

Kent State University Report on Hazing
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Anti-Hazing Task Force
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Introduction

The ability to participate in student organizations is the heart of the Kent State University experience. Integrating extracurricular learning opportunities with the robust academic prospects fills the role of balancing student belonging, leadership, and making lifelong connections. Higher education administrators may recognize the vulnerability many students express as they gravitate towards finding themselves and their way on campus. We strive to foster a safe and inclusive environment for learning and personal growth that is able to promptly and adequately respond to concerning behaviors.

In addition to fielding 17 varsity athletic teams, Kent State boasts more than 350 registered student organizations, 33 fraternities and sororities, 25 sports clubs, and the Undergraduate & Graduate Student Governments. Each club, organization, and team help create the fabric of our diverse, unique, and inclusive student body. Each club, organization, and team allow for learning and growth of our students.

Unfortunately, the landscape of higher education is rife with examples of situations gone wrong involving the use of power, control, and manipulation through hazing. Knowing this, Kent State intentionally seeks to reduce high-risk behavior through training, creating and following policies that promote diversity and respect, and holding student organizations accountable when called for. Kent State's policy on hazing states:

As part of its commitment to promoting a safe and healthy campus environment for the University community and cultivating a culture that fosters respect for the dignity and rights of all its members, the University does not tolerate hazing activities by any members of the university community.

The report that follows is designed to offer a transparent view of Kent State's policy and process regarding hazing, a description of how student organizations may be sanctioned when found responsible for hazing, provide awareness of partnerships on and off campus relevant to hazing concerns, outline an educational plan to reduce high-risk behaviors, offer with clarity where and how to report hazing allegations, and share data from the last five years of all alleged hazing behavior.

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This report is guided by the Inter-University Council of Ohio's [anti-hazing principles](#). Sections of this report include:

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University policy and process regarding Hazing

Policy

As part of its commitment to promoting a safe and healthy campus environment for the University community and cultivating a culture that fosters respect for the dignity and rights of all its members, the University does not tolerate hazing activities by any members of the university community.

This policy applies to Kent state university students, student organizations, student groups, and employees. This policy also applies to volunteers acting in an official capacity that advise or coach student organizations and/or student groups and who have direct contact with students. Kent state university has jurisdiction under this policy whether the conduct occurs on or off campus, between two or more people who are affiliated with the university, or any student or other organization associated with the university.

Pursuant to Ohio law under section 2903.31 of the Revised Code, "hazing" is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any student or other organization or any act to continue or reinstate membership in or affiliation with any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person, including coercing another to consume alcohol or a drug of abuse, as defined in section 3719.011 of the Revised Code. This applies to any act, intended or carried out, whether or not the act is voluntarily agreed upon.

In addition to Ohio law, Kent state university defines "hazing" as any action or situation intentionally created, whether on or off university premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule.

Implementation. Kent state university students as individuals, members of registered student organizations or any other recognizable groups, teams, or associations of students are expressly prohibited from engaging in hazing. This may include but is not limited to intercollegiate athletic teams, bands, fraternities, reserve officer training corps, sororities, student clubs registered under rule 3342-4-11 of the Administrative Code, the undergraduate and graduate student governing bodies, and university housing student governing bodies.

Process

Enforcement of this policy is described in the [Code of Student Conduct](#). Students and/or student organizations accused of violating this rule are subject to disciplinary action under the code of student conduct.

Violations of this policy by employees may result in corrective action or discipline in accordance with applicable university policies and procedures and/or collective bargaining agreements.

Sanctioning

When a student organization or individual is found responsible for hazing, sanctions may range from disciplinary probation through disciplinary dismissal (revocation of student organization recognition for student organizations) in addition to educational restorative, and/or preventative measures based on the context and severity of the behavior.

Individuals charged criminally with hazing who are affiliated with Kent State University are subject to sections [3345.22](#) and [3345.23](#) of the [Ohio Revised Code](#). If a finding of responsibility by a preponderance of the evidence (more likely than not) is achieved, **the result may be dismissal / termination from Kent State University and debarment from attending any other Ohio public university in accordance with law**. Note that this is subject to the criminal case and separate from the Office of Student Conduct procedures.

