

What is Hazing?

Hazing, defined in Arkansas law in § 6-5-201 and § 6-5-204, and as further defined in College policy as:

- a. Any willful act on or off the property of any school, college, university, or other educational institution in Arkansas by one (1) student alone or acting with others which is directed against any other student and done for the purpose of intimidating the student attacked by threatening him or her with social or other ostracism or of submitting such student to ignominy, shame, or disgrace among his or her fellow students, and acts calculated to produce such results;
- b. The playing of abusive or truculent tricks on or off the property of any school, college, university, or other educational institution in Arkansas by one (1) student alone or acting with others, upon another student to frighten or scare him or her;
- c. Any willful act on or off the property of any school, college, university, or other educational institution in Arkansas by one (1) student alone or acting with others which is directed against any other student done for the purpose of humbling the pride, stifling the ambition, or impairing the courage of the student attacked or to discourage him or her from remaining in that school, college, university, or other educational institution, or reasonably to cause him or her to leave the institution rather than submit to such acts; or
- d. Any willful act on or off the property of any school, college, university, or other educational institution in Arkansas by one (1) student 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 student made for the purpose of committing any of the acts, or producing any of the results, to such student as defined in this section.

The offense of hazing is a Class B misdemeanor.

Ozarka College Hazing Policy

Ozarka College strictly prohibits hazing in any form by any member of the college community, including students, faculty, staff, campus visitors, and recognized organizations at Ozarka College. Participation in hazing activities is considered a serious offense and will result in disciplinary actions. Failure to report hazing activity could also result in disciplinary action. This includes activities which occur both on and off campus.

Reporting and Investigation

- 1. If there is a threat of immediate danger, call 911.
- 2. Complaints or reports of hazing activities should be reported to:
Ozarka College Vice President of Student Services/Title IX Coordinator, titleix@ozarka.edu (870-368-2027).
- 3. Campus officials will investigate all claims of hazing. This may include interviews with reporting parties, key witnesses, and collecting evidence.
- 4. Retaliating in any manner against any individual who reports hazing or who participates in a hazing investigation is prohibited.
- 5. All members of the college community should cooperate in a hazing investigation upon request.
- 6. Violations of this policy are subject to referral to appropriate law enforcement.

Examples of Hazing

The following are common examples of hazing divided in three categories: subtle, harassment, and violent. It is impossible to list every possible hazing behavior but the following list provides some examples.

Subtle Hazing:

- Requiring new members to perform unnecessary duties not expected of existing members.
- Forced physical exercises, like push-ups or runs
- Sleep deprivation
- Assigning meaningless or impossible tasks
- Required greetings or ways of interacting with older members
- Required carrying of certain items
- Restriction of communication or forced periods of silence
- Socially isolating new members

Harassment Hazing:

- Verbal abuse
- Personal servitude, like errands, cooking, or cleaning
- Lineups for interrogation, demeaning, or intimidation
- Wearing embarrassing or uncomfortable clothing
- Assigning pranks that involve theft or harassment of others
- "Drop-offs" where new members are abandoned and forced to find their way back
- Sleep deprivation

Violent Hazing:

- Forced or coerced alcohol or drug consumption
- Beating, paddling, branding, burning, or other forms of assault
- Forced ingestion of any liquid or substance
- Public nudity
- Bondage or abductions/kidnaps
- Compelled sexual activity

Hazing Awareness and Prevention Education

Programs to educate on hazing awareness and prevention will be provided to students, staff, and faculty. These programs will be offered annually online or in person. The programs will be targeted to reach all members of the college community and will include primary prevention strategies.

Resources

HazingPrevention.org is a leading national organization dedicated to providing current information related to hazing and hazing prevention to individuals and organizations. Resources offered on their website include, information about what you can do, links to videos, personal stories, newsletters, and National Hazing Prevention Week initiatives.

StopHazing.org provides accurate, up-to-date hazing information for students, parents, and educators and a list of hazing laws by state. It includes informative articles on hazing in various contexts, including high schools, the military, athletic teams, and fraternities and sororities. The website also provides information about the National Study of Student Hazing and the Hazing Prevention Consortium, a multi-year research-to-practice initiative led by StopHazing to build an evidence base for hazing prevention on college campuses in the U.S. and beyond.