

Hazing Information and Policies

Columbus State University is committed to education and measures which support a safe campus environment and experience for all students. Accordingly, incidents of hazing and other forms of harmful misconduct perpetrated upon any individual by another individual and/or organization shall be addressed through the University's student conduct investigative and hearing. This website ensures that Columbus State University fully complies with the Stop Hazing Act (Public Law 118- 35) and the Georgia Max Gruver Act by integrating federal and state hazing prevention, reporting, and disclosure requirements into existing Clery and student conduct policies.

The Stop Campus Hazing Act federal law defines **hazing** as:

"any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with other persons) against another person or persons regardless of the willingness of such other person or persons to participate, that—

1. is 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 institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team), of physical or psychological injury including—
 - a. whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on someone's body, or similar activity;
 - b. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a text-sm space, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity;
 - c. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances;
 - d. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to perform sexual acts;
 - e. any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct;
 - f. any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law; and
 - g. 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.

The federal law defines a **student organization** as:

"an organization at an institution of higher education (such as a club, society, association, varsity or junior varsity athletic team, club sports team, fraternity, sorority, band, or student government) of which two or more the members are students enrolled at the institution of higher education, whether or not the organization is established or recognized by the institution." (Note: If the same person or persons commit more than one hazing act close together in time and place, the incident should be reported as one incident.)

Reporting Alleged Incidents of Hazing

Complaints of hazing may be reported online at [Hazing Report Form](#) or to the [Ethics & Compliance Hotline](#) and should include as much information as possible, such as: (1) the type of misconduct alleged; (2) the name and contact information of the student organization or group; (3) the date(s), time(s), and place(s) of the alleged hazing; (4) the name(s) and contact information of any individual(s) with knowledge of the incident; (5) whether any tangible evidence has been preserved; and (6) whether a criminal complaint has been made. Where appropriate, Complainants may file a law enforcement report as well as an institutional report but are not required to file both. Reports may be submitted anonymously to either of the reporting forms.

Investigation and Due Process

CSU shall promptly investigate all hazing allegations in accordance with established student conduct procedures. Investigations will be documented and conducted by trained personnel. The process will include:

- Notice to Involved Parties
- Opportunity to Respond
- Timely Adjudication
- Written Notice of Outcomes
- Retaliation Protections

Hazing Prevention and Training

CSU will implement a research-informed hazing prevention strategy that includes:

- Bystander Intervention Training
- Ethical Leadership Development
- Education on Local, State, and Federal Hazing Laws
- Annual Training for Students, Advisors, Athletic Staff, and Organization Leaders

Campus Hazing Transparency Report (CHTR) and Max Gruver Act Report (MGAR)

Required Reporting

Under the Max Gruver Act state law, Columbus State University is required to prepare the Max Gruver Act Report (MGAR). This report serves the important purpose of publicly disclosing any hazing incidents that have been formally adjudicated from May 2021 onward. Specifically, it covers situations where an individual or organization has been found responsible for hazing under the University's code of conduct or deemed guilty of hazing according to state law.

Starting January 1, 2025, the university is required by the federal Stop Campus Hazing Act (SCHA) to collect and report hazing statistics in its Annual Security Report. Additionally, effective July 1, 2025, the Campus Hazing Transparency Report (CHTR) mandates further data collection on hazing incidents. In response, the University has developed a twice-yearly report that summarizes findings related to any student or school organization found violating the CSU Hazing Policy. This report aims to increase transparency and accountability, helping to create a safer campus environment.

The consolidated CHTR and MGAR will contain the following information:

1. Name of school/student organization
2. Date or dates hazing occurred
3. Process dates
 - a. Investigation beginning and ending
 - b. Finding of violation
 - c. Notice to organization/members
4. Description of violation
5. Findings and Outcomes

Note: The Report shall not include or otherwise reveal any personally identifiable information, including any student in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

Reports will be updated on this page when they become available.

- December 2025 - No Known Incidents.
- 2024 - No Hazing Cases Adjudicated.

- 2023 - No Hazing Cases Adjudicated.
- 2022 - No Hazing Cases Adjudicated.
- 2021 - No Hazing Cases Adjudicated.