

Is It Hazing?

While organizations may indicate that participation is optional, the university (and the legal system) would consider any participation ("voluntary" or involuntary) as coerced.

Hazing is a form of peer pressure. Regardless of opportunities to not participate, new members may still feel obligated to participate in an activity.

Make the following inquiries of each organization activity to determine whether or not it is hazing. If the answer to any of these questions is "yes," the activity is probably hazing:

- Is alcohol involved?
- Will active/current members of the group refuse to participate with the new members of the group?
- Is there a risk of injury or a question of safety?
- Do you have any reservations describing the activity to your parents, to a respected professor, or a University official?
- Would you object to the activity being photographed for the school newspaper or filmed by the local TV news crew?

Additional questions to consider...

- Is the organization's advisor supportive of the activity?
- What are we trying to achieve by doing this activity?
- Is there another way to achieve the same outcome?
- Would you be prepared to go to court to defend the merit of this activity?
- Would you be willing to share a written description of this activity for other organizations like yours to use?
- Does the activity represent your organization and UW-L in a positive light?
- Would the behavior/activity be appropriate in a community volunteer group?
- Would an employer utilize this activity as a means to build team unity?
- Would you put your participation in this activity on a resume?

Hazing Checklist

Often times, hazing rituals/traditions are passed on from one student generation to the next. Consider using the "Is it hazing?" checklist above for each of your group's tradition-based activities. Still not sure? Set up a confidential meeting with **XXXX of the CREW Department** to determine the status of your event.

Ask Yourself:

- Are the tasks required of participants directly related to the mission of your organization?
- Is there a "hell week" or similar event within your organization?
- Is your national office, NAIA, or campus student organization office (CREW) supportive of the activity?
- Is the activity supposed to be kept a secret?