



Policy Chapter: Chapter 7 Student Affairs

Policy Number and Title: 07.013 Hazing

I. Policy Statement

The University of North Texas (UNT) is committed to providing a safe environment for all members of the university community and prohibits hazing by any student, student group or employee.

II. Application of Policy

All UNT Students and Student Groups

III. Policy Definitions

A. *Appropriate University Official*

“Appropriate University Official,” in this policy, means any UNT employee or official who is reasonably in a position to stop or remedy hazing; including but not limited to officials responsible for student housing, UNT Police, student conduct, student organizations, and Greek Life; athletic coaches and trainers; and advisors to student organizations.

B. *Coercion*

“Coercion,” in this policy, means a threat, however communicated, to: commit an offense; inflict bodily injury in the future on the person threatened or another; accuse a person of any offense; expose a person to hatred, contempt, or ridicule; harm the credit or business repute of any person; or take or withhold action as a public servant, or cause a public servant to take or withhold action.

C. *Hazing*

“Hazing,” in this policy, means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off campus, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in a student group if the act:

1. Is any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of harmful substance on the body, or similar activity;
2. involves sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other similar activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
3. involves consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
4. any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the Texas Penal Code; or

5. involves coercing the student to consume:
 - a. a drug; or
 - b. an alcoholic beverage or liquor in an amount that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student is intoxicated, any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the Code of Student Conduct, other university policies, or state or federal laws.

D. Intoxicated

“Intoxicated,” in this policy, means not having the normal use of mental or physical faculties by reason of the introduction of alcohol, a controlled substance, a drug, a dangerous drug, a combination or two or more of those substances, or any other substance into the body; or having a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more.

E. Student

“Student,” in this policy, means any person who is registered in or in attendance at the university; has been accepted for admission at the university; or intends to attend the university during any of its regular sessions after a period of scheduled vacation.

F. University Student Group (Student Group)

“University Student Group,” in this policy, means a group of students who share a common interest and who are recognized as a student group with the Student Activities and Organizations Office, or groups who officially represent the university, including, an association, corporation, order, society, corps, club, or student government, a band or musical group or an academic, athletic, cheerleading, or dance team, including any group or team that participates in National Collegiate Athletic Association competition, or a service, social, or similar group, whose members are primarily students.

IV. Policy Responsibilities

A. Prohibited Conduct

1. Prohibited Personal Conduct

No person may engage in hazing; solicit, encourage, direct, aid, or attempt to aid another to engage in hazing; or recklessly permit hazing to occur; or have firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident involving a student at the UNT, or have firsthand knowledge that a specific hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fail to report that knowledge in writing to the Dean of Students or other appropriate university official.

2. Prohibited Student Group Conduct

No student group may condone or encourage hazing. No officer, authorized representative, or any combination of members, potential new members, or alumni of the organization may commit or assist in the commission of hazing. Both a student group and individuals participating in hazing may be subject to discipline under the UNT Code of Student Conduct.

3. Consent Not a Defense

Hazing, with or without the consent of a person being hazed, is prohibited. A violation of this prohibition renders both the person inflicting the hazing and the person consenting to the hazing subject to discipline.

B. *Obligation to Report*

1. A person who believes that he or she has been subjected to hazing or a person who has knowledge of hazing activities must report the incident(s) to the Dean of Students, UNT Police or another appropriate university official. All university officials must promptly report incidents of hazing to the Dean of Students Office or UNT Police.
2. Any person who has cause to believe that an incident of hazing may have adversely affected the physical or mental health or welfare of an individual under 18 years of age must immediately report the incident to law enforcement authorities in accordance with the obligation to report child abuse or neglect. A report of hazing does not necessarily discharge an individual's obligation to report child abuse or neglect to law enforcement authorities.
3. All reports of hazing regarding student groups and individuals will be investigated by the Dean of Students or a designee. Reports of hazing may also be referred for investigation by the UNT Police.

C. *Sanctions*

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, with sanctions up to and including expulsion, termination, or suspension.

D. *Immunity*

1. Good Faith Reporting

The university may elect not to pursue disciplinary sanctions for a violation of this policy against persons who voluntarily and in good faith provide information to the Dean of Students or an appropriate university official related to hazing.

2. Immunity from Criminal and Civil Liability

a. Voluntary Reporting

Any person who voluntarily reports a specific hazing incident involving a UNT student to the dean of students or other appropriate official of the institution is immune from civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed as a result of the reported hazing incident if the person:

- i. reports the incident before being contacted by UNT concerning the incident or otherwise being included in the university's investigation of the incident; and
- ii. cooperates in good faith throughout any institutional process regarding the incident, as determined by the Dean of Students or other appropriate university official.

A person is not immune if the person reports the person's own act of hazing or reports an incident of hazing in bad faith or with malice.

b. Medical Authorities

A doctor or medical practitioner who treats a student who may have been subjected to hazing may report the suspected hazing activities to police or other law enforcement officials and is immune from civil or other liability that might otherwise be imposed or incurred as a result of the report, unless the report is made in bad faith or with malice.

V. References and Cross-References

[Texas Education Code, Chapter 37, Subchapter F and § 51.936](#)

[Texas Penal Code §§ 1.07 & 49.01](#)

[UNT System Board of Regent Rule 04.1100, Reporting Suspected Wrongdoing](#)

[UNT Policy 07.012, Code of Student Conduct](#)

VI. Revision History

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