

Organizational definition of Hazing

The Act H.R.5646 — 118th Congress (2023-2024), defines Hazing, as used for reporting statistics in an Annual Security Report (ASR), as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or with others) against another person or persons, regardless of their willingness to participate. This act must occur in the context of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in a student organization. It causes or creates a risk above the reasonable risks encountered in the course of normal participation in higher education or organization activities (such as necessary physical preparation for athletic teams), leading to physical or psychological injury.

The Act provides non-exhaustive examples of such conduct, including:

- Whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, or placing harmful substances on someone's body.
- Causing or coercing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or similar activities.
- Forcing or coercing consumption of food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances.
- Forcing or coercing another person to perform sexual acts.
- Any activity causing reasonable fear of bodily harm through threats or conduct.
- Engaging in activities that involve criminal violations of local, state, tribal, or federal laws.
- Requiring another person to perform duties involving criminal violations of laws.

For reporting purposes, the Act defines a "student organization" as any group at an institution of higher education where at least two members are enrolled students, irrespective of whether the organization is recognized by the institution. This definition includes clubs, societies, athletic teams (varsity or junior varsity), club sports teams, fraternities, sororities, bands, or student governments.

Hazing Prohibition Policy: Procedures and Penalties-

Keiser University - Florida campuses

1. Hazing Prohibition Policy Statement: Hazing in any form is strictly prohibited. Hazing is defined as any act or situation that recklessly, deliberately, or intentionally jeopardizes the mental, physical well-being or safety of a student. This prohibition applies regardless of intent and includes, but is not limited to, activities conducted as part of initiation, admission, or affiliation with any group or organization.
2. Definition of Hazing: The Act H.R.5646 — 118th Congress (2023-2024), defines Hazing, as used for reporting statistics in an Annual Security Report (ASR), as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with other persons) against another person or persons, regardless of their willingness to participate. This act must occur in the context of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in a student organization and causes or creates a risk above the reasonable risks encountered during normal participation in higher education or organization activities (such as necessary physical preparation for athletic teams), leading to physical or psychological injury.

Examples of Hazing as defined in the Act, include:

- Whipping, beating, striking, tattooing, branding, electronic shocking, or placing harmful substances on someone's body.
- Causing or coercing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or similar activities.
- Forcing or coercing the unreasonable consumption of food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances.
- Nudity or forcing or coercing another person to engage in sexual acts or simulated sexual acts.
- Any activity causing reasonable fear of bodily harm through threats or conduct.
- Engaging in activities that involve criminal violations of local, state, tribal, or federal laws.
- Requiring another person to perform duties involving criminal violations of laws.

For reporting purposes, the Act defines a "student organization" as any group at an institution of higher education where at least two members are enrolled students, irrespective of whether the organization is recognized by the institution. This definition includes clubs, societies, athletic teams (varsity or junior varsity), club sports teams, fraternities, sororities, bands, or student governments.

3. Hazing is a violation of the Student Conduct policy and a violation of Florida state law (s 775.082 or s. 775.083). In the State of Florida, hazing is a criminal offense. Students who violate the Hazing policy will face disciplinary sanctions and can be held criminally liable. Conduct that constitutes hazing may also be found to violate other University policies, such as Title IX, the alcohol and drugs policy, and more.
4. All recognized student organization constitutions are required to incorporate and abide by the Hazing Prohibition policy.
5. Procedures for Implementation: Any individual who becomes aware of any activity or statement that may constitute hazing, is required to promptly inform the Campus President. The Campus President will in turn notify the Office of the Chancellor (OOC). Both the Campus President and the OOC will take appropriate action to enforce the hazing prohibition policy. Any penalties for violations of this policy will be administered by the relevant University office.
6. Students are encouraged to report any occurrence of hazing to the local Police Department.
7. Penalties:

The University may impose penalties, and take the following actions described below:

- I. Hazing may result in severe individual and/or group consequences including, but not limited to, disciplinary action up to, and including expulsion or termination, for individuals and permanent loss of recognition for groups. This includes any student, volunteer or employee who plans or intentionally assists in hazing activity or has engaged in hazing, regardless of whether that individual is present when the hazing activity occurs.
- II. Hazing may be reported to local Law Enforcement by University officials.
- III. Any organization affiliated with the University that authorizes or encourages Hazing in disregard to University rules, may be penalized by revocation of affiliation, removal from University grounds and denial of future use of University facilities.
- IV. Nothing in this hazing policy prevents the University from taking institutional action against hazing activity that falls outside the narrower definition of above listed penalties.

8. The Hazing Prohibition Policy for Keiser University, Florida campuses will be provided to all students and employees and shall be published in the respective University catalogs and on the respective University website.
9. The Hazing Prohibition Policy will be incorporated into any bylaws of any organization operating under the sanction of the University.
10. Questions regarding hazing policies should be directed to the Campus President or to the OOC Keiser University Department of Academic Affairs, Tel # (954) 776-4476