



Hofstra University
Student Leadership and Engagement
Fraternity and Sorority Life
New Member Packet

Pages 5 & 6 of this packet must be returned to Student Leadership and Engagement by the New Member Educator within 48 Hours of membership invitations being extended. Each New Member should fill out his/her own packet.

Declaration of New Member Rights and Responsibilities

New Members in the Hofstra University Fraternity/Sorority System have the following rights and responsibilities. This statement is to be read, understood, and practiced during the new member education process of the fraternity or sorority.

A New Member has the right:

- To disregard traditional rituals and/or acts if the New Member finds them demeaning or dangerous in any way.
- To remain an individual despite pressures to conform to group standards of one's fraternity or sorority.
- To voice complaints of the New Member program to one's brotherhood, sisterhood, the office of Student Leadership and Engagement or any other Hofstra University faculty or staff member, or the Inter/national organization.
- To not be subject to any hazing practices
 - The University defines hazing as any actions or situations that occur for the purpose of initiation, affiliation or continued members (whether recognized by the University or not) that:
 - a) Endangers mental/physical health, or involves the forced or encouraged consumption of alcohol, drugs, food, beverages, or any other substances.
 - b) Causes or may cause mental, physical, or emotional intimidation, harm or danger.
 - c) Involves mistreatment by playing stunts or practicing abusive, humiliating, repetitive, or ridiculous tricks that subject an individual to personal indignity.
 - d) Requires an individual to perform unnecessary, disagreeable, or difficult acts that are harassing in nature, and/or creates an environment of ridicule or criticism.

The above actions are considered hazing on or off-campus, and with or without the consent of the involved individuals.

A New Member has the Responsibility:

- To maintain his/her satisfactory academic standing with the University while undergoing the new member process.
- To refrain from questionable activities that may jeopardize or demean the image of fraternities/sororities in the Hofstra University community.
- To make a constructive contribution to his/her new member program.

It is the responsibility of the chapter officers to understand and abide by the New York State criminal codes¹:

§ 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.

Examples of Hazing²

The following outlines examples of behaviors (voluntary or involuntary) that can be defined as "hazing" and will be addressed by the University. This is not a comprehensive list, it is intended to help organizations understand the broad scope of hazing behavior. Please be aware that ALL forms of hazing are taken seriously and are not tolerated by the University.

Subtle Hazing

Subtle hazing is a behavior that emphasizes a power imbalance between new members/rookies/candidates and other members of the organization. This is called "subtle hazing" because these actions/activities are often accepted as "harmless" or meaningless. Subtle hazing typically involves activities or attitudes that breach the standards of mutual respect and place new members/rookies/candidates on the receiving end of ridicule, embarrassment, and/or humiliation tactics. Some examples of subtle hazing include:

¹ <http://www.stophazing.org/laws/states-with-anti-hazing-laws/new-york/>

² UMaine Peer Education Program <http://www.umaine.edu/peered/hazing.htm>

- Deception
- Assigning demerits
- Silence periods with implied threats for violation
- Deprivation of privileges granted to current members
- Assigning new members/rookies duties not required by others
- Social Isolation
- Name Calling
- Requiring new members/rookies/candidates to refer to current member by titles (e.g. Mr./Miss)
- Requiring items to always be in a new member's possession
- Requiring new members/rookies to dress identically
- Probate, Neophyte Show, Surfacing, Showcasing, etc., is not allowed on or off-campus.
- Using New Member's Meal swipes for the organization's interest

Harassment Hazing

Harassment hazing is a behavior that causes emotional anguish or physical discomfort in order to make new members/rookies/candidates feel like part of the group.

Harassment hazing confuses, frustrates, and causes undue stress for new members/rookies/candidates. Some examples of harassment hazing include:

- Verbal or written abuse
- Threats or implies threats
- Line-ups, drills, or tests on meaningless information
- Asking new members/rookies/candidates to wear abnormal, unusual, or humiliating attire
- Requiring excessive or unusual physical activities or exercise
- Performing unusual or abnormal acts/skits that are degrading, crude, and/or humiliating
- Personal servitude
- Sleep deprivation; required group sleepovers
- Deprivation of a normal hygiene routine
- Being expected to harass others

Violent Hazing

Violent hazing is a behavior that has the potential to cause physical, emotional, or psychological harm to a person. Some examples of violent hazing include:

- Forced or coerced consumption of alcohol, drug, food, or any other substance
- Beating, paddling, or other forms of assault
- Branding or burning
- Water intoxication

- Requiring public nudity, lewd behavior, or other acts that are contrary to an individual's personal, moral, or religious beliefs
- Expecting illegal activity
- Bondage
- Abduction/kidnapping
- Exposure to extreme temperature
- Confinement within a small area

Accordingly, the University will not condone any form of hazing whether it occurs within a registered campus organization, or through membership in an unrecognized organization. As outlined in the Code of Community Standards, any student, faculty member, staff member, visitor, licensee or invitee or engages in hazing may be removed from the campus and, where appropriate, shall be subject to suspension, expulsion, or other disciplinary action.

The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, as outlined in the Code of Community Standards of Organization, against any organizations that authorities hazing or members of those organizations (whether acting individually or in concert) who engage in any form of hazing.

New Candidate Registration Form

Name: _____
Last First Middle

Fraternity/Sorority that you are joining: _____

Class year: _____ Major: _____ Current GPA: _____

Number of credits currently completed towards your degree: _____

Number of credits you are attempting this semester: _____

Home address: _____

City State Zip

Campus address: _____

City State Zip

Home telephone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Hofstra ID #: _____

In order to be extended a bid you must have a minimum of 12 matriculated credits from Hofstra University or another college/university. AP credits will not be accepted. You must also have a minimum 2.3 cumulative GPA. If, upon investigation, you are found to be in violation of these criteria you will be dropped from the new member program. *Fraternities and Sororities cannot induct candidate(s) until the University certifies that the candidate(s) meets the induction criteria. An organization's failure to comply will result in the loss of new member education privileges.*

I hereby authorize the Assistant Director of Student Leadership and Engagement to verify the information contained on this form to certify that I am a student in good standing and that I meet the criteria for participation in a fraternity/sorority at Hofstra University.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date : _____

SLE Use ONLY

Student Name	Credits	Term GPA	Cum GPA	Date Approved/Initial	Hazing Compliance	Grade Release Form

Hazing Compliance Form

I have read the information provided regarding Hofstra University and the New York State definitions of hazing. I understand my rights as a New Member of _____ and understand that if I feel, at any time during my membership, that I am being forced to participate in an activity that could be construed as hazing I have the right to report the incident to the appropriate authorities.

Hofstra ID #

Print Your Name

Signature/Date

New Member Discontinuation Form

This form must be submitted to the Assistant Director of Student Leadership and Engagement by the chapter within 48 hours of the student's decision to discontinue the New Member Education Program. SLE will then contact the New Member who wishes to drop separately so that he/she can sign this form.

I, _____, President of _____
hereby recognized that _____ is no longer participating
in our New Member Education Program as of _____. Therefore, he/she will
not become a member of our organization this semester, and loses all rights thereto.
Please take his/her name off any lists regarding New Member Education Program
activities. In addition, please note that the student and/or his/her actions are no longer
affiliated with our organization. An explanation for what the student is discontinuing the
process is: (please attach second page if necessary).

President's Signature

Date

New Member Educator's Signature

Date

Former New Member's Signature

Date

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Emailed New Member: _____

Exit Interview: _____