ADVISOR HAZING RESOURCE
DEFINITION
Hazing is any action taken or any situation created intentionally that causes embarrassment, harassment or ridicule and risks emotional and/or physical harm to members of a group or team, whether new or not, regardless of the person's willingness to participate.

Hazing policy as stated in the Student Conduct Code

Code of Conduct for Individual Students:

Source: Student Code of Conduct

Hazing is defined as any group or individual action or activity that endangers the mental or physical health or safety or which may demean, disgrace, or degrade any person, regardless of location, intent, or consent of participant(s). Although hazing is generally related to a person's initiation or admission into, or affiliation with, any group or organization, it is not necessary that a person's initiation or continued membership is contingent upon participation in the activity, or that the activity was sanctioned or approved by the organization, for a charge of hazing to be upheld. The actions of active, associate, new, and/or prospective members of an organization may be considered hazing. Hazing includes, but is not limited to:

- Unreasonable interference with a student's academic performance
- Forced or coerced consumption of food, alcohol, drugs, or any other substance
- Forced or coerced wearing of apparel which is conspicuous and/or inappropriate
- Forced or coerced exclusion from social contact
- Branding
- Creation of unnecessary fatigue (including but not limited to acts that stem from forced physical activity, such as calisthenics and deprivation of sleep)
- Deprivation of food
- Beating, whipping, or paddling in any form
- Line-ups and berating
- Physical and/or psychological shocks
- Personal servitude
- Kidnapping or abandonment
- Unreasonable exposure to the weather
- Any activity that would be viewed by a reasonable person as subjecting any person to embarrassment, degradation or humiliation
- Expectation of participation in activities that are unlawful, lewd or in violation of University policy
- Please refer to the Florida State University Hazing Policy and Section 1006.63, Florida Statutes, for more details.
- Retaliation for Reporting Hazing. Retaliating against any individual who reported a hazing violation or suspected hazing violation to University or law enforcement officials.

**Code of Conduct for Organizations:**

**Source:** Code of Conduct for Organizations

**Hazing**

1.f.4(a): Hazing is defined as any group or individual action or activity that endangers the mental or physical health or safety or which may demean, disgrace, or degrade any person, regardless of location, intent, or consent of participant(s).

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**Florida's Law on Hazing: The Chad Meredith Act**

**STATE OF FLORIDA LAW ON HAZING Chad Meredith Act (HB 193)**

Florida House of Representatives Law in effect July 1, 2005

**Summary**

Hazing is the subjection of another to extreme physical or mental harassment, usually associated with into a social organization. Under current law, hazing by a college student may subject that student to university or college discipline. Hazing incidents may lead to criminal prosecution under general criminal but there are impediments that make such prosecutions difficult.

This bill creates new criminal offenses specific to hazing at the high school or college level. This bill provides that it is a first degree misdemeanor to commit an act of hazing that creates a substantial risk of physical injury or death. The offense level increases to a third degree felony if the act of hazing actually results in serious bodily injury or death.

This bill also expands the definition of hazing, and provides a limited exception for certain legitimate activities. This act is named for Chad Meredith, a student at a Florida university who died in a hazing incident.

**Chad Meredith's Story**

In 2001, University of Miami student Chad Meredith returned from a concert and began drinking with two officers of Kappa Sigma, a fraternity he wished to join. After several hours of drinking, the group tried to swim across Lake Osceola near campus. Meredith had a blood alcohol level of 0.13. He drowned 34 feet from shore in six feet nine inches of water. Although, the fraternity officers protested that the incident was not a fraternity-sanctioned hazing event, a jury found otherwise, and awarded the deceased student's family a $12.6 million verdict in a negligence suit based on hazing.

**Source: House of Representatives Staff Analysis**,  

**State of Florida's Definition of Hazing**

"Hazing" means any action or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for purposes, including, but not limited to, the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization operating under the sanction of a postsecondary institution.
"Hazing" includes, but is not limited to:

- Pressuring or coercing the student into violating state or federal law;
- any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance, or other forced physical activity that which could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the student;
- Any activity that which would subject the student to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct that which could result in extreme embarrassment;
- Other forced activity that which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the student.

Hazing does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions or any activity or conduct that furthers a legal and legitimate objective.

