

The message below was distributed via email to all Undergraduate and Graduate Students, Faculty, and Staff at Southern Methodist University on 10 Aug 2026.



Southern Methodist University
Stop Campus Hazing Act Transparency Report

Hazing is a violation of Federal and Texas law and the Southern Methodist University (SMU) Student Code of Conduct. Below is a notification sent twice yearly from the Office of the Dean of Students regarding hazing. Individuals or organizations engaging in hazing could be subject to fines and charged with a criminal offense, as well as face disciplinary action from the University.

Hazing Defined

Federal-Stop Campus Hazing Act

The Stop Campus Hazing Act was signed into law on December 23, 2024 and amends the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, 20.U.S.C §1092(f). The Stop Campus Hazing Act defines hazing as: any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with others) against another person or persons, regardless of the willingness of such person(s) to participate, that is

1. committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in a student organization, and,
2. causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the IHE or the organization (such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletics team) of physical or psychological injury, including:
 - Whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on someone's body, or similar activity, and/or:
 - Causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing any of the following:
 - Sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity;

- Another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances;
- Another person to perform sexual acts;
- Any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct;
- Any activity committed against another person that includes a criminal violation of local, state, tribal, or federal law; or,
- Any activity that induces, causes, or requires another person to perform a duty or task that involves a criminal violation of local, state, tribal, or federal law.

State of Texas

The Texas anti-hazing statute is found in the Texas Education Code, Chapter 37, Subchapter F at §37.151 and defines hazing as: *any intentional, knowing or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization if the act is:*

- Any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electric shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body or similar activity;
- Involves sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other similar activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
- Involves consumption of food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug or other substance, other than as described by Paragraph (E), that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or which adversely affects the mental or physical health of the student;
- Is any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the Penal code; or involves coercing, as defined by Section 1.07, Penal Code, the student to consume an alcoholic beverage, liquor, or drug in an amount that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student is intoxicated, as defined by Section 49.01, Penal Code.

****The fact that a person consented or acquiesced to participation in a hazing activity is not a defense to prosecution for hazing under the law or SMU policy.**

University Policy

This law does not affect or in any way limit the right of the university to enforce its own rules against hazing. Hazing is a violation of Section IV.B.4. of the *SMU Student Code of Conduct* and is subject to potential proceedings in the Conduct Review Process.

Reporting Hazing

According to the law, a person can commit hazing by not only engaging in the activity, but also soliciting, encouraging, directing, aiding or attempting to aid in hazing; and by intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly allowing hazing to occur. Witnessing hazing or having first-hand knowledge that a hazing incident is planned or has occurred can also be considered hazing, as defined by law.

In an effort to encourage reporting of hazing incidents, the law grants immunity from civil or criminal liability to any person who reports a specific hazing event in good faith and without malice to the Dean of Students or other appropriate University official, such as staff in the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards. A person may also be granted amnesty for any potential liability in university student conduct proceedings. Additionally, a doctor or other medical practitioner who treats a student who may have been subjected to hazing may make a good faith report of the suspected hazing activities to police or other law enforcement officials and is immune from civil or other liability that might otherwise be imposed or incurred as a result of the report. The penalty for the failure to report incidents of hazing is a fine of up to \$1,000, up to 180 days in jail, or both. Penalties for other hazing offenses vary according to the severity of the injury which results and include fines from \$500 to \$10,000 and/or up to two years of jail time. Failure to report hazing incidents may also result in institutional penalties for failure to report or include statistics, civil litigation, and individual liability.

Students who have knowledge of hazing activity can report it to the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards by clicking [here](#) or to the SMU Police Department or both. Information about hazing may also be reported anonymously through the SMU Police Department's Silent Witness Program [online form](#) or by calling 214-SMU-2TIP. Anyone can also report hazing anonymously via Real Response by texting 205-TXT2SMU where a staff member in the Office of the Dean of Students will respond. Anonymous reports of hazing activity may also be made through the SMU Fraud Reporting Program, by calling 844-995-4895, or accessing the [online portal](#) or the [mobile reporting site](#).

