

Greek 101

- [Hazing Policy](#)
 - [What's Hazing](#)
 - [Is it Hazing?](#)
 - [Links to Anti-Hazing Web Sites](#)
 - [Hazing Myths](#)
-

What is New Member Education all about?

The new member education program prepares each new member for membership into the sorority or fraternity. This program is intended to provide each new member with the opportunity to become familiar with the goals, purpose, and activities of the fraternity/sorority, as well as becoming familiar with the brothers/sisters of the fraternity/sorority.

The program sets the pattern for the entire Greek experience. During the new member education process, you will learn more about yourself and accomplish more than you thought possible. Due to the many responsibilities and requirements of being a new member, you will learn valuable time-management skills. Teamwork and communication will become familiar and necessary concepts as your new member class reaches its goals and objectives.

New Member Bill of Rights

The right to be treated as an individual.

The right to be fully informed about the New Member Education process.

The right to have and express opinions.

The right to have a positive, safe and enriching New Member experience.

The right to be treated with dignity and respect.

The right to express that something or someone makes them uncomfortable.

"You wouldn't haze your friends. Why would you haze your brothers? The goal of NME is to prepare

you to be a member of a house; to make you want to be a brother. Where does hazing fit in? Quite simply, it doesn't. Why abuse someone for three months in the name of becoming their best friends? A fraternity is not about building pledges. It's about building brothers."

Hazing Policy

REGULATIONS GOVERNING NEW MEMBER EDUCATION IN REGARDS TO HAZING

The following regulations apply to all aspects of New Member education programs for each organization. All organizations are expected to abide by the College policies and regulations as outlined in the *Hope College Policies* handbook; and those procedures developed by the Interfraternity and Panhellenic councils. Either individual students or their organization can be charged with violating policies. Charges against an individual for a particular event do not preclude charges being filed against a group for the same event. Please note that the following list is not exhaustive of the types of hazing that neither Hope College nor the law allows:

1. Restricting and/or blocking the use of certain doors entrances public rooms, or furniture in the organization's cottage or residence hall.
2. Requiring certain forms of address or greeting to members (other than hello "first name of active") at any time.
3. Requiring new members to recite the creed or Greek alphabet to match or in any other manner that does not show proper respect.
4. Requiring new members to recite information, phrases, or spiels with no useful or educational purpose (please note: what counts as having "no useful or educational purpose" will be determined when gaining official approval for the new member education program. The concern here is that the amount of material for a new member is required to memorize could be excessive. Time necessary for learning the material, as with all items associated with new member education, must be accounted for within the 60-hour time limit. Any details which are omitted (intentionally or not) when presenting the new member education program for approval will be considered "unapproved" and will result in sanctions applied against the organization.
5. No special tasks will be preformed by New Members such as: House cleanup, answering phones, giving rides, making meals, buying gifts, or serving meals.
6. Requiring new members to carry any items throughout new member education with the fear of penalty.
7. Actives may not retrieve new members from residence halls.
8. New members are to be informed in advance of the meeting time for any activity.
9. Unannounced events where the new members are to be "kidnapped" and brought to an event.

10. No loud singing and/or chanting close to residence halls, residential areas or area businesses.
11. New member education events/activities taking place in the classroom settings, this includes before and after class.
12. New member education events/activities taking place in the chapel building during chapel services.
13. New member education events/activities taking place in Phelps cafeteria or Cook dining hall.
14. Threatening or intimidating interrogations not consistent with normal testing of educational materials.
15. Assigning degrading nicknames.
16. Requiring uncomfortable or inappropriate dress that would cause a New Member embarrassment, financial cost, or not be in good taste. No new members will be singled out due to their dress during New Member Education.
17. The use of blindfolds that are not approved by the Greek Life Advisor.
18. Acts of personal servitude.
19. Verbal harassment at any time.
20. Prevention or deprivation of sleep or study time.
21. Intentional violation of time restrictions.
22. Creation of excessive fatigue
23. Later work sessions, which interfere with academics
24. Physical or psychological shocks
25. Engaging in public stunts
26. Wearing apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste.
27. Pouring of substances on the body
28. Forced or coerced usage of alcohol, drugs or food. (Please note: consumption of alcohol, use of drugs, and consumption of any harmful substance by either actives or new members during a new member educational event (regardless of whether the consumption is voluntary or mandatory) is prohibited under all circumstances.)

