

FRATERNITY OF MEN, NOT BOYS.

Sigma Nu's Risk Reduction Newsletter

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Cost of Misconduct

Having difficulty convincing your chapter members that they should follow the Fraternity's [Risk Reduction Policy and Guidelines](#)? Maybe it's time you take a different approach in communicating the necessity of the [Risk Reduction Policy and Guidelines](#).

At the past three Grand Chapters, members of the Fraternity's staff have facilitated a "Cost of Misconduct" presentation. This presentation outlines both the tangible and intangible costs to the organization incurred from alcohol and/or hazing violations. For example, almost 50% of the Fraternity's overall budget went to proactive and reactive risk reduction expenditures in the 2008-2010 biennium!

You can view the slide show used for this past summer's "Cost of Misconduct" presentation by clicking [here](#).

#40Answers Campaign

On August 11, 2010, Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. once again established itself as a pioneer in the Greek community with a new approach in the campaign to eliminate hazing. The "40 Answers in 40 Days" campaign was an idea to promote this year's National Hazing Prevention Week by having the best minds in Greek Life respond to 40 of the most common excuses for hazing. Many of these excuses you may have heard in your own discussions within your chapter and/or your campus community.

Through blog, Facebook and Twitter posts, each day a spontaneous team of contributors gave their answers to typical arguments for hazing. For Twitter users, the "answer" posts included the #40Answers hashtag.

This innovative crowd-sourcing initiative was an overwhelming success. All of the "answer" posts have been compiled into a new resource for undergraduates, alumni and student affairs professionals titled "40 Answers to Hazing Excuses." Be sure to take a look at this great new resource for all the ammunition you need to combat the common excuses used to justify hazing. Click [here](#) to download the document today!

Initiation Week – A Time for Reflection

It's that time in the semester where many candidate education programs are coming to a close. Hopefully, by now, your chapter has taken a group of young students, unfamiliar with each other and the Fraternity, and made them into a cohesive group of ethical leaders ready to lead the future of Sigma Nu. Having completed various requirements, such as LEAD sessions, community service/philanthropy projects, study hours and other activities, your candidates are likely looking forward to seeing the fruits of their labor in becoming an initiated member in The Legion of Honor.

Candidate education is a difficult process for both the active chapter and candidates. With so much effort being poured into a process by so many people, it is natural to want it to end on a high note. This culmination typically manifests itself in what is called "Initiation Week." *(continued on page 2)*

Don't Play Doctor

According to research released by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (<http://www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov>), over 1,800 college students die each year due to alcohol-related injuries, including car accidents. In many cases, these deaths may have been avoided if their friends had called 911 at the first sign of trouble, rather than waiting until it was too late. Oftentimes, these friends assumed that he would be okay since they've "seen him that drunk before" or argue "he just needs to sleep it off." Unfortunately, these assumptions have led to regret in far too many cases.

As part of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc.'s ongoing effort to combat alcohol abuse and misuse, we have developed, in partnership with Phi Delta Theta International Fraternity who created the original concept, the "Don't Play Doctor" video which can be found at http://www.sigmanu.org/programs/risk_reduction/dont_play_doctor/. This video educates viewers on the signs of alcohol poisoning and what to do if someone appears to have consumed too much alcohol.

Additionally, the recently released "We Have A Situation" resource provides helpful guidelines on how to intervene when a Brother's behavior may be interrupting his academic performance and/or personal life. According to the www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov website, almost 25% of college students allow alcohol to negatively impact their academic performance and more than 150,000 students annually develop alcohol-related health problems. Sigma Nu is not immune to these realities. For more information on ways to address potentially difficult situations, check out "Response Ability – Transforming Values Into Action" at http://www.sigmanu.org/programs/risk_reduction/response_ability.php.

As an honor-based Fraternity, all members should desire to assist our fellow man in times of peril; our organization's values demand nothing less. If you ever find yourself questioning whether or not a friend has had too much to drink, call 911 immediately and get emergency medical assistance. And by all means – Don't Play Doctor.

Capstone of the Candidate Education Program *(continued from page 1)*

There is nothing wrong with a chapter creating a capstone-like experience during the week leading up to initiation. However, it is an unfortunate reality that some chapters make the mistake of using "Initiation Week" as an opportunity to cross the line between developmental education and hazing.

Of course, a chapter wants their Candidates to possess the knowledge and skills necessary to positively contribute to the chapter as an initiated member. However, that is not an excuse to put the group through arbitrary activities leading up to initiation to make the Candidates "prove" they deserve to be members. Instead, there are many ways to create a positive finish to the candidate education process. Have your chapter plan a final candidate class retreat, full of teambuilding exercises and LEAD programming. Ideas for teambuilding activities can be found [here](#). Or plan some other significant brotherhood activities, such as a visit to a ropes course or a unity circle with the chapter membership. Lastly, your chapter could finish the Candidate program with a formal dinner involving the active chapter or invite alumni members to attend and welcome the soon-to-be initiated members into the brotherhood.

These are just a few of many ideas. Just remember, as long as your candidate class reflects back on the process and truly appreciate all that it has provided them, then, the week leading up to initiation will already be special enough. And, as always, if you need any further ideas or have questions about your current initiation-week activities, please contact your Leadership Consultant or the Director of Risk Reduction, Fred Dobry, at fred.dobry@sigmanu.org.