



# Sigma Nu Fraternity

EXCELLING WITH HONOR

## The Weight of Hazing Discussion Guide

**Show The Weight of Hazing poster to illustrate the key messages of today's discussion.**

Hazing continues to be a societal problem in the United States with the primary focus being on college students. 47% of students arriving on college campuses have already experienced hazing and 69% of students have reported being aware of hazing occurring in student organizations other than their own. Proponents of hazing behaviors have argued that hazing promotes a sense of unity and accomplishment while ignoring the documented proof that the overwhelming majority of students do not cite these as an outcome of their hazing experience (Allan & Madden, 2008)<sup>1</sup>.

While some hazing definitions are broad, hazing is not difficult to identify and should be taken seriously, regardless of how subtle or innocent it may be perceived to be. We know that subtle acts of hazing can be an indicator of a larger problem and that tolerance of such acts enable the perpetrator to go further. The negative and tangible impacts of hazing will always outweigh the perception of position outcomes. We have a duty to the safety of our communities to address and prevent hazing.

**Use the following discussion questions to process the poster's message.**

- *What are your initial thoughts regarding the poster's message?*
- *What are some examples of subtle hazing? (Examples may include social isolation, name calling, expecting certain items to always be in one's possession, forced to run errands, etc.)*
- *What outcome (or weight) of hazing do you feel is not represented on the poster?*
- *How can we report hazing on our campus?*
- *How can we report hazing within our organization?*
- *What is our organization's definition of hazing?*
- *What is our university's definition of hazing?*
- *How do they differ from one another? How are they similar?*
- Note, whenever there is a discrepancy between different policies, always apply the stricter of the two policies as this will ensure compliance with both policies.

### Conclusion

Steps toward reduced harm and risks are steps in the right direction. Remember, your General Fraternity staff is ready to help. If you have concerns about specific practices that you are unsure about, contact your alumni advisors, Fraternity and Sorority Life Office, and/or the General Fraternity for support.

### Resources

- National Anti-Hazing Hotline: 1-888-NOT-HAZE or [www.fraternallaw.com/help-us-stop-hazing](http://www.fraternallaw.com/help-us-stop-hazing)
- [Sigma Nu Incident Report Form](#)
- [Sigma Nu Anti-Hazing Initiative and Resources](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Allan, E., & Madden, M. (2008). Hazing in view: College students at risk. Initial findings from the National Study of Student Hazing. Retrieved from <http://www.hazingstudy.org>