniforms or public apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste
- wearing or carrying any obscene or burdensome article
- line-ups
- individual interrogations, quizzing or testing on meaningless information or while under duress
- transportation with the intention of abandonment
- assigning of pranks
- disruption of normal or proper hygiene and diet schedules
- confining individuals in an area which is uncomfortable or dangerous

The above definition applies to any act conducted on or off the UAHuntsville campus. A good rule to follow when planning activities is, “when in doubt, leave it out!”

Expectations of Organizations Conducting a New Member Process

- The academic mission of the institution will be upheld and promoted to new members.
- New Member activities will not interfere with academic endeavors or class schedules, will not occur between the hours of 12 a.m. and 8 a.m., and will not include the presence or consumption of alcohol.
- The selection of new members will be free of any form of mental and/or physical abuse and hazing.
- Members will be selected on the criteria set forth by the (inter) national organization.
- Chapters will not engage in pre or post hazing activities. Hazing is not tolerated in any form—as part of the new member program or as acts of individual members of the chapter.
- Chapters will be in good standing with their (inter) national organization, their respective council, the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life and the University of Alabama in Huntsville.
- Chapters will complete all required paperwork thoroughly, in a timely fashion, and will not willingly omit any information.
- New members will be thoroughly educated on the University of Alabama in Huntsville Hazing Policy by the chapter.
- Chapters are not to engage in any New Member Process activities outside of the parameters outlined by their (inter) national headquarters/organizations.
- All membership intake activities (including New Member Presentations and any alternatives) are to conclude prior to the first day of Finals Week.
- The position of the University of Alabama in Huntsville concerning a chapter’s New Member Process is that it will be a positive, educational experience for all involved. Names such as “Hell Week” should not be used in reference to pre or post application and initiation activities.
- The practice of surprising new members with the date/and or time of initiation is not acceptable. New members should be informed as to the date of initiation no later than two weeks after the New Member Process begins.
- New members should never be subject to sleep deprivation, servitude and/or moral degradation or humiliation.
- New members should never be forced to stay or live anywhere against their will.
- The individuals named as the New Member Process Coordinator and any Assistants will represent their role during the New Member Process and at any related presentations.

New Member Rights

The New Member Process should be conducted in a manner that respects the dignity of new members and protects their mental and physical well-being. Examples of acceptable behavior include activities that are not classified as hazing, but promote scholarship, promote service, develop leadership and/or social skills, assist career goals, involve students with alumni/ae, improve relations with others, build awareness of fraternity or sorority history, instill a sense of brotherhood or sisterhood, foster chapter solidarity or otherwise promote the institutional mission of the University.

No new members shall be required by any person or persons to perform any act which:

- Interferes with the academic process – causes the new members to miss or be ill prepared for classes, labs, study sessions, or tests
- Causes the new members to violate UAHuntsville policies
- Requires or pressures the new members to consume any substance
- Prevents the new members from securing normal amounts of sleep
- Requires the new members to perform personal services for collegiate or alumni/ae members

- Is sadistic and treats the new members in a “sub-human” manner
- Is illegal
- Is immoral
- Places the new members in physical danger or in jeopardy of losing his or her life
- Places severe emotional stress upon the new members
- Requires the new members to be present at activities for unreasonable periods of time
- Requires the new members to participate in individual questioning activities or line-ups
- Prescribes the wearing of anything to identify new members status
- Requires the new members to carry items that they would not normally bear
- Requires the new members to answer the telephone in a manner unlike a member would answer it
- Prevents the new members from speaking for a period of time
- Involves the abandonment of a new member or active member thereby requiring them to find their own way back to campus
- Requires the blindfolding of the new members (exceptions: during low ropes course with trained facilitator, or as prescribed in writing for inter/national Ritual)
- Requires the new members to intentionally deface property or requires the new members to clean others’ property
- Requires new members to enter locations only from a specific entry point
- Requires new members to eat meals together, attend unscheduled “call-down” meetings, work out together or sleep somewhere together for any length of time without written permission from UAHuntsville and inter/national office
- Requires new members to address or refer to members in a manner different from how they are addressed by the general membership
- Requires new members to participate in scavenger hunts or similar activities by any name that involves taking of items, time deadlines, etc.

THIS LIST IS IN NO WAY INCLUSIVE.

The University of Alabama in Huntsville does not condone any form of hazing, and students involved in hazing incidents are subject to University disciplinary sanctions.

We, the undersigned, have read and understand the above statements concerning the policies of the University of Alabama in Huntsville and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life prohibiting hazing in any form or fashion. Our signatures attest that our organization follows and adheres to all University, local, state, and federal laws.