

THE COLLEGE OF WOOSTER NON-HAZING POLICY

A. Definition:

The College's definition of hazing is outlined in Section X of The Scot's Key as follows:

“Hazing is a crime in the State of Ohio. As defined by the law, hazing is ‘doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation to any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person.’ Under Ohio law, legal action may be taken against any participant in hazing or against anyone at the College who knew or who reasonably should have known of the hazing and did not make an attempt to prevent it.

Hazing is also a violation of the College's Code of Social Responsibility, and the College will consider hazing to be any portion of a new member process, whether on campus or off, which could cause discomfort, pain, fright, disgrace, injury or which is personally degrading regardless of the intent or end result.”

B. Guidelines

1. New member activities may take place between **Saturday, January 22, and Saturday, February 12, 2005**. All activities must comply with the date, time and event specifications outlined in the regulations for new member activities issued by the Committee on Social Organizations.
2. Any organized activity involving new members and actives is considered a new member activity.
3. All new member activities must be held within properly reserved space. The activity must not interfere with the rights and activities of others and should always reflect the best interests of the members of the organization it represents and the College community as a whole.
4. It is the responsibility of the sponsoring organization to reserve rooms and outdoor space through the Scheduling Office in Lowry Center. Residence hall space is reserved through the hall director of the building. Submitting a new member proposal does not ensure a space.
5. The negligence or consent of the student/participant or any assumption of risk by the student/participant is not a defense to an action brought pursuant to this policy.
6. A maximum of two hours may be used to activate new members prior to the education and bonding activities.
7. A maximum of 12 hours, limited to no more than two hours per weekday (Monday – Thursday), may be utilized for education and bonding purposes. Groups may petition for exceptions with rationale.

Activities are limited to the following hours on the following days for each week:

Monday --Thursday -- 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.
Friday -- 7 p.m. - 1 a.m. (Saturday)
Saturday -- 8 a.m. - 1 a.m. (Sunday)
Sunday -- 8 a.m. - 11 p.m.

8. A maximum of three hours (2 hours if on a weekday) may be used for the closing ceremony.
9. No alcohol is permitted during any new member activities. This applies to actives, alumni, and new members.
10. A service project is not required during new member education.
11. All College of Wooster organizations (excluding academic honorary organizations) and individual members thereof will abide by this policy. Individuals and/or organizations, including groups and organizations that encourage or promote violations, are responsible for any group activity in the event the hazing policy is violated. Violations will result in College disciplinary action and could involve criminal or civil charges.

C. Implementation

1. The officers, primarily the president and new member educator(s), of each organization are responsible for informing members (new members, associate members, affiliates, guests) of the above policy.
2. Any person (new member, associate member, member, affiliate, guest, College staff/faculty member) suffering or witnessing an action in violation of this policy is required to report the incident to the Director of Lowry Center and Student Activities' Office. Appropriate College disciplinary procedures and state statutes are applicable, including Ohio Revised Code sections 3345.23, 2307.44 and 2903.31.
3. All Clubs, Sections, and other organizations holding new member activities are required to submit a proposal of all activities to the Committee on Social Organizations **by 4 p.m. on Friday, November 19**. The timeline for submission and return of revised proposals will be set by the CSO. Each Club and Section must have an approved proposal by the end of fall semester in order to conduct new member activities.
4. The Director of Lowry Center and Student Activities must be personally notified as soon as possible and preferably at least 24 hours in advance of any changes to the approved schedule.
5. All Clubs, Sections, and other organizations holding new member activities must file the Non-Hazing Compliance Form with the Director of Lowry Center and Student Activities or his/her designee along with the New Member Activity Proposal to certify recognition of and compliance with the College Non-Hazing Policy. This form must be filed each year.
6. In all cases of alleged violations of this policy, the faculty or staff advisor(s) of any organization will be notified.

D. Jurisdiction

The Committee on Social Organizations will be responsible for investigating alleged infractions of new member regulations or approved organizational new member proposals. This investigation will include, but may not be limited to, meeting with representatives from the Section/Club involved. As a result of the investigation, the CSO may choose one of the following decision/action plans:

1. Decide that no violation has occurred and, therefore, that no action is necessary;
2. Decide that a minor violation has occurred and impose a sanction;
3. Decide that a serious violation has occurred and invite up to four representatives from the Section/Club to meet with the entire Committee.

In this situation, members of the Committee on Social Organizations and representatives from the Section/Club would present any relevant information to the CSO. The CSO would then decide if the violation occurred, and if so, impose a sanction.

4. Decide that a serious violation occurred and refer the incident to the College's Judicial system.
5. Refer an incident of alleged violation of The Scot's Key to the College's Judicial system.

E. Sanctions

Possible sanctions include, but are not limited to:

1. Educational Programming
2. Community Service
3. Suspension or delay of new member activities
4. Social Probation
5. Probationary Status - loss of voting privileges on IGC
6. Loss of charter as a campus organization

Adopted by Greek Life Committee April 1989

Revised October 1998, November 1999, October 2000, October 2001, October 2002, November 2003, November 2004