



STUDENT AFFAIRS

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Campus Life

## Prohibition of Hazing Memorandum

To: TCU Students

From: Michael Russel, Ed.D.  
Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Dean of Campus Life

Re: Hazing Memorandum for Spring 2020 Semester

Date: January 9, 2020

Texas Christian University is committed to academic achievement, personal freedom and integrity, the dignity and respect of the individual, and a heritage of inclusiveness, tolerance, and service. TCU does not tolerate behavior by individuals or organizations that contradict these values.

Hazing, with or without the consent of the injured/affected student, is prohibited by TCU code and Texas law. The University will take disciplinary action against individuals and groups that are involved in hazing activities (see TCU Code of Student Conduct, Section 3.2.2). University disciplinary action is independent of state or local judicial proceedings.

The Texas Legislature enacted an anti-hazing law in 1987 providing criminal sanctions for convictions of hazing. Individuals convicted of hazing are subject to fines up to \$10,000 and jail terms up to two years. Organizations convicted of hazing are subject to a minimum fine of \$5,000 up to considerably larger amounts depending upon the injury, damage, or loss sustained due to the hazing. The law defines an organization as a "fraternity, sorority, association, corporation, order, society, corps, club, or service, social, or student government, a band or musical group or an academic, athletic, cheerleading, or dance team, including any group or team that participates in National Collegiate Athletic Association competition, or a service, social, or similar group, whose members are primarily students" at an educational institution. Thus, this law pertains to all student organizations and athletic teams at TCU.

### Definition of Hazing

Texas Education Code, Section 37.151 defines hazing as "*any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization if the act:*

- (A) is a type of physical brutality such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity;
- (B) involves sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other similar activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that may adversely affect the mental or physical health or safety of the student;

- (C) involves consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance subjects the student to an unreasonable risk or harm or which may adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
- (D) is any activity that induces, causes or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the Texas Penal Code; or
- (E) involves coercing, as defined by Section 1.07 Penal Code, the student to consume:
  - (i) a drug; or
  - (ii) an alcoholic beverage or liquor in an amount that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student is intoxicated, as defined by Section 49.01, Penal Code."

Texas Education Code Section 37.155 creates a possibility to avoid prosecution or civil liability for students who cooperate in criminal or University investigations. More details can be found in the [Texas Educational Code 37.155](#).

### University Disciplinary Rules

The State of Texas hazing statute does not restrict the right of TCU to enforce its own rules against hazing, and the University will take disciplinary action for conduct that constitutes hazing regardless of whether law enforcement authorities will prosecute students under the Texas hazing law. TCU disciplinary actions assigned in a particular case of hazing will vary depending on the nature of the conduct involved, the circumstances and conditions that existed at the time, and the results that followed the incident. Possible sanctions may include Warning, Deferred Probation, Disciplinary Probation, eviction from Residence Hall, Suspension in abeyance, Suspension, and Expulsion (see TCU Code of Student Conduct, Section 5.2).

### How to Report Hazing

To report an act of hazing, please contact the Campus Life – Dean's Office (817) 257-7926, TCU Police (817) 257-7777, or the Hazing Hotline (817) 257-HAZE. The information contained in this memorandum can be found on the Campus Life – Dean's Office website at [www.campuslife.tcu.edu](http://www.campuslife.tcu.edu), on the TCU Police website [www.police.tcu.edu](http://www.police.tcu.edu), and on the Fraternity & Sorority Life website [www.greeks.tcu.edu/community-standards-2/](http://www.greeks.tcu.edu/community-standards-2/)

### Disciplined Organizations

In accordance with Texas Education Code, Section 51.936(c)(2), the following organization(s) have been found responsible and disciplined for hazing and/or convicted of hazing as of the last three years:

