



STUDENT
AFFAIRS

Dean of Students

Prohibition of Hazing Memorandum

To: TCU Students

From: Michael Russel, Ed.D.
Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Re: Hazing Memorandum for Fall 2021 Semester

Date: August 10, 2021

Texas Christian University is committed to academic achievement, personal freedom, and integrity, and the dignity and respect of the individual. 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 affect 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 Dean of Students 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 Dean of Students website at deanofstudents.tcu.edu, the TCU Police website www.police.tcu.edu, and the Fraternity & Sorority Life website 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 or convicted of hazing as of the last three years:

Spring 2021: No Violations	
Fall 2020	
Organization:	Sigma Phi Epsilon
Date of Incident:	9/10/2020
Date Investigation Initiated:	9/10/2020
General Description of Incident:	Physical harm facilitated by older members of the fraternity
Violations of Institution's Code:	3.2.2 Hazing
Findings:	Not in Violation
Sanctions:	Although the chapter was found Not in Violation the investigation did reveal several deficits in fraternity operations and the following steps must be completed to ensure improvement in chapter operations. The chapter will complete a twelve-point action plan. Implement immediate review of the Sigma, Phi, and Epsilon challenge to ensure the program is in alignment with the Balanced Man Program.
Date Resolved:	11/13/2020

Organization:	Sigma Alpha Epsilon
Date of Incident:	9/28/2020
Date Investigation Initiated:	9/29/2020
General Description of Incident:	New member was involved in a physical altercation
Violations of Institution's Code:	3.2.2 Hazing
Findings:	Not in violation
Sanctions:	After a detailed investigation by TCU PD the allegation was found to not be connected with Sigma Alpha Epsilon.
Date Resolved:	10/19/2020

Organization:	Lambda Chi Alpha
Date of Incident:	11/5/2020
Date Investigation Initiated:	11/11/2020
General Description of Incident:	New members compelled to steal a rival school's property
Violations of Institution's Code:	3.2.2 Hazing
Findings:	In violation
Sanctions:	Probation through December 2021 and complete an eleven-point action plan. Implement a "consideration of status" process for members. Individuals involved in this and previous hazing incidents held to account
Date Resolved:	12/8/2020

Spring 2020: No Violations

Fall 2019	
Organization:	Phi Delta Theta
Date of Incident:	9/14/2019
Date Investigation Initiated:	9/23/2019
General Description of Incident:	Pledge uniforms, forced to pay bar tab, tailgate setup and clean-up, and carrying tobacco paraphernalia at all times
Violations of Institution's Code:	3.2.2 Hazing
Findings:	In violation
Sanctions:	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.
Date Resolved:	10/22/2019

Organization:	Phi Gamma Delta (FJI)
Date of Incident:	9/21/2019
Date Investigation Initiated:	9/27/2019
General Description of Incident:	New members forced to pay for tailgates and perform calisthenics
Violations of Institution's Code:	3.2.2 Hazing
Findings:	In violation
Sanctions:	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.
Date Resolved:	11/12/2019

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

Spring 2019		
Organization	Allegation	Sanction
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 and 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 Presidents' 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 Presidents' 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.