

3341-2-49 Anti-Hazing Policy.

Applicability	Students, Student organizations, Student Groups, and Employees
Responsible Unit	Office of the Provost
Policy Administrator	Provost

(A) Policy Statement and Purpose

Bowling Green State University (BGSU) has zero tolerance for any form of hazing.

The University seeks to promote a safe environment in which members of our learning community may participate in experiences and activities without compromising their health, wellbeing, dignity, and/or rights. Hazing can cause irreparable harm to victims, victims' families, and the University community. From a legal perspective, hazing is a crime. From the University's perspective, hazing is a violation of Policy and antithetical to the ideals and values of our learning community related to belonging and personal growth. Prevention of hazing is the responsibility of every member of the University community.

This document outlines the scope of the Policy; defines key terms; prohibits hazing and related conduct; designates mandatory reporters; identifies mechanisms to report hazing; establishes how amnesty can be granted to reporters or those who seek medical assistance for themselves or others; describes the institutional response to reports of hazing; establishes corrective action and discipline for violating this Policy; details how this Policy is reviewed; and explains the process whereby individuals may obtain information about misconduct by student groups and student organizations.

(B) Policy Scope

- (1) This Policy applies to BGSU students, student organizations, student groups, and employees. This Policy also applies to volunteers acting in an official capacity who advise or coach student organizations and/or student groups and who have direct contact with students.
- (2) This Policy applies to hazing that takes place between two or more people who are affiliated with the University regardless if the conduct occurs on or off campus.
- (3) The following factors do not prevent conduct from being considered a violation of this Policy:

- (a) Expressed or implied consent; or
 - (b) The conduct not being part of an official event or otherwise sanctioned or approved by a student organization or student group.
- (4) Hazing does not include either of the following:
- (a) Reasonable and customary organizational training, contests, competitions, or other activities that are explicitly relevant to the mission of the organization; and/or
 - (b) Lawful expressive activities that are protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, Section 11 of Article I of the Ohio Constitution, or Sections 3345.0211 through 3345.0214 of the Revised Code.
- (5) In addition to this Policy, National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) student athletes shall follow the policies and guidelines set forth by the NCAA, the affiliated conference, and BGSU Athletics.
- (C) Definitions
- (1) Hazing means doing any of the following, or pressuring, causing, forcing, soliciting, or coercing any person to do any of the following, for the purpose of initiating, admitting, or affiliating an individual into or with a student group or student organization; continuing, reinstating, or enhancing an individual's membership or status in a student group or student organization; or perpetuating or furthering a tradition or ritual of a student group or student organization:
- (a) Engage in any conduct prohibited by federal, state and/or municipal criminal law, regardless of whether an arrest is made, or criminal charges are brought;
 - (b) Take into their body any food, liquid (including alcohol), drug, or other substance that subjects the person to a substantial risk of mental or physical harm; and /or
 - (c) Cause or create a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to another and/or engage in any act or omission that contributes to the death of another.
- (2) Hazing includes (but is not limited to) the following actions and situations, if they happen for the purpose defined in Section (C)(1):
- (a) Acts of a physical nature such as beating, bondage, branding, calisthenics (e.g., wall-sits, sit-ups, push-ups), exposure to the elements, kicking, paddling, pushing, shoving, striking, tackling, throwing items at or on individuals, and/or whipping.
 - (b) Acts that may adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual such as exclusion from social contact, kidnapping or

abandonment, line-ups (e.g., drills on information, berating, etc.) and/or sleep, food, or water deprivation.

- (c) Activities that a reasonable person would view to be frightening, humiliating, intimidating, or deceptive (including deception intended to convince the individual of impending pain, injury, or non-initiation) such as altering an individual's regular hygiene or grooming routine; blindfolding; having individuals yell when entering or departing a physical structure or in the presence of designated individuals; having individuals use designated entrances or exits and/or not permitting them to enter general use facilities or spaces; intentionally creating labor or clean-up work; not allowing individuals to wear certain garments or accessories; promoting servitude; requiring individuals to complete personal errands or purchase items for members; requiring individuals to wear apparel that is conspicuous or uncomfortable; and/or requiring individuals to wear scant clothing or to be nude.
 - (d) Participation in any act of a sexual or lewd nature.
 - (e) Activities that endanger or have the potential to endanger the academic performance or personal life of an individual (e.g., not allowing adequate time for or interfering with academic commitments, employment, or family obligations).
 - (f) Any destruction or removal of public or private property.
 - (g) Activities that violate University policies.
- (3) "Student" means any person from the time they are admitted to the University up through the date of graduation. This term includes, but is not limited to:
- (a) Newly admitted students who have attended orientation;
 - (b) Currently enrolled individuals, including dual-enrolled students; and/or
 - (c) An individual who has been enrolled in classes at any time within the prior two semesters (i.e., summer, fall, or spring).
- (4) "Student organization" means a group of people who are associated with each other and who have registered with the University as a student organization as outlined in University Policy 3341-2-36.
- (5) "Student group" means a number of persons who are associated with the University and each other, but who have not registered, or are not required to register as a student organization (e.g., athletic teams, spirit groups, military organizations, honor societies, musical or theatrical ensembles, bands, or clubs).
- (6) "Serious physical harm" includes, but is not limited to, any harm that involves disfigurement; protracted loss of use of or impairment of the function of a body part, organ, or mental faculty; substantial risk of death or emergency hospitalization; and/or unconsciousness.

