

HAZING ~~≠~~ TEAM UNITY  
HAZING ~~≠~~ BROTHERHOOD  
HAZING ~~≠~~ FELLOWSHIP  
HAZING ~~≠~~ SISTERHOOD  
HAZING ~~≠~~ STRENGTH  
HAZING ~~≠~~ HONOR  
HAZING ~~≠~~ DIGNITY  
HAZING ~~≠~~ RESPECT

HAZING = ABUSE



Any way you look at it, hazing doesn't add up.

Recognize it. Report it. End it.

[www.auburn.edu/stophazing](http://www.auburn.edu/stophazing)

8 4 4 - 4 5 6 4



OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

*“Hazing has no place in any university’s culture, but especially at a place like Auburn, which prides itself on treating people well, being respectful, and valuing integrity, all of which is called out in the Auburn Creed and in direct opposition to what hazing signifies.”*

—Jay Gogue  
Auburn University President

# RECOGNIZE IT.

Hazing. You have heard the term, but do you know what it means? According to the recent most comprehensive national study on hazing, students said they could recognize hazing yet they could not define it.

## **Auburn University’s Definition of Hazing**

Hazing is any action taken or situation created intentionally or unintentionally whether on or off campus, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule...or other activities which are not consistent with organizational laws, ritual, or policy or the regulations and policies of the educational institution. Actions, forced or required or implied to be required, which violate federal, state, or local law, are considered hazing.

What does hazing look like? Most students can recognize what we call violent hazing, such as paddling or punching rookies or new members. What is more difficult to notice and identify is what is known as subtle hazing. Examples of subtle hazing would include the following activities, especially when they only apply to those wanting to join an organization or are new to a group:

- Dress codes
- Team initiations that humiliate rookies
- Designated-driver duty
- Requiring rookies to carry the equipment for practice
- Performing personal servitudes (favors) for upperclassmen
- “Hyperactive” schedule of events for new members
- Requirement of carrying items in pockets
- Required to reserve seating at events for members

When you see these activities, it is your responsibility to report suspected hazing.

# REPORT IT.

Everyone—even you—has a responsibility to play a role in preventing and ending hazing. It’s actually illegal in Alabama to be aware of hazing and NOT report it.

You can report hazing allegations anonymously and confidentially by reporting through the hotline or online.

**To report hazing:** Call the AU Hazing Hotline: **334-844-4564**

Report online: **[www.auburn.edu/stophazing](http://www.auburn.edu/stophazing)**

Call the Office of the Dean of Students: **334-844-1300**

# END IT.

**Q.** I do not engage in hazing, but how can I stop hazing on campus?

**A.** Even students who don’t actively take part in hazing enable it to continue by not standing up against it. You may feel you are the only one who is opposed to hazing, but that is probably not the case. You are probably in the silent majority, but no one wants to be the first to speak up. Use the resources listed above to report suspected hazing activities, wherever they occur on or off campus.

**Q.** I have heard a lot of myths about hazing, how do I know what is true?

**A.** Let’s take a look at the common myths versus reality.

# MYTH

# REALITY

**Hazing only occurs in Greek organizations.**

According to the national hazing study, *Hazing in View: College Students at Risk*:

- 55 percent of college students involved in clubs, teams, and organizations experience hazing.
- Hazing occurs in, but extends beyond, varsity athletics and Greek-letter organizations and includes behaviors that are abusive, dangerous, and potentially illegal.
- Alcohol consumption, humiliation, isolation, sleep-deprivation, and sex acts are hazing practices common across various types of student groups.

Simply put, hazing is not a GREEK thing— it is a COMMUNITY issue, and it requires a community effort to affect change in hazing behavior.

**Hazing must be okay if the military does it.**

The U.S. military does not, in fact, condone hazing practices. The military does engage in a unique type of training for dangerous military operations. This training is conducted by professionals to prepare military personnel for putting their lives on the line for their country. According to the Department of the Army's TRADOC Regulation 350-6: "Hazing is strictly prohibited" and is "an offense punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice."

**Hazing is really just a prank that goes wrong.**

Accidents can happen during hazing, but hazing is not accidental. It is premeditated abuse that can be emotionally traumatic, physically dangerous, or even life-threatening.

**Enduring hazing is a sign of strength.**

While it does take a certain strength to make it through hazing, many people submit to it because they desire acceptance by others, are afraid to resist, or feel a need to prove to themselves or others that they are worthy or tough enough ("a real man," for example). These motives reflect conformity, fear, and insecurity, which are not qualities typically associated with strength. In contrast, standing up to a group of abusive peers or breaking free from hazing takes courage. That's real strength.