Number of Hazing Reports from June 1, 2025, to December 23, 2025

- SMU received 28 reports of alleged hazing activities by organizations during the reporting period of June 1 – December, 23, 2025. Two (2) reports resulted in investigations. One (1) organization was found responsible for hazing.
- SMU received 1 report of alleged hazing activities by organizations during the reporting period of January 6, 2026 to July 1, 2026.

Student Organization Investigation Process

- When a report of alleged hazing activity is received by the Office of the Dean of Students, it is reviewed to determine whether there is sufficient information to warrant further investigation
- If an investigation is warranted, the Office of the Dean of Students will send a notice of investigation to the student organization, and the matter is referred to the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO).
- OEO will investigate the allegation(s) and then determine whether the student organization violated university policy.
- If the Student Organization is found not responsible for violation(s) of university policy(ies) the Dean of Students will notify the Student Organization, and no further action will be taken; however, the report and outcome will be included in SMU's disclosure of hazing statistics.
- If the Student Organization is found responsible for violation(s) of university policy(ies), the Office of the Dean of Students will determine the appropriate process for resolution, via one of the following processes:
 1. **Organization Accountability Agreement:** In consultation with the Student Organization (and their headquarters, coach, or advisor where applicable), the University will work to develop an accountability plan which may include, but is not limited to sanctions that affect the organization's standing with the University and educational sanctions to address the policy violation(s). The Organization Accountability Agreement (OAA) may not be appealed. If, after two (2) weeks, the University and the Student Organization cannot come to an agreement, the Student Organization will be sanctioned pursuant to Option (b). If the Student Organization is found to have engaged in activities which constitute additional violations of any University policy during the

duration of OAA, the OAA may be subject to extension and/or altered to include additional requirements and/or sanctions.

2. Sanctions assigned by the Office of the Dean of Students: The Dean of Students, or his or her designee, will assign sanctions appropriate to the violations of University Policy. The assigned sanctions may be appealed by following the steps outlined in the Conduct Review Process.
- To see SMU's appeal process, please reference the SMU Student Handbook. See link below.

Hazing Prevention

- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life offers regular hazing education presentations. SMU also offers an online hazing prevention course to incoming students. Pursuant to §51.9361 of the Texas Education Code, officers and advisors of all registered student organizations must annually complete risk management training on hazing, alcohol/drug use, sexual assault/harassment, event safety, travel, and disability support.

How to Report Hazing:

- To report a hazing incident you may use the **Hazing Reporting Form**. This form notifies the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards that a hazing incident has been reported. If you prefer speaking to someone about the incident, please call the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards at 214-768-4563.
- You can also report hazing anonymously via Real Response by texting 205-TXT2SMU where a member of the Office of the Dean of Students will respond to you.
- If you are experiencing an emergency, please contact the SMU Police Department immediately at 214-768-3333.

Hazing Transparency Report - Disciplined Student Organizations

In accordance with Texas Law, universities have a duty to report to the campus community all organizations that have been disciplined for hazing, on or off campus, during the preceding three (3) years.

- **Alpha Kappa Psi**

Date of Incident(s): Between November 22, 2023 and Spring 2024

Date Investigation was Initiated: October 10, 2024

General Description of Incident: Alpha Kappa Psi was allegedly hazing new members by subjecting them to activities that affected their health and safety. Alpha Kappa Psi was charged with violating the following policies: Hazing, Irresponsible Conduct, and Failure to Comply.

Date Investigation Concluded and Notification Provided to

Organization: April 11, 2025

Resolution: Alpha Kappa Psi was found responsible for violating the following policies: Hazing, Irresponsible Conduct, and Failure to Comply. The resolution includes an Organization Accountability Agreement, which outlines several educational programs and requirements effective until December 1, 2026.

- **Beta Theta Pi**

Date of Incident(s): Between January 15, 2023 and February 9, 2023

Date Investigation was Initiated: February 10, 2023

General Description of Incident: Beta Theta Pi was allegedly hazing by requiring new members to perform calisthenics, consume distasteful food, and perform acts of servitude. New members were also exposed to activities that adversely affected their physical health and safety. Beta Theta Pi was charged with violating the following policies: Hazing, Irresponsible Conduct, Failure to Comply, and Laws and University Policy.

