

ARTICLE IV

Hazing

Section 1. Intent. Hazing is not in conformity with the Rituals of Alpha Omicron Pi nor does it project an image of sisterhood and fraternal love.

No chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi, colony of Alpha Omicron Pi, member or colony member of Alpha Omicron Pi, shall encourage, authorize, ratify, or engage in conduct or omissions which is, or may be classified as, hazing, relative to any of its new members or its members nor relative to any individual by any other collegiate fraternity or other organization.

Any violation of this policy may result in immediate probation, suspension, and any other disciplinary action which, in the discretion of Alpha Omicron Pi, is deemed appropriate to address the act or omission.

The chapter or colony should give close attention to these guidelines in the planning and execution of pre-initiation activities. Alpha Omicron Pi demands the exercise of good taste in all such activities. The chapter or colony should view the period immediately preceding initiation as a time of fun and togetherness for the entire chapter or colony, so that she can easily recognize and accept the full range of benefits and responsibilities of fraternity membership.

Section 2. Definition. Hazing activities are defined as:

“Any intentional or reckless act, on or off the property of any higher educational institution or fraternity premises, which is directed at any other student, that endangers or is reasonably calculated or designed to endanger the mental or physical health or safety of that student, or which induces or coerces a student to endanger such student’s mental or physical health or safety, including but not limited to, subjecting such student to physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule.”

It’s not usually difficult to decide if an activity is or may be hazing if you use common sense and ask yourself the following questions:

Will initiated members of the organization refuse to participate with the new members and do exactly what they’re being asked to do?

Is there risk of injury or a question of safety?

Would you object if the activity were featured in the school newspaper or on a local TV news program?

Would you have any reservation about describing and justifying the activity to your parents, to a professor, or to the chancellor?

Would you have any reservation in inviting the Executive Director of Alpha Omicron Pi to participate in the event or activity?

If the answer to any one of these simple questions is “yes,” the activity is probably hazing.

Hazing activities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Paddling or striking in any manner and any other form of physical or psychological punishment or abuse
- Marking or branding
- Physical harassment: pushing, cursing, yelling, etc.
- Staging any form of “line-up”
- Conducting any type of “hell week” activities
- Requiring new members to practice periods of silence
- Phone duty
- Requiring the carrying of items such as statues, rocks, paddles, etc.
- Requiring calisthenics such as sit-ups, push-ups, etc.
- Sleep deprivation
- Preventing / restricting class attendance
- Forcing or coercing someone to eat or drink against their will
- Completing tasks in order to obtain signatures
- Preventing personal hygiene
- Causing indecent exposure
- Requiring uncomfortable attire
- Keeping the date of initiation into the group a secret
- Work parties / clean up for new members only
- Use of alcohol or other controlled substances
- Creation of excessive fatigue
- Outrageous conduct
- Quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips, or other activities carried on outside or inside the confines of the Chapter House or University property
- Required wearing of apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste
- Engaging in public stunts or buffoonery
- Morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; and/or
- Any other such activities that are not consistent with educational purposes, academic achievement, Fraternal law, Fraternal policy and procedure, Fraternal Rituals, or the regulations and policies of the educational institution or any applicable local, state, or federal law.

The above-referenced activities are for the purposes of example only and are not meant to be inclusive of all hazing activities. Hazing activities are not confined to obvious abusive conduct, but can be any action or omission violating human dignity such as seemingly minor acts of answering the telephone with a jingle, being forbidden to use a certain door or staircase, running errands for members, or any other activity not reasonably related to the promotion of fraternal educational purposes.

The designated volunteer or member of the Headquarters staff or, in their absence, another International Official, should be contacted immediately if any member or new member has any doubt as to any specific activity which may be in violation of this Hazing Policy.

Section 3. Education.

- a. The collegiate chapter must educate and support the individual members to be in compliance with the Hazing Policy of Alpha Omicron Pi.
- b. Alpha Omicron Pi requires each chapter to present one of AOII's Hazing Education modules to the chapter within two weeks of each academic term that will have a new member class.
- c. Each new member class will be educated on the Hazing Policy of Alpha Omicron Pi during the second lesson of their New Member Program. The new members' sponsors must attend this lesson.
- d. Each member and new member shall sign her name on an attendance sheet the original of which shall be submitted to Alpha Omicron Pi with the Chapter Compliance Form.

Section 4. Documentation.

- a. At the time of the Hazing Education module, Alpha Omicron Pi's Hazing Policy will be read and discussed with the entire chapter. This must occur within two weeks of the commencement of each academic term that will have a new member class. Each initiated member and new member shall sign a statement provided by the collegiate chapter stating that she has read and understands the Hazing Policy of Alpha Omicron Pi. She will be given a copy of the policy for her personal reference. A member of the AAC must be present at the time of the signing.
- b. The Vice President of Standards is responsible for keeping all originals on file and sending the signed compliance form to International Headquarters.
- c. The Vice President of Standards will work with the VP/E to enforce the Hazing Policy and supervise the adherence by the chapter and its members.
- d. The Alumnae Advisory Committee must be knowledgeable in regards to this policy. They must fully support the chapter officers in their supervision of the adherence to the policy by the chapter and its members.
- e. The Vice President of Standards, Chapter President, and Chapter Adviser shall sign and submit the Chapter Compliance Form to the designated member of the Headquarters staff asserting completion of both the education and documentation requirements. The attendance sheet as required in Section 3d. shall be filed with the Chapter Compliance Form. These are due within three weeks of the beginning of the academic term.

Section 5. Reporting.

- a. Every initiated member of Alpha Omicron Pi has the responsibility to immediately report any action of hazing to the Chapter President, the Chapter Adviser, the Network Director, International Headquarters, or the Hazing Hotline.
- b. Every new member has the obligation to immediately report any action of hazing to the Chapter President, the Chapter Adviser, the Network Director, International Headquarters, or the Hazing Hotline.
- c. A member of the Alumnae Advisory Committee, the Network Specialist, or the Network Director must complete an Incident Report within forty-eight hours of notification of a violation of this hazing policy.

Section 6. Sanctions in the Case of Violations.

- a. An individual member who fails to comply with the Hazing Policy may subject herself to international probation or suspension.

- b. An individual new member who fails to comply with the Hazing Policy may subject herself to termination of pledgeship.
- c. A collegiate chapter may be placed on monitoring or international probation for verified violations of this policy.
- d. A collegiate officer or collegiate adviser may be removed from office due to failure to enforce this policy or report a violation of this policy.
- e. Without limiting the scope of the foregoing, Alpha Omicron Pi may impose any other disciplinary action on any individual or entity that, in the absolute discretion of Alpha Omicron Pi, is deemed appropriate to address the act or omission.