(D) Prohibited Conduct

The following behaviors constitute a violation of this Policy:

- (1) Purposefully, knowingly, recklessly, or negligently hazing any person.
- (2) Involvement in the planning of hazing and/or being present during hazing.
- (3) Failing to intervene to prevent or stop hazing if the individual has knowledge of a planned hazing activity.
- (4) Failing to assist or seek assistance if the individual knows or reasonably should know that another is in danger from effects of hazing.
- (5) Knowingly making a false accusation of hazing.
- (6) Failing to report any information about suspected Prohibited Conduct if required to do so in Section (E) of this Policy.
- (7) Failing to cooperate in an investigation of hazing, as defined as noncompliance with the Conduct Process as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct, Policy 3341-2-28.
- (8) Retaliating against or taking adverse action toward any reporting party and/or person participating in a hazing investigation or disciplinary proceeding.

(E) Mandatory Reporters and Reporting Requirements

- (1) Definition of mandatory reporter; required reporting

A “mandatory reporter” must immediately report knowledge of hazing as defined in Section (C) of this Policy to the University through any of the five reporting options outlined in Section (F) of this Policy. A mandatory reporter who fails to make a timely report may be subject to appropriate discipline. Each of the following is considered a “mandatory reporter”:

- (a) Any full- or part-time employee of the University (including student employees and graduate assistants), or
 - (b) Any volunteer acting in an official capacity who advises or coaches student organizations and/or student groups and who have direct contact with students.
 - (c) Employees who are required by law to protect confidentiality are exempt from this requirement.
- (2) A mandatory reporter’s obligation to report is not fulfilled with an anonymous report. In addition, reports made pursuant to this Policy do not supersede or replace other reporting obligations. For instance, Section 2903.31 of the Ohio Revised Code requires that all University employees and volunteers of any student organization, who are acting in an official and professional capacity, immediately report the knowledge of hazing to a law enforcement agency in the county in which the victim resides or in which the hazing is occurring or

has occurred. Failure to do so may result in criminal liability.

(F) Reporting Options

Beyond mandatory reporters, BGSU encourages anyone who experiences or has information about hazing (e.g., student, family member, visitor, or other third party) to immediately make a report, even if done anonymously. Prompt reporting enables law enforcement to collect and preserve evidence and campus officials to gather timely and relevant information to aid in investigations. BGSU will act in the best interests of the overall University community, based upon the available information.

Reports may be made via the following methods:

- (1) Law enforcement
 - (a) Dial 911 to report any emergency situations
 - (b) Dial (419) 372-2346 for nonemergency situations to speak with the BGSU Police Department. An officer will assist in identifying which law enforcement agency should receive the report if the incident occurred outside their jurisdiction.
 - (c) Make a report in person at the BGSU Police Department located in 100 College Park Office Building.
- (2) Hazing reporting line
 - (a) Call the Hazing Reporting Line at (419) 372-HAZE (419-372-4293).
 - (b) This reporting line is staffed by the Office of the Dean of Students and accepts calls 24/7.
- (3) See it. Hear it. Report it. Website

Complete the Hazing Report Form at <http://bgsu.edu/reportit>. This link is on the BGSU See It. Hear It. Report It. website.
- (4) In-person

Make a report in person at the Office of the Dean of Students located in 301 Bowen-Thompson Student Union.
- (5) Human Resources

Violations by University employees should be reported directly to the Office of Human Resources.

If a report is submitted to the BGSU Police Department, the Hazing Reporting Line, the Dean of Students Office, or Human Resources, the staff member who receives the report is required to submit this information via the Hazing Report Form and should also encourage the reporter to complete the online form.

