

Hazing Policy

Section 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Clark University complies with the federal [Stop Campus Hazing Act](#) (SCHA) and Massachusetts laws related to hazing. Clark prohibits all hazing that meets either the federal definition of hazing under the SCHA or the Massachusetts definition of hazing. Hazing violates this policy and may also violate Massachusetts state law.

Students, faculty, and staff should review this policy so that they can identify possible hazing and understand the consequences of such behavior. If you suspect someone is being hazed, you are encouraged to report such a hazing incident to the resources in Section 3 below.

Clark University discloses hazing statistics in its [Annual Security Report](#) under the Clery Act and information about hazing violations in its [Campus Hazing Transparency Report](#).

Section 2. DEFINITIONS

Federal Definition of Hazing under the Stop Campus Hazing Act

Hazing is 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 –
 - a. whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on someone's body, or similar activity;
 - b. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity;
 - c. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances;
 - d. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to perform sexual acts;
 - e. any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct;
 - f. any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law; and

- g. 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.

Massachusetts Definition of Hazing

Hazing is any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

Student Organization

A student organization is an organization at Clark University, 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 Clark University, whether or not the organization is established or recognized by Clark University.

Section 3. REPORTING HAZING

All members of the Clark University community are responsible for reporting hazing incidents.

Reporting a hazing incident is a crucial step in preventing future occurrences and ensuring the safety of our community. Failure to report hazing is a violation of Massachusetts law:

Chapter 269: Section 18. Failure to report hazing.

Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in Section 17 and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to themselves or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars. (Amended by 1987, 665.)

At Clark University, suspected hazing can be reported anonymously or directly through the following channels:

- **University Police:** 508-793-7575
- **Division of Student Success:** success@clarku.edu
- **Anonymous Reporting** [Form](#)

Section 4. INVESTIGATION AND ADJUDICATION OF HAZING

Students and Student Organizations accused of hazing will be investigated and adjudicated through the conduct process under the Student Code of Conduct.

Individuals found responsible for hazing are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion from the university.

Student Organizations found responsible for hazing are subject to discipline, up to and including:

- Loss of recognition or funding.
- Restrictions on activities, recruitment, or campus privileges.
- Educational or restorative sanctions.

Section 5. HAZING PREVENTION AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS

Clark University provides research-based and evidence-informed education and training on hazing to students, faculty, and staff, including:

- Yearly distribution of this policy to all students, student organizations, teams, and clubs, as well as faculty and staff.
- Training during the student onboarding process.
- Training for registered student clubs and organizations.
- Training for athletic teams and student-athletes.

Section 6. RESOURCES

Applicable Laws:

- Stop Campus Hazing Act: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/5646?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%22%22%7D&r=1&s=1>
- Massachusetts Law
 - Section 17 – Hazing defined: <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartIV/TitleI/Chapter269/Section17>
 - Section 18 – Failure to report hazing: <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartIV/TitleI/Chapter269/Section18>
 - Section 19 - Issuance to students: <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartIV/TitleI/Chapter269/Section19>

Other Resources:

- [Hazing Prevention Network](#)
- [Stop Hazing](#)
- [Clery Center](#)
- [We Don't Haze: A Clery Center Documentary](#)

History/Revision Information

Responsible Office/ Division: Division of Student Success

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