



Connors State College Hazing Policy

August 12, 2025

Hazing violates the Connors State College Student Code of Conduct. Any reports of hazing will be investigated and any activities that are considered hazing will result in action from Connors State College.

Defining Hazing

Connors State College defines hazing as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act that is committed by a person against another person (regardless of that person's willingness to participate) that is:

- committed in connection with an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in, a student organization (a team, club, society, association, fraternity, sorority, student government, etc.) **and**
- causes or creates a risk of physical or psychological injury or degradation (above the reasonable risk encountered during participation at Connors State College or in the organization).

A student organization refers to any organization with two or more students enrolled at Connors State College, regardless of whether the student organization is established or recognized by Connors State College.

Hazing can occur at any point in one's membership experience. It happens most commonly during the new member period or just after someone has been initiated or becomes an "official" member. Although hazing may occur in an organized way via the chapter or entire organization, it is more likely that hazing will ensue among a small group of members. Hazing is always rooted in a power-dynamic and a need to exert power over others. When you join a student organization or receive an invitation to membership, you are considered deserving of membership and do not have to "earn" your way into an organization.

Apathy or acquiescence in the presence of hazing are not neutral acts; they are violations of this policy.

Hazing Examples

Subtle Hazing

Subtle hazing can take the form of activities that are often accepted as “harmless” or “meaningless.” Subtle hazing can be rooted in tradition or portrayed as bonding activities. There is often a power imbalance found between new members and other members of the organization and subtle acts of hazing are activities or attitudes that breach reasonable standards of mutual respect. Members may feel like they must endure the subtle hazing to feel like they belong to the organization. Examples of subtle hazing include:

- Requiring the performance of unnecessary duties that other members are not assigned (such as mowing lawns, cleaning houses, serving as Designated Drivers (DDs))
- Requiring extreme calisthenics (such as running, sit-ups, push-ups, other forms of physical exercise or other similar activities)
- Assigning meaningless and often impossible tasks
- “Greeting” members in a specific manner when interacting with each other on campus
- Being required to carry around certain items
- Restriction of communication
- Setting of a curfew

Harassment Hazing

Harassment hazing is typically used to confuse, frustrate, or cause unnecessary stress. This behavior has the potential to cause emotional anguish and/or physical discomfort. Examples of harassment hazing include:

- Yelling or screaming
- Personal servitude or chores
- Lineups for the purpose of interrogating, demeaning, or intimidating
- Wearing embarrassing or uncomfortable clothing or requiring total or partial nudity
- Sleep deprivation
- Exposure to elements
- Assigning pranks that involve stealing, vandalism, or harassing other organizations
- Capturing or kidnapping a person or any other forced confinement
- Being dropped off somewhere unfamiliar and being forced to find one’s way back
- Forced consumption of food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances

Violent Hazing

Violent hazing is behavior that has the potential to cause physical, emotional, and/or psychological harm. Examples of violent hazing include:

- Whipping, paddling, beating, striking, electric shocking, placing a harmful substance on someone's body, or similar activities
- Pushing, shoving, tackling or any other physical contact
- Branding, cutting, labeling, or shaving parts of the body
- Causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to perform sexual acts
- Any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through use of threatening words or conduct

Hazing also includes any activity against another person that may violate local, Oklahoma, tribal, or federal law, or any activity that induces, causes, or requires another person to perform a duty or task that may violate local, Oklahoma, tribal, or federal law.

What to do if you are being hazed

If you or someone you know has been hazed, report it. Don't be a bystander. The Connors State College **Policy for Reporting Hazing** is available on the Connors State College website listed under Campus Security: Security Main Menu: Forms

- Stay connected with friends outside of your student organization. Organizations that haze may try to isolate new members from others who might question what they are going through.
- Talk with others about what you are experiencing and don't keep it a secret. Even if you made a promise or took a pledge to keep things a secret, you have a right to tell others what you are going through. You may prevent harm done to yourself or others.
- Seek guidance from your parents/guardians, other family members, trusted friends, or other Connors State College officials.
- Refuse to participate in any activity that you do not want to participate in – especially those that would be considered hazing.
- Band together with other members that also refuse to be hazed. There is power in numbers.
- Leave the organization if you want to. It may be a hard decision to make but walking away from hazing takes strength. Leaving a dangerous situation is not weak and doesn't mean that you aren't tough enough to "take it." Quitting when you are being hazed takes integrity. There are likely others in the organization that will leave with you but may need someone like you to take the first step.
- Talk to a healthcare provider or mental health professional to help you sort out what to do.
- Report your experiences to Connors State College Student Support & Conduct.
- Call 911 if there is an immediate threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of others.

Policy for Reporting Incidents of Hazing

Connors State College encourages anyone who experiences, witnesses, or has information about any past, current, or planned hazing to immediately make a report. Reports may be made

anonymously, although providing contact information is preferred so that Connors State College can provide necessary follow-up.