Date Investigation Concluded and Notification Provided to

Organization: June 28, 2023

Resolution: The national organization Beta Theta Pi entered into a mutual agreement with SMU through May 15, 2026, that includes the deferred suspension of the SMU chapter through May 15, 2026 and additional educational programs and requirements.

- **Kappa Alpha Theta**

Date of Incident: February 10, 2022

Date Investigation was Initiated: April 8, 2022

General Description of Incident: Kappa Alpha Theta was allegedly hazing new members through forced consumption of alcohol at an off-campus location. New members were also exposed to activities that adversely affected their physical health and safety.

Date Investigation Concluded and Notification Provided to

Organization: July 24, 2022

Resolution: The national organization Kappa Alpha Theta entered into an Organizational Accountability Agreement with SMU through May 15, 2026,

which includes removal from campus for a period of time and additional educational programs and requirements.

- **Phi Gamma Delta**

Date of Incident: Between September 13, 2025, and September 18, 2025

Date Investigation was Initiated: October 2, 2025

General Description of Incident: Phi Gamma Delta was allegedly hazing new members of their organization through forced consumption of distasteful substances. Phi Gamma Delta was charged with the following policies: Hazing and Irresponsible Conduct

Date Investigation Concluded: October 22, 2025

Date Notification Provided to Organization: October 27, 2025

Resolution: Phi Gamma Delta was found responsible for violating the following policies: Hazing and Irresponsible Conduct. The resolution includes deferred suspension through December 31, 2027, along with additional requirements.

- **Pi Beta Phi**

Date of Incident: Between January 15, 2023 and February 2, 2023

Date Investigation was Initiated: February 8, 2023

General Description of Incident: Pi Beta Phi was allegedly hazing new members of their organization by subjecting them to activities that caused shame or humiliation. Pi Beta Phi was charged with the following policies: Hazing and Irresponsible Conduct.

Date Investigation Concluded and Notification Provided to Organization: August 2, 2023

Resolution: The resolution includes an Organizational Accountability Agreement, which outlines several educational programs and requirements effective until May 25, 2025.

- **Sigma Chi**

Date of Incident: September 16-18, 2024

Date Investigation was Initiated: September 19, 2024

General Description of Incident: Sigma Chi was allegedly hazing new members by exposing their new members to activities that affected their physical health and safety. Sigma Chi was charged with violating the following policies: Alcohol, Hazing, Irresponsible Conduct, and Failure to Comply.

Date Investigation Concluded: November 5, 2024

Date Notification Provided to Organization: January 16, 2025

Resolution: Sigma Chi was found responsible for violating the following

policies: Alcohol, Hazing, Irresponsible Conduct, and Failure to Comply. The resolution includes deferred suspension through December 31, 2027, along with additional requirements.

- **Sigma Chi**

Date of Incident: Between February 1, 2023 and February 28, 2023

Date Investigation was Initiated: September 1, 2023

General Description of Incident: Sigma Chi was allegedly hazing new members by exposing their new members to activities that affected their physical health and safety. Sigma Chi was charged with violating the following policies: Hazing, Irresponsible Conduct, and Failure to Comply.

Date Investigation Concluded and Notification Provided to Organization: November 13, 2023

Resolution: Sigma Chi was found responsible for violating the following policies: Hazing, Irresponsible Conduct, and Failure to Comply. The resolution includes the completion of an Organization Accountability Agreement, which outlines several educational programs and requirements effective through December 15, 2025.

- **SMU Pom Team**

Date of Incident: August 26, 2024

Date Investigation was Initiated: August 29, 2024

General Description of Incident: The SMU Pom Team was allegedly hazing new members by subjecting them to activities that affected their health and safety. The SMU Pom Team was charged with violating the following policies: Alcohol, Hazing, and Irresponsible Conduct.

Date Investigation Concluded: February 11, 2025

Date Notification Provided to Organization: March 13, 2025

Resolution: The SMU Pom Team was found responsible for violating the following policies: Alcohol, Hazing, and Irresponsible Conduct. Resolution includes conduct probation through May 31, 2027, along with educational sanctions and other requirements.

Additional Resources

For a list of additional resources, please see below:

- **Office of the Dean of Students:** Hughes-Trigg Student Center, Suite 205
- **Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards:** Hughes-Trigg Student Center, Suite 205

- **SMU Student Code of Conduct**
- **Hazing Prevention Website**