

**Excerpt: Vanderbilt Student Handbook 2007/2008**

## **Hazing**

State law requires each college and university in Tennessee to adopt a policy prohibiting hazing. Hazing is defined in the law as "any intentional or reckless act in Tennessee on or off the property of any [college or university] by one (1) 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 his or her 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."

While including the statutory limitations of hazing above (i.e., student acts directed at students on or off campus), the university expands its definition of hazing to include any act that may produce, or is intended to produce, mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Such acts include--but are not limited to-- inducement of excessive fatigue, or physical or psychological shocks; personal servitude; implementing or participation in treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, or road trips; publicly wearing apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts and buffoonery; drinking games, or, other organized activities, late work sessions, and other obligations which interfere with scholastic purposes of the organization; and any other activity inconsistent with the purposes of the organization's constitution, by-laws, standing rules and policies, or university policy. Students are subject to federal, state and local laws, and policies and regulations of the university.