29. Use of any kind of calisthenics
30. Paddling, striking, or any form of physical abuse.
31. Any type of abandonment or kidnap
32. Road trips that are not on the approved new member education program.
33. Morally degrading or humiliating games and activities
34. Requiring or endorsing acts that break the law or reflect poorly on the organization such as theft, destruction, or harassment, including acts of sexual harassment according to the College's policy on sexual harassment.
35. Not allowing new members to wear proper clothing dependent on weather conditions.
36. Branding or tattooing.

What's Hazing?

Hazing is defined as:

Any action taken or situation created, by one group or individual toward another group or individual, intentionally or unintentionally, whether on or off campus, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule. Hope College prohibits conduct, which creates an unreasonable or substantial risk of physical, mental, spiritual, or academic injury to another person or group. Causing or permitting a person, incident to initiation into or membership in a society, club, or similar organized group, to participate in any activity that subjects that person or others to risks of physical injury or mental distress or personal indignities of a highly offensive nature, whether or not such person has consented to participation in the activity, is prohibited. Such activities and situations include, but are not limited to:

- Paddling in any form
- Creation of excessive fatigue
- Physical and psychological shocks
- **Unapproved** quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips
- Wearing apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste
- Engaging in public stunts
- Morally degrading or humiliating games and activities
- Late work sessions which interfere with academics
- Branding or Tattooing
- Pouring of substances on the Body
- Requiring anyone to do something that is against their will
- Forced consumption of alcohol
- Calisthenics, push-ups, sit-ups, runs, etc.
- Road trips (dropping off New Members to find their way back)
- Line-ups (lining up people and harassing them verbally)
- Running personal errands of the members

Is It Hazing?

To determine if an act is hazing, simply ask the following questions.....

1. Would you let the Anchor (student newspaper), Holland Sentinal or New York Times reporter see and report what you are doing?
2. Would you tell prospective members what they will go through?
3. Would all the parents and family members of your organization be welcome during the activity?
4. Would you allow the President of Hope College, the Dean of Students and Greek Life Advisor to be present at this event?
5. Would you allow interested members of the Holland Police Department to witness your event?
6. Would you be able to defend the activity in a court of law?
7. Is the activity an educational experience?

If you hesitate on any of the above questions, then it's hazing!

- You should be proud of all the activities your ask your new members to do. Therefore, you should not hesitate to let everyone know.
- If you hesitate, that is telling you something!
- Remember that there is no such thing as a secret in the Greek Community. It's usually only a matter of time before what your group is doing gets out!
- Finally, ethics teaches us that we should not write or say anything that we do not want repeated on the evening news or in our local papers.
- Also, we should not want to do anything that we would not want video-taped, and shown on the evening news.

To report hazing anonymously 24 hours per day, call **395-7139**.
You will not have to reveal your identity at anytime.

Links to Anti-Hazing Web Sites

www.stophazing.org

Hazing Myths

The truth is out there...

Myth #1: Hazing builds unity.

The truth is that hazing builds animosity between people and does nothing to foster trust, unity or respect. It simply makes better hazers.

Myth #2: The new members want to be hazed.

Really? Then why don't you advertise it in your Rush?

Myth #3: I went through it, so they should too!

One class can break the "tradition" of hazing- it just takes some courage and integrity to do what is right.

Myth #4: I'll never get caught or turned in!

If you haze, there will be a time when even your friends will have to choose between you and their integrity and well-being. It is in their best interest to report the hazing, no matter who is involved. Also, someone may decide to come forward even after college and you can still be held accountable.

Myth #5: If they agree, then we're not hazing.

WRONG! Since peer pressure leads students to consent, the focus is on what you do, not whether they said you could.

Myth #6: Hazing motivates new members to be better.

Hazing motivates no one. It hinders academic achievement, destroys self-esteem and causes emotional strain and physical harm.

How do you break the "tradition?"

Educate your members...make them aware of what hazing is and what the penalties are for the organization and themselves.

Be proactive...Take advantage of resources that may help your group.

Take Action...If you do have members who haze, report it and discipline those members.

Some "Traditions" are not worth upholding.

Break the Tradition, Not the Law.