

## DIAGNOSE THE SITUATION: HAZING

### What is hazing?

Hazing is any activity that causes physical or emotional harm, degradation, or humiliation to individuals joining an organization. It's a persistent issue across a variety of student organizations like fraternities and sororities, sports teams, marching bands, and other groups with hierarchical structures that welcome new, lower ranking members. Hazing is rooted in power and control by members of the in-group over newcomers or lower ranking members.

To prevent hazing, student bystanders must be equipped with the knowledge to identify it. If you are unsure if an activity is hazing, you can consider these guiding questions:

1. Is this causing physical and/or emotional distress to myself or others?
2. Am I being asked to remain secretive about these activities? If so, why?
3. Would I feel comfortable participating in this activity if my friends or family were watching?
4. Does participating in this activity go against any of my personal values?
5. Does this event violate any values or rules of the organization or university?
6. Would you or your organization get in trouble if an official (e.g. college administrator or dean) was aware of the activity?
7. Could the activity result in legal consequences?

If you answered “YES” to any of these, then you should remove yourself safely, speak out if others are at risk of harm, and report the incident.

*Adapted from HazingPrevention.Org / “Is This Hazing”*