University sanctions are separate from but may consider and incorporate national / international student organizational self-imposed sanctions.

Partnerships

Participating in a community of care means formal and informal connections to address situations that range from simple to complex. Following is a list that includes but is not limited to partners who may be assistive when an alleged hazing incident occurs:

Kent State

Center for Adult and Veteran Services
Center for Sexual and Relationship Violence Services
Counseling and Psychological Services
Kent Student Center
Kent Student Center for Student Involvement (including Fraternity & Sorority Life)
LGBTQ+ Center
Office of Student Conduct
Office of the Dean of Students

Office of the Senior Vice President for Student Life
Parents and Family Engagement
Police Services
Recreational Services
Student Accessibility Services
Student Legal Services
Student Multicultural Center
Student Ombuds
Title IX Coordinator
University Housing
Women's Center

Community resources including local law enforcement, mental health counseling, and local businesses can also be integral partners.

Education Plan

The diversity of types, styles, and oversight of student organizations suggests that a multifaceted approach may be best to apply an educational plan for anti-hazing that can be applied with students, advisors, faculty and staff. Kent State University has a suite of educational programs pertaining to anti-hazing that foster awareness of resources, where to report, and how to report, and how to get support. The suite of educational programs includes, but is not limited to:

- New student orientation (Destination Kent State & Transfer Kent State)
- Internal and external speakers offering timely and topical information
- AliveTek online training modules for students, advisors, faculty, and staff
- Anti-hazing workshops offered to student organizations, advisors, faculty and staff

In 2023, Kent State University contracted with AliveTek using the PreventZone platform and suite of training modules. Training modules include Hazing Prevention 101, Fraternity & Sorority Life, Athletics, and Faculty & Staff. These modules provide awareness of Kent State University policies, explains how to report hazing, and consequences for violating hazing policies and law. All students will be informed of, and provided access to, the Hazing Prevention 101 module. Specific populations including students involved in fraternities and sororities, student athletes, advisors, coaches, and faculty and staff will be informed of, and provided access to other training modules as appropriate.

Educational programs are available for new students, transfer students, student clubs, Fraternity and Sorority organizations, sports clubs, university bands, student athletes, ROTC members, advisors, faculty and staff.

During the fall 2023 semester 4,945 people completed AliveTek courses:

Fall 2023 Course	# People Completed
Hazing 101 Course (students)	4,300
Fraternity & Sorority Life (students)	419
Athletics (students)	177
Hazing Prevention (faculty & staff)	49

When and where feasible, assessment of educational opportunities will inform and direct future programming.

Reporting

To report hazing at Kent State University, a person can:

- **Call police at 9-1-1**
- Notify the Office of Student Conduct by email studentconduct@kent.edu, phone at 330-672-4054 (business hours are 8am-5pm, Monday through Friday), or go to the Office of Student Conduct website and click on "File A Report":
<https://www.kent.edu/studentconduct/file-report>

Anonymous reports are accepted; however, the university's ability to obtain additional information may be compromised and the ability to investigate anonymous reports may be limited.

Other contacts include:

[Kent State University Police Services](#)

Emergency: 9-1-1

Non-emergency: 330-672-2212

Email: police_services@kent.edu

[Office of the Dean of Students](#)

Phone: 330-672-8003

Email: odos@kent.edu

[The Office of Student Conduct](#) ("OSC")

Phone: 330-672-4054

Email: studentconduct@kent.edu

Data

In compliance with Ohio [Senate Bill 126](#), known as "Collin's Law" this report contains information regarded reported hazing at Kent State University for the previous five years. In accordance with the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](#) (FERPA), names of individuals have been redacted for this report.

From the academic years 2017-2018 and through 2022-2023, accusations of hazing have not been reported or processed through the Kent State University Office of Student Conduct.

Date of incident	Student / Student organization	Reported behavior	University action	Outcome
Spring & Fall 2023	Phi Kappa Alpha	New member rituals including blindfolding and mandated alcohol consumption	Investigation; temporary cease & desist	Investigation did not yield evidence to proceed. No further action.