



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, regardless of willingness to participate, 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 Penal Code, Student Code of Conduct, or other university

policies;

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 or;
6. Any act that subjects the student to unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.

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

“University Student Group,” or “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 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 University 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 University

Student Group and individuals participating in Hazing may be subject to discipline under the UNT Code of Student Conduct.

B. Reporting Hazing

1. A person who believes that they have 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. To make a report of an allegation of Hazing to the Dean of Students office, any employee, Student, or community member may go to the following link and select "Report Student or Organizational Misconduct": [Support our Students or Report Suspected Wrongdoing | University of North Texas](#).
4. The following on-campus departments may also be contacted directly to make an allegation of Hazing:
 - a. Dean of Students Office: 940-565-2648 or 940-565-2039
 - b. UNT Police Department: 940-565-3000 or call 911.
 - c. The National Anti-Hazing Hotline is available toll-free at 1-888-NOT-HAZE (1-88-668-4293).

C. Investigation and Sanctions

1. All reports of Hazing are investigated by the Dean of Students or designee and may be referred to the UNT Police. Investigations will be conducted according to the procedures and processes outlined in the UNT Student Code of Conduct, UNT Policy 07.012. UNT will discipline any Student or University Student Group found responsible for Hazing. When Hazing happens within a University Student Group, UNT may find both the University Student Group and individual Students responsible. A University Student Group can be found responsible if it condones or encourages Hazing, or if its officers, members, or alumni commit or assist in the commission of Hazing.
2. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, with sanctions up to and including expulsion, termination, or suspension for Students and probation, loss of privilege, and suspension for University Student Groups. Students and University Student Groups can also be assigned educational sanctions designed to change behavior and reduce the risk of future misconduct.

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 University Official 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 their 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.

E. Prevention and Awareness Programs

UNT implements research-informed, campus-wide Hazing prevention programs targeting Students, faculty, and staff. These programs include education on ethical leadership, bystander intervention, and strategies for building group cohesion without Hazing. UNT has resources to help Students and University Student Groups prevent Hazing. Students and University Student Groups can consult with the Dean of Students Office, the Center for Leadership Development, and the Student Activities Center. The Dean of Students Office coordinates UNT's activities for National Hazing Prevention Week, the Center for Leadership Development provides assistance and support to UNT's fraternities and sororities, and the Student Activities Center works with all University Student Groups for prevention and awareness programs related to Hazing.

V. References and Cross-References

20 U.S.C. § 1001 [Stop Campus Hazing Act](#)
[Texas Education Code, Chapter 37, Subchapter F and § 51.936](#)

[Texas Penal Code §§ 1.07 & 49.01](#)

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

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

VI. Revision History

Policy Contact:	VP for Student Affairs
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