New York State Law on Hazing

Article 120 – NY Penal Law Part 3, Title H,

120.16 Hazing in the first degree

A person is guilty of hazing in the first degree when, in the course of another person’s initiation into or affiliation with any organization, he intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person and thereby causes such injury.

Hazing in the first degree is a class A misdemeanor.

120.17 Hazing in the second degree

A person is guilty of hazing in the second degree when, in the course of another person’s initiation or affiliation with any organization, he intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person.

Hazing in the second degree is a violation.
To haze another person, regardless of the person’s consent to participate. Hazing means an act that, as an explicit or implicit condition for initiation to, admission in to, affiliation with, or continued membership in a group or organization, (1) could be seen by a reasonable person as endangering the physical health of an individual or as causing mental distress to an individual through, for example, humiliating, intimidating, or demeaning treatment, (2) destroys or removes public or private property, (3) involves the consumption of alcohol or drugs, or the consumption of other substances to excess, or (4) violates any University policy.
Cornell’s Code of Conduct Hazing Definition & Policy

- An act that, as an explicit or implicit condition for affiliation with... a group/organization

- Could be seen by a reasonable person as:
  - Endangering the physical health of an individual
  - Causing mental distress to an individual through, for example, humiliating, intimidating, or demeaning treatment

- Destroys or removes public or private property

- Involves the consumption of alcohol, other drugs, or other substances

- Violates any other policies of the university
What is Hazing?

Hazing can take many forms, but typically involves some degree of physical risk or mental distress that can be disruptive, demeaning, or dangerous.

Many times, alcohol and secrecy are part of the hazing.

No matter what it looks like... it’s never okay.

Hazing is a violation of Cornell University policy and New York State law.
Hazing Continuum

SUBTLE  HARASSMENT  VIOLENT
Potential Harms:

- Individuals can experience physical, emotional (hidden harm) and academic harm from experiencing hazing.
- Individuals can have vastly different responses (with varying degrees of severity) to the exact same hazing experience.
- Examples of harm an individual may experience include:
  - Humiliation
  - Resentment and anger (betrayal)
  - Anxiety and depression
  - Re-traumatization
  - Severe intoxication
  - Physical injury
  - Death
You Can Help Stop the Cycle of Hazing

Start here

I really want to belong at Cornell.

Well I survived; they can too. It’s what we do when we join.

This group/team is great. The people are fun, cool, kind, popular.

I’m going to join!

Uh oh. I hear they do some sort of hazing.

Oh crap. As a member I now have to haze others?!

I don’t want any part of that.

So I was hazed and I’m still here (although I did lots of stuff I’m not proud of and am not supposed to talk about). I did what I had to.

... But I also don’t want to risk NOT belonging. Hazing can’t be all that bad, right? Besides, the members seem so nice.

HINT:
You can report the incident, ask for help in changing activities and expectations, or exit altogether at ANY point in the circle.
Seek Support

• Hazing can be physically, mentally and/or emotionally harmful for students who are hazed or those who haze them.
• Individuals who have been hazed may experience injuries, depression, anxiety, or other trauma-related difficulties.
• Students who engage in hazing may feel guilt or remorse about their actions.
• Gannett Health Services offers:
  • 24/7 phone consultation: (607) 255-5155
  • Medical care
  • Counseling
  • Victim Advocate
• EARS Peer Counseling (607) 255-EARS (3277)
• Crisisline (607) 272-1616

www.gannett.cornell.edu
Report Hazing Confidentially

• If you have been hazed, have witnessed hazing, or suspect that someone you know has been hazed, please say something.

• Submit a confidential online report at www.hazing.cornell.edu

• Report the incident by phone
  • Cornell Police (607 255-1111)
  • Dean of Students (607 255-1115)
  • Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living (607 255-2310)
  • Judicial Administrator (607 255-4680)
  • Director of Athletics and Physical Education 607 255-8832)
  • University Ombudsman (607 255-4321)

• National Anti-Hazing Hotline: 888- NOT-HAZE or 888- 668-4293