

Statement on Hazing

Introduction

Membership in a registered student organization at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh should be a valuable and beneficial experience. Registered student organizations are encouraged to provide new members with an orientation that is positive, informative and consistent with federal, state and local laws, and policies and procedures at UW Oshkosh. Specifically, hazing will not be tolerated by any student organization at UW Oshkosh. This statement provides a definition of hazing, applicable state law, local policies and procedures and options available for reporting incidents of hazing.

Definition of Hazing

Hazing may be defined as any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off premises, 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, publicly, apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts and 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 an organization's laws, rituals or policies or the regulations and policies of the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. Adapted with permission from The Fraternity Executives Association Statement of Position on Hazing and Pre-Initiation Activities.

Applicable Laws and Policies 1999-2000 Wisconsin Statutes

948.51 Hazing.

(1) In this section "forced activity" means any activity which is a condition of initiation or admission into or affiliation with an organization, regardless of a student's willingness to participate in the activity.

(2) No person may intentionally or recklessly engage in acts which endanger the physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization operating in connection with a school, college or university. Under those circumstances, prohibited acts may include any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, forced confinement or any other forced activity which endangers the physical health or safety of the student.

(3) Whoever violates sub. (2) is guilty of:

a. A Class A misdemeanor if the act results in or is likely to result in bodily harm to another.

b. A Class E felony if the act results in great bodily harm or death to another.

History: 1983 a. 356; 1987 a. 332 s. 32; Stats. 1987 s. 948.51

Student Discipline Code - UW Oshkosh

The area to be cited from the UW System disciplinary code and the UW Oshkosh provision may vary depending on the incident. University rules that could be considered with regard to hazing include:

UWS 17.03 Nonacademic misconduct subject to disciplinary action:

(1) (a) For conduct which constitutes a serious danger to the personal safety of a member of the university community or guest.

(4)(a) For conduct that obstructs or seriously impairs or attempts to obstruct or seriously impair university-run or university-authorized activities; or that interferes with or impedes the ability of a member of the university community, or guest, to participate in university-run or university-authorized activities.

UWS 18.06 Conduct on University Land

(30) Disorderly conduct. No person may engage in violent, abusive, indecent, profane, boisterous, unreasonably loud or otherwise disorderly conduct under circumstances in which the conduct tends to cause or provoke a disturbance, in University buildings or on University lands.

Reporting of Hazing Incidents

Whether the alleged hazing incident occurs on or off campus, it can and should be reported. This may be done through several avenues listed below. For more specific information, contact the Dean of Students Office.

Dean of Students Office, 125 Dempsey, 424-3100

University Police Dept., Safety Building, 424-1212

Complaints Pertaining to the Conduct of Registered Student Organizations Oshkosh Student Association, 207 Reeve Union, 424-3202