

Clayton State University, Department of Campus Life

Rites and Ceremonies / Hazing

No Clayton State organization (includes departments, athletics, etc.) or student shall condone, encourage, or require unlawful acts by its members at any time. All organizations shall be responsible for observing all University policies.

The University defines **hazing** as any situation, circumstance, or environment created by an organization or student that is purposefully instigated to illicit mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule to aspiring members on or off university premises.

All rites and ceremonies of introduction, initiation, or orientation into college life which tend to occasion or allow unreasonable physical or mental suffering are prohibited. Any orientation which in part takes place in public, which in any way involves persons outside the organization or is not confined to a single building must be approved by the Department of Campus Life prior to the ceremony.

Hazing may include (but is not limited to): paddling, caning, whipping, forced calisthenics, tattooing / branding, forced consumption (of any food, alcohol or related substance), coercion to perform dangerous acts, or the issuance of assignments that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual.

Hazing may also include any activity that would subject students to mental stress, such as: sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, conduct that result in extreme embarrassment, public servitude, giving money to older members of the organization, destroying public or private property, and performing unauthorized scavenger / treasure hunts.

Clayton State University strictly adheres to state legislation outlawing hazing. Students involved in **any** aspect of hazing are subject to both institutional disciplinary action and prosecution by local and state authorities.

The appropriate legislation is reprinted below:

O.C.G.A. 16-5-61 (2010)
16-5-61. Hazing

(a) As used in this Code section, the term:

(1) "Haze" means to subject a student to an activity which endangers or is likely to endanger the physical health of a student, regardless of a student's willingness to participate in such activity.

(2) "School" means any school, college, or university in this state.

(3) "School organization" means any club, society, fraternity, sorority, or a group living together which has students as its principal members.

(4) "Student" means any person enrolled in a school in this state.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to haze any student in connection with or as a condition or precondition of gaining acceptance, membership, office, or other status in a school organization.

(c) Any person who violates this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

Last Revised: 2010

If you or someone you know has been involved in a hazing incident, please contact Natasha Hutson, Director of Campus Life and Greek Life Coordinator at 678-466-5428 or via email: natashahutson@clayton.edu.