

## **American University Hazing Policy**

*April 2000*

Hazing is strictly prohibited at American University. It is incompatible with the university's academic mission and compromises personal liberties. Hazing can be physical or psychological in nature. It is an intentional act or method of initiation into a group, club, organization, or team that subjects another person, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, to conduct that may injure, abuse, humiliate, harass, or intimidate that person.

Examples of hazing include, but are not limited to, the following:

- imposing any requirement that compels a person to engage in conduct prohibited by university policy
- forcing or requiring unnecessary physical activity or exercise
- forcing or requiring extended isolation or unnecessary exposure to the elements
- paddling or any other form of physical abuse
- depriving others of sleep, study time, or the ability to communicate
- requiring others to wear conspicuous, embarrassing, or uncomfortable clothing or to carry unusual items
- forcing or requiring ingestion of alcohol or any other liquid, solid matter, or gas
- preventing others from practicing personal hygiene
- withholding information from others that is essential to daily functioning
- requiring others to perform errands, provide entertainment, or engage in other degrading activities
- transporting others without their consent
- conducting quests or hunts as part of membership rituals, whether or not such activities endanger participants or damage property
- addressing, interrogating, or deceiving others in a manner that may psychologically injure, abuse, humiliate, harass, or intimidate them.

Every member of the university community is responsible for reporting actual or suspected hazing activities to the dean of students or to Public Safety as soon as possible. Appropriate university officials will investigate the report to determine whether the allegations warrant a charge of hazing. If a charge is brought, the individual, group, club, organization, or team will be subject to the disciplinary procedures outlined in the Student Conduct Code. Law enforcement agencies off campus may also be notified. Conduct Council sanctions for hazing may include suspension or dismissal from the university. Advisors to clubs, organizations, or teams and their national or international officials may be notified in cases of alleged violations of this policy. Disciplinary action taken by a club, organization, or team or by its national or international officials will not preclude university action.

To report incidents of hazing or to receive further information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students (x3300, Butler 408) or Public Safety (x2527, Public Safety Building).