



Office of Student Life
 (615) 327-6792
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ANTI-HAZING POLICY

Students, student organizations, and other student groups of Meharry Medical College are strictly prohibited from engaging in any type of hazing activity. Hazing is defined as “any action or activity taken, or situation intentionally created, whether on or off campus, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule.” This includes any action that endangers the health or well-being of an individual, is personally degrading, has an adverse effect on the academic performance of the student, or which violates any federal, state or local statute or College policy. Individual or group consent to hazing activity in no way validates the activity or excludes those perpetuating it from being charged with a crime.

Individual members, organizations and groups who violate this policy are subject to federal, state, local laws and College disciplinary action. The College’s Non-Academic Disciplinary Procedures is available for review in the College’s Academic Catalog online.

Examples of activities or situations that could meet the definition of hazing include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Sleep deprivation– New member/prospective member activities should not go on between 12:00 am - 7:00 am
- Any activities that interfere with academics
- Physical or verbal harassment
- Forcing or encouraging ingesting of any type of liquid or solid matter, edible or non-edible (i.e. alcohol, chewing tobacco, goldfish, raw onions, spoiled food, dirt, animal food, etc.)
- Mandatory workouts – While working out may be “healthy,” there are risks associated with making someone work out. If someone falls and breaks a leg, or passes out and hits their head, the chapter will be liable. There are no ROTC or athletic teams at Meharry Medical College, so there is no need for mandatory workouts
- Requiring new members/prospective members to wear ridiculous costumes or perform ridiculous activities, or having members wear the same clothing item(s)
- Silence periods of any kind
- Requiring new members/prospective members to perform personal service to active members such as carrying books, running errands, performing maid duties, etc.
- Requiring or suggesting that members/prospective members vandalize, destroy or steal property or commit crimes
- Marking or branding
- Requiring anything of one group of members/prospective members that is not required of another

Hazing is prohibited and any member failing to comply with this policy is subject to disciplinary action. This policy pertains to all pledge, active and alumni/ae members of the organization.

All members/prospective members are subject to federal, state and local laws, and rules and regulations of the College.

Tennessee State Law: 49-7-123. Hazing prohibited

(a) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Hazing" means any intentional or reckless act in Tennessee on or off the property of any higher education institution by one student acting alone or with others which is directed against any other student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of that student, or which induces or coerces a student to endanger such student’s mental or physical health or safety. "Hazing" does not include customary athletic events or similar contests or competitions, and is limited to those actions taken and situations created in connection with initiation into or affiliation with any organization; and

(2) "Higher education institution" means a public or private college, community college or university.

(b) Each higher education institution shall adopt a written policy prohibiting hazing by any student or organization operating under the sanction of the institution. The policy shall be distributed or made available to each student at the beginning of each school year. Time shall be set aside during orientation to specifically discuss the policy and its ramifications as a criminal offense and the institutional penalties that may be imposed by the higher education institution.

[Acts 1995, ch. 500, § 1.]

Member/Prospective Member

Date

Phone #