In the State of Florida, Hazing is a Criminal Offense

A person commits hazing, a third degree felony, when he or she intentionally or recklessly commits any act of hazing upon another person who is a member of or an applicant to any type of student organization and the hazing results in serious bodily injury or death of such other person.

A person commits hazing, a first degree misdemeanor, when he or she intentionally or recklessly commits any act of hazing upon another person who is a member of or an applicant to any type of student organization and the hazing creates a substantial risk of physical injury or death to such other person.

It is not a defense to a charge of hazing that:

- The consent of the victim had been obtained;
- The conduct or activity that resulted in the death or injury of a person was not part of an official organizational event or was not otherwise sanctioned or approved by the organization; or
- The conduct or activity that resulted in death or injury of the person was not done as a condition of membership to an organization.

Source: Chad Meredith Act, HB 193

Important Hazing Statistics

According to national statistics from insidehazing.com.
• More than 250,000 students experienced some sort of hazing to join a college athletic team.1
• 5% of all college students admit to being hazed.2
• 40% admit to knowing about hazing activities.2
• 40% report that a coach or club advisor was aware of the hazing.2
• 22% report that the coach or advisor was involved in the hazing.2
• 50% of the female NCAA Division I athletes reported being hazed.3
• More than 20% of female NCAA athletes were subjected to alcohol-related hazing; however even a higher percentage admitted to "mental hazing" which ranged from singing to being kidnapped.3
• 10% of the female NCAA athletes were physically hazed including being branded, tattooed, beaten thrown in water of having their head forcibly shaved.3
• 6-9% of the female NCAA athletes were subjected to sexually related hazing including harassment, actual assault or being expected to simulate sex activities.3
• Alcohol consumption, humiliation, isolation, sleep-deprivation, and sex acts are hazing practices common across types of student groups.
• There are public aspects to student hazing including: 25% of coaches or organization advisors were aware of the group’s hazing behaviors; 25% of the behaviors occurred on-campus in a public space; in 25% of hazing experiences, alumni were present; and students talk with peers (48%, 41%) or family (26%) about their hazing experiences.
• In more than half of the hazing incidents, a member of the offending group posts pictures on a public web space.
• Students recognize hazing as part of the campus culture; 69% of students who belonged to a student activity reported they were aware of hazing activities occurring in student organizations other than their own.
• Students report limited exposure to hazing prevention efforts that extend beyond a “hazing is not tolerated” approach.
• 47% of students come to college having experienced hazing.
• Nine out of ten students who have experienced hazing behavior in college do not consider themselves to have been hazed.
• 29% of Greek leaders are concerned with the overuse of alcohol during pledge activities.4
• 36% say they would not report a hazing primarily because "there's no one to tell" and 27% feel that "adults won't handle it right."1
• Students are more likely to be hazed if they knew an adult who was hazed.1

References
1. Alfred Univeristy Study, Dr. Norm Pollard, Dr. Elizabeth Allen, et. al, 1999
2. National Study of Student Hazing (prelim), Dr. Elizabeth Allen and Dr. Mary Madden 2006
3. Dissertation, Dr. Colleen McGlone, 2005
4. Insidehazing, Dr. Susan Lipkins, 2006

DID YOU KNOW?

- Hazing occurs in sports teams, clubs, Greek life, cheerleading, honor societies and more
- Hazing is often about power and control. Hazing does not build unity
- More than half of students in colleges and universities involved in clubs, sports teams and organizations have experienced hazing
- A significant number of hazing incidents and deaths involve alcohol consumption
- Students are more likely to be hazed if they knew an adult who was hazed
- 2 in 5 students say they are aware of hazing taking place on their campus
- Hazing occurs in middle schools, high schools and colleges
- Both male and female students report a high level of hazing

IS THIS HAZING?

If you’re not sure whether or not something happening to you or to someone else is hazing, ask yourself these questions:

- Would I feel comfortable participating in this activity if my parents were watching?
- Would we get in trouble if a school/college administrator walked by and saw us?
- Am I being asked to keep these activities a secret?
- Am I doing anything illegal?
- Does participation in this activity violate my values or those of this organization?
- Is this causing emotional or physical distress or stress to myself or to others?
- Am I going to be able to get a job if I have to put a criminal arrest on my application?

Resources:
http://hazing.fsu.edu/
http://hazingprevention.org/
http://www.insidehazing.com/