

To the Hamilton Community,

The purpose of this message is to reiterate the Hamilton College policy on hazing. Pledging, which has already begun for some fraternities and sororities, may last no longer than 7 weeks and **must end for all organizations by Friday, April 24, 2009.**

The College prohibits hazing. Hazing is defined as any action or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of another person for the purpose of membership, advancement, or continued good standing in any organization or group recognized by the College. In addition, any requirement by a member or pledge which compels a member or pledge to participate in any activity that is against College policy or New York State Law is defined as hazing.

Hazing behaviors include but are not limited to the following:

1. forcing or requiring an individual to drink alcohol or use other substances or consume unreasonable amounts of food;
2. engaging in activities that compel an individual or group to remain at a certain place, or transporting anyone anywhere without their knowledge and/or consent (road trips, kidnaps, etc.);
3. creating excessive fatigue or distress through the deprivation of privacy, sufficient sleep, or decent and edible meals;
4. participating in morally degrading or humiliating games and activities;
5. participating in or creation of situations that cause physical harm or emotional strain, such as causing a member or non-member to be the object of malicious amusement or ridicule;
6. using brutality or force.

Any of these activities, if a condition either directly or indirectly, of membership, advancement, or good standing in a College-recognized organization, shall be presumed to be a forced activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.

Hazing is a violation of the New York State Law when such action by a group or organization recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or involves the forced consumption of liquor or drugs for the purpose of initiation or affiliation with any organization. Any individual/group or organization found responsible for hazing will be subject to disciplinary action, which may result in probation, suspension, or revocation of College recognition.

Spending a considerable amount of time questioning whether or not a particular activity violates the hazing policy is usually a good indication that the activity may indeed be considered hazing. For additional clarification, or to discuss the matter further in a safe and confidential setting, feel free to contact me directly in the Student Activities Office (859-4194) or via email (lmagnare@hamilton.edu). Thank you for your immediate attention to this information.

Lisa Magnarelli '96

Assistant Dean of Students for Campus Life/Director of Student Activities
Hamilton College