

Statement on Hazing

Murray State University recognizes that student organizations exist for the purpose of extending opportunities for education, social interaction, leadership and skill development, and personal growth beyond the classroom. Therefore, the practice of hazing associate members, initiates or members is antithetical to the purposes of registered student organizations at Murray State University and is **strictly prohibited by the University**.

[Kentucky Revised Statute 508.180](#) et seq. makes the act of hazing a criminal offense.

The federal Stop Campus Hazing Act defines Hazing as the following:

Any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with other persons) against another person or persons regardless of the willingness of such other person or person to participate, that –

- (I) Is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in, a student organization; and
- (II) Causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team), of physical or psychological injury including –
 - (a) whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on someone's body, or similar activity;
 - (b) causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity;
 - (c) causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances;
 - (d) causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to perform sexual acts;
 - (e) any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct;
 - (f) any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law; and
 - (g) any activity that induces, causes, or requires another person to perform a duty or task that involves a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law

Murray State University defines hazing as any on-campus or off-campus activity which results in mental or physical harassment, humiliation, degradation, ridicule, shock, endangerment, physical disfigurement, excessive fatigue, danger to health or the involuntary consumption of alcohol or drugs.

This prohibition against hazing applies equally to student organizations, individual students, faculty and staff members, visitors to the campus, and licensees and invitees on the campus.

Anyone who witnesses an act of hazing should report it at once to Student Affairs or [complete the form linked here](#).

Any student who participates in hazing as defined above has violated the Murray State University Code of Conduct and will be subject to disciplinary action as described in the [Student Disciplinary Rules and Procedures](#). Any organization which authorizes or permits hazing to occur has violated the policy statement on Regulation of Student Groups and will be subject to group disciplinary action as outlined in that policy.

Hazing Awareness and Prevention

Murray State University is committed to educate and eliminate hazing. Campus education includes but is not limited to the following:

1. Online Hazing Prevention – hazing prevention program through United Educators which all students will be required to complete through Canvas
2. Training of Student Organizations – In person training for all student organization presidents. This training will be led by the Coordinator of Student Conduct. Topics will include – hazing policy, Stop Campus Hazing Act, prevention strategies, reporting requirements, and campus resources
3. Student Athletes – hazing prevention and resources are presented by the Athletic Department to all student athletes.
4. Faculty and Staff training will be available as the module is released from United Educators.

Description of the online training – Recognize and Prevent Hazing

This course helps students understand how to recognize and respond to incidents of hazing, and how to find the hazing policy at Murray State University. This course will help learners with the following: - describe the harm hazing can cause – recall justifications for hazing and why they are not valid – determine if an activity is hazing – learn where to report

Reporting and Records

A report of hazing may be submitted via the following:

1. Office of Student Conduct, 425 Wells Hall, phone 270-809-6833
2. Murray State University Police, 101 Police Building, phone 270-809-2222
3. Online, click [here](#) for the online reporting form
4. Live Safe App, the LiveSafe app is free for students to use and to text the Murray State University Police Department.