**Because alumni and current members were hazed, it is only fair that the new members go through it too.**

"Tradition" does not justify subjecting new members to abuse. Traditions are created by groups, and groups hold the power to change or eliminate them. It only takes one year to break a hazing tradition. Remember that the founding members of organizations were not hazed.

**If someone agrees to participate in an activity, it can't be considered hazing.**

In states that have laws against hazing, consent of the victim can't be used as a defense. This is because even if someone agrees to participate in a potentially hazardous action, it may not be true consent because of peer pressure, intentional or unintentional threats, and the withholding of information about what will occur.

**"If it doesn't kill you, it only makes you stronger."**

If this statement was true, then child abuse and torture would be prescriptions for personal growth. So while it's true that difficult situations can help individuals grow and prepare for life's challenges, many experiences that don't "kill" nevertheless do damage because of their psychological or physical impact.

**Hazing is okay as long as it is not physically dangerous.**

Mental hazing can be brutal and leave lasting psychological scars. Some hazing victims report that the mental hazing they endured was worse than being physically abused.

Myths #2 - #8 source: [www.hazing.cornell.edu/myths.html](http://www.hazing.cornell.edu/myths.html)

**Don't believe the hazing myths.**

These are feeble attempts to legitimize activities that are designed to humiliate and degrade. Use the resources provided to report suspected hazing activities, wherever they occur, on or off campus.

*"As dean of students, my primary concern is for the health and well-being of Auburn students. Hazing in any form threatens the safety of students and therefore has no place in campus life. I would ask that all members of the Auburn family reject hazing practices and live by the spirit of the Auburn Creed, which states, 'I believe in the human touch, which cultivates sympathy with my fellow men and mutual helpfulness and brings happiness for all.' As Auburn men and women, if we truly believe in the Creed, and live in accordance with its spirit, hazing will have no place on our campus or in our community."*

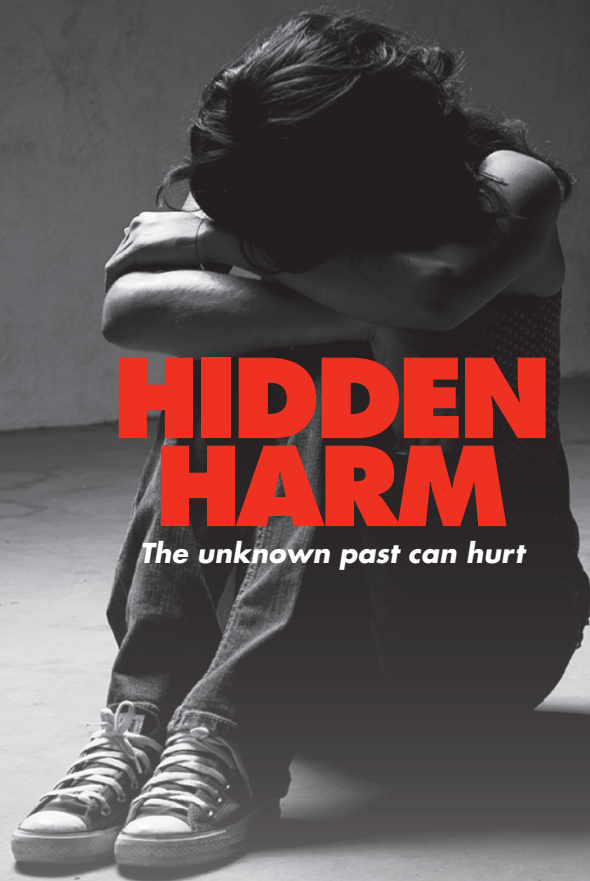
— Johnny Green  
Dean of Students



**AUBURN**  
UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

Auburn University is an equal opportunity educational institution/employer.  
Produced by the Office of Communications and Marketing, September 2008.



# HIDDEN HARM

*The unknown past can hurt*

We must remember that everybody comes to college with different life experiences. Because we might be unaware of each student's background, it is important to recognize that some students can be more susceptible to serious harm if hazed.

For instance, hazing can cause irreparable harm to someone who suffers from depression, has experienced the loss of a loved one from suicide, has been physically or emotionally abused, or has been sexually assaulted. All of these past experiences can put someone at risk of being re-traumatized by being hazed.

**HAZING = ABUSE**

**RECOGNIZE IT. REPORT IT. END IT.**

[www.auburn.edu/stophazing](http://www.auburn.edu/stophazing)

8 4 4 - 4 5 6 4