

Clayton State University, Department of Laker 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 Laker 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 and federal 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:

Public Law 118-173
118th Congress
H.R. 5646
The "Stop Campus Hazing Act"

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

(1) "Haze" or "hazing" means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with other persons) against another person or persons regardless of the willingness of such other person or persons to participate, that--

(I) is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in, a student organization; and

(II) causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team), of physical or psychological injury including--

(aa) whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on someone's body, or similar activity;
(bb) causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity;
(cc) causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances;
(dd) causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to perform sexual acts;
(ee) any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct;
(ff) any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law; and
(gg) any activity that induces, causes, or requires another person to perform a duty or task that involves a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law.

(2) "School" means any unit of the University System of Georgia, any unit of the 21 Technical College System of Georgia, or any private postsecondary school, college, or university in this state.

(3) "School organization" means an organization at an institution of higher education (such as a club, society, association, varsity or junior varsity athletic team, club sports team, fraternity, sorority, band, or student government) in which two or more of the members are students enrolled at the institution of higher education, whether or not the organization is established or recognized by the institution."

(4) "Student" means any person enrolled or prospectively 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.

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If you or someone you know has been involved in a hazing incident, please contact:

- LaShanda Hardin, Fraternity Sorority Life Coordinator at 678-466-5424 or via email: lashandahardin@clayton.edu
- Dr. André L. Clanton, Director of Student Conduct and Community Standards at 678-466-5444 or via email at aclanton2@clayton.edu.
- Online Incident Reporting Form: https://clayton-advocate.symlicity.com/public_report/index.php/pid180028?
- Campus Public Safety: 678-466-4050
- Public Safety RAVE Guardian – Personal Safety App www.clayton.edu/public-safety/RAVE-Guardian/