

STOP Campus Hazing Act

There is an important new anti-hazing law in place. Here's what it means for you and your chapter.

Summary

The STOP Campus Hazing Act was signed into law by President Biden on December 23, 2024. The new law aims to increase transparency and accountability around hazing and require anti-hazing education and prevention programming. Finally, it establishes a federal definition of "hazing," creating a common vocabulary for addressing this issue.

The Federal Definition of "Hazing"

Any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by an individual or group against another person or persons, regardless of their willingness to participate, that is tied to initiation, affiliation, or membership in a student organization and causes or creates a risk beyond typical activities, leading to potential physical or psychological harm.

Examples of Hazing

- Physical harm (e.g., whipping, beating, striking, shocking, or applying harmful substances).
- Forced physical challenges (e.g., sleep deprivation, exposure to harsh conditions, confinement, or extreme exercise).
- Coerced consumption of substances (e.g., food, alcohol, or drugs).
- Sexual acts.
- Threatening behavior or speech.
- Criminal acts or encouraging others to commit crimes.



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Education and Prevention Efforts

Education and prevention programs are required by institutions to address hazing through campus-wide initiatives targeting students, staff, and faculty. These programs must define hazing, outline institutional policies, explain reporting procedures and response processes, highlight relevant laws, and promote prevention strategies. Programs must be research-based and include related topics like bystander intervention, ethical leadership, and fostering group cohesion without hazing. These programs do not replace state or local hazing laws.

Policy and Data Reporting Requirement for Institutions

- **Annual Security Report (ASR):**
 - Hazing incidents involving student organizations must be included in crime statistics alongside existing reportable offenses.
 - "Student organization" broadly covers groups with at least two enrolled students, including clubs, sports teams, fraternities, sororities, bands, and student governments, regardless of official recognition by the institution.
- **Campus Hazing Transparency Report:**
 - Must detail hazing incidents where responsibility was formally determined under institutional policy.
 - Includes the organization's name, violation description (noting alcohol or drug involvement), findings, sanctions, and key dates (conduct, investigation, and outcome notification).
 - Must be publicly posted on the institution's website, updated at least twice annually, and include data from the past five (5) academic years.



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