(G) Amnesty

- (1) BGSU recognizes that individuals may be reluctant to report hazing activity due to a fear of potential consequences for their own conduct. Therefore, students who make a report under this Policy or who participate in an investigation related to this Policy will not be charged with other minor University Policy violations that are brought to light in the course of the investigation that arose out of, or were committed as a direct result of, the incident(s) under investigation as long as those behaviors do not represent a threat to the health, safety, or wellbeing of others. For example, students required to consume alcohol as part of a hazing incident will not be charged with violations of University alcohol policies. The University may follow up with those students related to those issues as appropriate in a non-disciplinary manner.
 - (2) In addition, a currently enrolled student who, in good faith, seeks or obtains medical assistance (e.g., by calling 9-1-1) for themselves or for another person for the overconsumption of alcohol or for a drug overdose, will not be charged with a violation of the Code of Student Conduct in connection with the possession or consumption of alcohol or drugs as outlined in the Amnesty section of the Code of Student Conduct.
- (H) Procedures for Institutional Response
- (1) BGSU will always notify the appropriate law enforcement agency or agencies when a report of hazing is received and document that the notification was made.
 - (2) The University will determine if interim measures are needed to protect the safety and/or well-being of others. Imposition of interim measures will be as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct.
 - (3) The Dean of Students or designee will initiate an investigation into all reports of hazing involving students, student groups, and student organizations in accordance with this Policy and the Code of Student Conduct. During the course of the investigation, students, student groups, and student organizations may request to enter information into the record and may recommend specific witnesses to the investigator(s). Ultimately, the investigator(s) will determine the relevance of information or witnesses. In completing the investigation, the investigator(s) may:
 - (a) Make contact (if possible) with the individual(s) who submitted the initial information.
 - (b) Make contact with the individual(s) alleged to have violated this Policy. If the conduct involved a student organization or student group, the investigator(s) will contact the presiding student leader and advisor of the entity under investigation.
 - (c) Interview any individuals with relevant information.
 - (d) Request relevant information from members of the student group or student organization (e.g., text messages, screenshots, pictures, videos).

- (e) Require members of the student group or student organization, or a select group of members, to meet with staff.
 - (f) Restrict communication between the student group or student organization members during the investigation.
 - (g) Request that students share other information that is deemed relevant.
- (4) As outlined in the Code of Student Conduct, students may be required to appear at conduct meetings. Students are not compelled to answer questions or provide information. If a student fails to participate in the conduct process, the University may proceed to resolve the matter. No adverse inference may be drawn against a student who does not participate in the conduct process.
 - (5) Students participating in an investigation process are expected to do so in an active, cooperative, and truthful manner. Falsifying, distorting, intentionally omitting, or misrepresenting information may be a violation of the Code of Student Conduct.
 - (6) The University will make every effort to complete the initial investigation within a period of thirty (30) calendar days, barring extenuating circumstances. If the circumstances require more than thirty (30) calendar days, the University will notify the student group or student organization representative(s) of the delay, including the reason(s) for the delay and the anticipated timeline for completing the investigation.
 - (7) Based on the information gathered during the investigation, a determination will be made by a conduct administrator whether the information presented warrants proceeding with an alleged violation(s) of this Policy or the Code of Student Conduct. Such alleged violation(s) will be resolved in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct.
- (I) Corrective Action and Zero Tolerance Sanctions
 - (1) Violations of this Policy by students and/or student organizations defined in Sections (C)(3) and (4) will be sanctioned in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct.
 - (2) Violations of this Policy by student groups defined in Section (C)(5) will be sanctioned by the Hazing Prevention Coordinator in consultation with the divisional leader who has oversight for the group and the Dean of Students. The Hazing Prevention Coordinator may convene a formal hearing panel to recommend sanctions.
 - (3) Expulsion or Degree Revocation will be the minimum conduct sanction assigned to any student organization or student for any violation of this Policy that causes death, serious physical harm, or substantial risk of serious physical harm. This includes coerced consumption of alcohol or drugs of abuse that causes death, serious physical harm, or substantial risk of serious physical harm.
 - (4) Violations of this Policy are subject to referral to appropriate law enforcement

or University services, as well as to regional and inter/national affiliated offices of student organizations, for action and prosecution.

- (5) Violations of this Policy by employees may result in corrective action or discipline (including termination) in accordance with applicable University policies and procedures and/or collective bargaining agreements.
- (J) Policy Distribution and Review
- (1) This Policy is posted on the website for the Office of General Counsel. Links to the Policy, and for hazing prevention and education, will be posted on the website for the Student Handbook.
 - (2) This Policy is maintained and administered by the Office of the Dean of Students. The Policy will be reviewed each year and updated as needed. The annual Policy review will include an evaluation of any changes in legal requirements, existing University resources, and the cases reported and resolved during the preceding year.
- (K) Reporting and Transparency

The Office of the Dean of Students will maintain a website that provides information concerning findings of hazing misconduct by students, student organizations and student groups for the previous five (5) academic years. This website will include a brief description of the alleged misconduct, the outcome/finding concerning the alleged misconduct, and any corrective action or discipline taken.

Equity Impact Statement: The policy has been assessed for adverse differential impact on members of one or more protected groups.

Registered Date: August 25, 2021

Amended Date: May 24, 2023