



Hazing Facts

And your obligation

Research tells us 55% of college students participating in clubs, organizations, and sports teams experience some form of hazing. The most widely reported forms of hazing include forced alcohol consumption, humiliation, isolation, sleep deprivation, and forced sex acts. 69% of all students were aware of hazing practices on their campus, and one in four students had personally witnessed hazing activities. (Allan & Madden, 2008; Campo, Poulos, & Sipple, 2005)

- **What is surprising about the information in these studies?**
- **Which statistic is most relatable to you personally and why?**

Defining Hazing

Sigma Nu Fraternity defines hazing as:

... any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off fraternity premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule. Such activities may include but are not limited to the following: paddling in any form; creation of excessive fatigue; physical and psychological shocks; quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips, lineups or any other such activities carried on outside or inside the confines of the chapter house; wearing, publicly, apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts and buffoonery; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; late work sessions which interfere with scholastic activities; and any other activities which are not consistent with fraternal law, ritual or policy or the regulations and policies of the educational institution.

The willingness of any individual to participate in any hazing activity does not excuse any hazing violation.

- **Why does hazing go against what Sigma Nu stands for?**
 - Mention below if not already stated:
 - There is no love or honor in mistreating someone
 - Founded against hazing
 - Hazing tears apart brotherhood
 - Fraternity membership is about building someone up, not tearing them down
- **What is the importance of the last line of the definition – the willingness of any individual to participate in any hazing activity does not excuse any hazing violation?**
 - Mention below if not already stated:
 - Voluntary participation in hazing does not make it acceptable
 - Engaging in hazing is wrong, regardless of the participants' willingness
 - 84% of Sigma Nu members recognized that a person's willingness to participate does not negate an activity from being hazing (EverFi, 2017)
- **What are some justifications for hazing you hear?**
 - Mention below if not already stated:
 - Hazing builds more committed members
 - New members want to be hazed
 - Hazing builds brotherhood
 - Hazing builds stronger chapters

Interestingly a national study looked at how accurate these specific statements were in terms of the achievement of these stated outcomes through hazing. The study found organizations that haze have members who are less emotionally committed to their organizations and creates a sense of complacency and entitlement in which member feel they “earned their letter” during the new member process and now can do as they please (McCreary, 2014). Additionally, nearly 87% of Sigma Nu members do not believe hazing creates a sense of unity among members (EverFi, 2017).

- **What is surprising about the information in these studies?**
- **Besides division and tension, what other negative consequences can occur as a result of hazing?**
 - Mention below if not already stated:
 - Member apathy which can lead to dues collection challenges, void of members willing to step into leadership roles, low participation in chapter meetings and activities, etc.
 - Loss of potentially great members
 - [Mission creep](#) – if we’re willing to violate our values in this way, what do we actually stand for and believe in?
 - Chapter gets in trouble and possibly faces closure

Your Obligation

Sigma Nu’s theme for National Hazing Prevention Week is: Love, Honor, Truth. **Nothing Less.**

- **What does it mean to stand for “nothing less” than our values?**
- **Why is addressing and preventing hazing a commitment for all Sigma Nu members?**
 - Mention below if not already stated:
 - Part of the values we pledged to support as part of being inducted or initiated into the Fraternity
 - The vision of our Founders
- **What can our chapter to do support hazing prevention in our community?**
- **What can you, individually, do to make new member education a fun, yet safe, experience?**

Resources

HAZING PREVENTION.ORG

[HTTP://HAZINGPREVENTION.ORG/](http://hazingprevention.org/)

ANTI-HAZING HOTLINE

[HTTP://FRATERNALLAW.COM/CONTACT/ANTI-HAZING-HOTLINE/](http://fraternallaw.com/contact/anti-hazing-hotline/)

SIGMA NU ANTI-HAZING INITIATIVE

[HTTPS://WWW.SIGMANU.ORG/COLLEGIATE-MEMBERS/ANTI-HAZING-INITIATIVE](https://www.sigmanu.org/collegiate-members/anti-hazing-initiative)

References

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>.

Campo, S., Poulos, G., & Sipple, J. (2005). Prevalence and profiling: Hazing among college students and points of intervention. *American Journal of Health Behavior*, 29, 137-149.

[McCreary, G., Ph.D. \(2014, January 30\). Confronting Hazing Myths – “Hazing Builds Loyalty to the Organization”. Retrieved August 30, 2017.](#)

[McCreary, G., Ph.D., Bray, N., Ph.D., & Thoma, S., Ph.D. \(2017\). BAD APPLES OR BAD BARRELS? MORAL DISENGAGEMENT, SOCIAL INFLUENCE, AND THE PERPETUATION OF HAZING IN THE COLLEGE FRATERNITY. *Oracle Research Journal*, 11\(2\), 8-15. Retrieved August 30, 2017.](#)