

Statement on Hazing

This policy was approved by vote of the General Faculty on May 21, 2008.

Oberlin College prohibits hazing of any member of the college community by campus organizations, clubs, intercollegiate or intramural athletic teams, students, employees and volunteers.

The state of Ohio acknowledges hazing as a crime. The Ohio Revised Code defines hazing as “doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person.” (2307.31) The college further defines hazing as any activity that is expected of someone to join or maintain membership in an organization, club, team or any other group that is affiliated with the college that humiliates, degrades, abuses or endangers him or her, regardless of intention or willingness to participate.

The activities in the following list constitute hazing if they humiliate, degrade, abuse, or endanger participants, regardless of the intention of the activity or the willingness of the participants. The list is not intended to be comprehensive:

- use of alcohol or other controlled substances;
- nudity or partial nudity;
- physical violence in any form;
- branding, tattooing, piercing or shaving;
- excessive calisthenics or creation of unwarranted fatigue not associated with practice or competition;
- consumption of excessive or an unusual combination of food or drink;
- physical and psychological shocks;
- wearing of apparel which is conspicuous;
- engaging in public and/or private stunts and activities that put people at risk;
- sleep deprivation;
- line-ups or any interrogation for information that is not consistent with legitimate testing;
- engaging in degrading or humiliating games and activities;
- requiring personal errands of participants, such as driving to class, cleaning room, laundering clothes;
- any other activities which are not consistent with state and local law (including legal drinking age), or the regulations and policies of the college.

The college prohibits all individuals from soliciting, aiding, or agreeing or attempting to aid another person in planning or committing acts of hazing. It is not a defense to a violation of this policy that the hazing victim consented to or acquiesced in the hazing activity. The college prohibits all hazing activities whether conducted on or off the college premises.

Violations of this policy should be reported to Campus Safety, the Director of Athletics, the Dean of Students, or a Dean. The Office of the Dean of Students will investigate the complaint in accordance with the student disciplinary procedures. The college provides a list of possible sanctions for violations of this policy within the *Student Conduct Policy*. For procedures and hazing policy wording, please see the [Student Conduct Policy](#).