Reports of hazing may be made to the following:

- Jake Lawson, VP for Student Affairs or Mike Jackson, Assistant Dean of Students with the office of Student Affairs which is located in Russell Hall. Reports may be made in person or by completing an Incident Report Form which can be found on the website under Campus Security or by getting an Incident Report form from Campus Security, Housing staff or the Office of Student Affairs.
- **Law Enforcement**
 - Dial 911 to report emergency situations.
 - Dial 918-463-6375 for non-emergency situations to speak with the Connors State College Campus Police
- **Hazing Report Line**
 - Anti-Hazing Hotline: 1-888-NOT-HAZE (1-888-668-4293)

Being as detailed as possible when reporting hazing is critical for Connors State College to properly follow-up with the allegations. To the best extent possible, reports will be kept anonymous. Connors State College may follow up with you after you submit a report to gather more information and/or provide resources.

Policy for Investigating Incidents of Hazing

Connors State College will promptly initiate an investigation into all reports of hazing involving students, student groups, and student organizations in accordance with this policy and Student Code of Conduct.

Examples:

- In response to a report of hazing, Connors State College may take interim measures to protect the safety and well-being of others.
- Connors State College will notify the appropriate law enforcement agency when a report of hazing is received and document that the notification was made.
- As part of the investigation, students, student groups and student organizations may be asked to provide additional information, including specific witnesses. Students participating in an investigation are expected to do so in a cooperative and truthful manner. Falsifying, intentionally omitting, or misrepresenting information may be a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.
- Connors State College will make every effort to complete its initial investigation within thirty (30) calendar days, barring extenuating circumstances. In the event of extenuating circumstances, Connors State College will notify those involved of the delay.

All reports of hazing will be tracked utilizing the Maxient case management software as the central record-keeping system. This system will track actions and document outcomes.

Policy on Connors State College Prevention Strategies and Awareness Programs

Hazing prevention and awareness programs will be held bi-annually in campus-wide programs that are designed to reach students, staff, and faculty. The program will include prevention strategies that are intended to stop hazing before it occurs, such as skill building for bystander intervention, information about ethical leadership, and strategies for building group cohesion without hazing.

Applicable Local, State and Tribal Laws on Hazing

Section 1190 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes provides that no student organization or any person associated with any organization sanctioned or authorized by the governing board of any public or private school or Connors State College of higher education in this state shall engage or participate in hazing.

Any hazing activity upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with an organization sanctioned or authorized by a public or private school or by any Connors State College of higher education in this state is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be a forced activity, even if the student willingly participates in such activity.

Any organization sanctioned or authorized by the governing board of a public or private school or of an Connors State College of higher education in this state which violates 21 O.S. § 1190, upon conviction, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and may be punishable by a fine of not more than One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) and the forfeit for a period of not less than one (1) year all of the rights and privileges of being an organization organized or operating at the public or private school or at the Connors State College of higher education. Any individual convicted of violating the provisions of 21 O.S. § 1190 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punishable by imprisonment for not to exceed ninety (90) days in the county jail, or by the imposition of a fine not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by both such imprisonment and fine.

For purposes of Oklahoma law, the following definitions apply:

“Hazing” means an activity which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization operating subject to the sanction of the public or private school of higher education in this state;

“Endanger the physical health” shall include but not be limited to any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, alcoholic beverage as defined in Section 506 of Title 37 of the Oklahoma Statutes, low-point beer as defined in Section 163.2 of Title 37 of the Oklahoma Statutes, drug, controlled dangerous substance, or other substance, or any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual; and

“Endanger the mental health” shall include any activity, except those activities authorized by law, which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as prolonged sleep deprivation, forced prolonged exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual.

The full statute is listed below:

2024 Oklahoma Statutes

Title 21. Crimes and Punishments

§21-1190. Hazing - Prohibition - Presumption as forced activity - Penalty - Definition.

A. No student organization or any person associated with any organization sanctioned or authorized by the governing board of any public or private school or institution of higher education in this state shall engage or participate in hazing.

B. Any hazing activity described in subsection F of this section upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with an organization sanctioned or authorized by a public or private school or by any institution of higher education in this state is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be a forced activity, even if the student willingly participates in such activity.

C. A copy of the policy or the rules and regulations of the public or private school or institution of higher education which prohibits hazing shall be given to each student enrolled in the school or institution and shall be deemed to be part of the bylaws of all organizations operating at the public school or the institution of higher education.

D. Any organization sanctioned or authorized by the governing board of a public or private school or of an institution of higher education in this state which violates subsection A of this section, upon conviction, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and may be punishable by a fine of not more than One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) and the forfeit for a period of not less than one (1) year all of the rights and privileges of being an organization organized or operating at the public or private school or at the institution of higher education.

E. Any individual convicted of violating the provisions of subsection A of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and may be punishable by imprisonment for not to exceed ninety (90) days in the county jail, or by the imposition of a fine not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by both such imprisonment and fine.

F. For purposes of this section:

1. "Hazing" means an activity which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization operating subject to the sanction of the public or private school or of any institution of higher education in this state;

2. "Endanger the physical health" shall include but not be limited to any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, alcoholic beverage as defined in Section 506 of Title 37 of the Oklahoma Statutes, low-point beer as defined in Section 163.2 of Title 37 of the Oklahoma Statutes, drug, controlled dangerous substance, or other substance, or any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual; and

3. "Endanger the mental health" shall include any activity, except those activities authorized by law, which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as prolonged sleep deprivation, forced prolonged exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual.

Added by Laws 1990, c. 165, § 3, eff. July 1, 1990. Amended by Laws 1995, c. 274, § 6, eff. Nov. 1, 1995.

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