## Fall 2019\*

<b>Organization:</b>	Phi Delta Theta
<b>Date of Incident:</b>	9/14/2019
<b>Date Investigation Initiated:</b>	9/23/2019
<b>General Description of Incident:</b>	New members were required to wear uniforms, pay bar tabs, setup and clean-up tailgates, and carry tobacco paraphernalia at all times
<b>Violations of Institution's Code:</b>	3.2.2 Hazing
<b>Findings:</b>	In Violation
<b>Sanctions:</b>	Chapter must provide education to all chapter members surrounding pooling of funds and Phi Delta Theta policy; the previously scheduled Bystander Intervention Workshop must specifically address hazing behaviors in addition to alcohol and tobacco product abuse.
<b>Date Resolved:</b>	10/22/2019

<b>Organization:</b>	Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI)
<b>Date of Incident:</b>	9/21/2019
<b>Date Investigation Initiated:</b>	9/27/2019
<b>General Description of Incident:</b>	New members forced to pay for tailgates and perform calisthenics
<b>Violations of Institution's Code:</b>	3.2.2 Hazing
<b>Findings:</b>	In Violation
<b>Sanctions:</b>	Per Phi Gamma Delta Board of Conduct, the chapter is on probation through December 2020. IN addition to Board of Conduct sanctions, the Chapter President and New Member Educator is to meet more regularly with their Chapter Coach. The fraternity also lost one social event.
<b>Date Resolved:</b>	11/12/2019

\* Format of data above is in compliance with new state legislation

## Spring 2019

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Allegation</b>	<b>Sanction</b>
Delta Sigma Theta	Hazing Violation	The chapter is considered inactive through at least May 31, 2020. All members have either been suspended or placed on probation which means the chapter is no longer active. Once current members graduate from TCU, the national sorority will determine a timeline for reactivation and subsequent intake process. Members who were active from 2016-2019 will not be permitted to participate in re-establishment of the chapter.

## Fall 2018

Organization	Allegation	Sanction
Kappa Sigma	Hazing Violation	Removal of membership for the member involved; Educational programming for all members to include hosting a speaker, four-session series with an attorney regarding hazing litigation, programming with TCU Alcohol & Drug Education; Complete a membership review; Participate in the national Kappa Sigma Program: Brothers in Action; Host alcohol-free dinners; No social events with alcohol until November 2018 at the earliest.
Phi Delta Theta	Hazing Violation	Must remove all acts of servitude from the new member process; Chapter President must attend the President's Retreat; At least 90% of the chapter must attend a presentation with chapter leadership that outlines the types of behaviors that constitute hazing; Must partner with another fraternity to provide education to the community regarding hazing.
Phi Mu	Hazing Violation	Involved members removed from chapter; Prior to Fall 2019 Bid Day all members will be educated on risk management policies; President must attend the President's Retreat and officers must attend Officer Training Day.
Pi Kappa Phi	Hazing Violation	Remedial Action Plan in place from PKP Headquarters and follow-up support of implementation from Fraternity and Sorority Life staff.
Sigma Chi	Hazing Violation	Headquarters-led chapter re-development plan, including local staff member to provide oversight of plan implementation.

## Spring 2018: No Violations

## Fall 2017

Organization	Allegation	Sanction
Delta Delta Delta	Hazing Violation	Uphold directives set forth by National Headquarters, including regular meetings with chapter leadership, assist with seeking out quest speakers, and offering guidance in the formation of committees and newly-developed chapter protocols.

<b>Delta Tau Delta</b>	<b>Hazing Violation</b>	<b>Suspended. Chapter is not active on the TCU campus.</b>
<b>Pi Beta Phi</b>	<b>Hazing Violation</b>	<b>Pi Beta Phi has been placed on an action plan with headquarters.</b>
<b>Zeta Tau Alpha</b>	<b>Hazing Violation</b>	<b>Chapter issued a warning. Chapter hosted a workshop with headquarters personnel on nation policy on hazing behaviors. 2018 Chapter Officers met with FSL staff to discuss incident and ensure compliance with TCU and ZTA policy.</b>

**Spring 2017: No Violations**