



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER EL PASO

Operating Policy and Procedure

HSCEP OP: 75.36 TTUHSC El Paso Hazing

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso (TTUHSC El Paso) Operating Policy and Procedure (HSCEP OP) is to provide guidance to faculty, staff, and students in recognizing and reporting any Hazing incident.

REVIEW: This HSCEP OP will be reviewed by July 1 of each even-numbered year (ENY) by the Managing Director of Facility Support Services, Senior Safety Director, Director of Student Engagement, and Chief of Police, with recommendations for revisions submitted to the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or designee by July 15.

I. General:

An environment in which privileges of citizenship are protected and the obligations of citizenship are understood fosters freedom of discussion, inquiry, and expression. Accordingly, the University community has developed standards of behavior for students and student organizations.

Students and student organizations are subject to disciplinary action according to the provisions of the Code and/or any other applicable University rules or regulations.

Each student is responsible for becoming familiar with the various regulations of the University and meeting the various requirements outlined below. Written policies are described in university publications such as this Handbook and the Schools' catalogs and handbooks. Each student, in accepting admission, indicates a willingness to subscribe to and be governed by the rules and regulations of this institution, and for university officials to take such disciplinary action, including dismissal, as may be deemed appropriate for failure to abide by such rules and regulations.

Each student is responsible for their own integrity and for reporting possible violations of this Code by other students. Faculty, staff, and students shall take all reasonable steps to prevent violations and are responsible for reporting violations.

Any incident of suspected Hazing shall be reported to any campus security authority, Staff, Facility Member or the Texas Tech El Paso Police Department (TTEPPD). A thorough investigation will be conducted to assure the safety of the potential victim(s) and integrity of the investigation for any possible discipline.

II. Hazing:

The TTUHSC El Paso is committed to providing a safe educational environment for everyone and does not tolerate hazing by any group or individual affiliated with the University. TTUHSC El Paso students should expect all student organizations to treat them with respect and dignity. Hazing has no place in the experience or student organization culture.

III. What is Hazing?

Hazing, is defined as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a person, for the purpose of pledging, joining, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization.

Any intentional, knowing or reckless act directed against a student, occurring on or off campus, by one or more individuals acting alone or collectively that endangers the mental or physical health or safety

of a student for the purpose of pledging or associating, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, seeking and/or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are, or include, students. Consent or acquiescence by a student or students subjected to hazing is not a defense in a disciplinary proceeding. Hazing includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Any type of physical or emotional brutality, or the threat of such activity, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body or similar activity;
- b. Any type of physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of a student;
- c. Any activity involving consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug or other substance which subjects a student to an unreasonable risk or harm, or which adversely affects the mental, physical health or safety of a student;
- d. Any activity that intimidates or threatens a student with ostracism that subjects a student to extreme mental stress, shame or humiliation, or that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of a student, or that discourages a student from entering or remaining registered at this university, or that may reasonably be expected to cause a student to leave the organization or the university rather than submit to acts described above;
- e. Any activity in which a person engages in, solicits, encourages, directs, aids or attempts to aid another, directly or indirectly, in hazing; intentionally, knowingly or recklessly permits hazing to occur; having firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident which has occurred; and fails to report the incident in writing to the specific school's student conduct office;
- f. Any activity in which hazing is either condoned or encouraged or actions of any officer or combination of members, pledges, associates or alumni of the organization in committing or assisting in the commission of hazing; or,
- g. Any act that is unlawful as designated by local, state, or federal government.

NOTE: See Texas Education Code, Sections 37.151-37.157 and Section 51.936

IV. Examples of Hazing

Hazing includes a range of activities that can be intimidating, harassing or violent. Any form of hazing, as described in university policy, is prohibited. Statistics show that hazing activities that are intimidating or harassing happen more often in organizations, but often go unrecognized as hazing. Hazing activities that are violent occur less often in organizations, however they are more likely to be recognized as hazing.

V. Intimidation

- Lies, tricks or dishonesty,
- Assigning demerits,
- Silence periods with implied threats for violation,
- Socially isolating new members,
- Demeaning names, and
- Expecting someone to have certain items with them at all times.

VI. Harassment

- Verbal abuse,
- Threats or implied threats,

- Asking new member to wear embarrassing clothes,
- Asking new members to act as personal servants to current members,
- Skit nights with degrading or humiliating acts,
- Requiring new members to recite facts, songs or chats,
- Sleep deprivation, and
- Sexual simulations.

VII. Violence

- Forced or coerced consumption of food, drink, alcohol or drugs,
- Beating, paddling, or other forms of physical assault,
- Branding,
- Forced ingestion of vile substances
- Abduction or “kidnaps,” and
- Sexual assault.

VIII. Reporting Procedures:

1. Internal: Incident(s) of suspected hazing shall be reported to any Campus Security Authority, Staff, Facility Member or the Texas Tech El Paso Police Department. A thorough investigation will be conducted to ensure the safety of the potential victim(s).

2. External:

a. Bi-Annual Transparency Report will be posted on the institution's Clery Annual Security Report website, <https://ttuhscep.edu/about/policies/annual-security-report.aspx> beginning December 1st, 2026. The Bi-Annual Report will be updated and posted every 6 months during the months of June and January.

b. Annual Security Report (ASR).

c. 30 days after a reported incident is investigated and a resolution has been reached the outcome will be posted on the institution's Clery Annual Security Report website, <https://ttuhscep.edu/about/policies/annual-security-report.aspx>

Inclusion of hazing statistics in annual security reports: TTUHSC El Paso will include statistics for hazing incidents that were reported to campus security authorities or local law enforcement, as defined by The Stop Campus Hazing Act (SCHA), in the ASRs.

Implementation of hazing policies, including those specific to hazing prevention: TTUHSC El Paso will be required to have a hazing policy with information on how to make a report of hazing and the process used to investigate hazing incidents. Student Services & Engagement will address hazing prevention and awareness programs, which includes a campus-wide prevention programs and primary prevention strategies.

Compilation of a Campus Hazing Transparency Report: TTUHSC El Paso will compile and publish on a prominent location of their public website <https://ttuhscep.edu/about/policies/annual-security-report.aspx> a hazing transparency report that summarizes findings concerning any student organization found to be in violation of the institution's standards of conduct related to hazing. The report will include:

- The name of the student organization;
- A general description of the violation that resulted in a finding of responsibility; and
- Related dates (the date of the alleged incident, the date of the initiation of the investigation, the date the investigation ended with a finding, and the date the institution provided notice to the organization of the finding).