WHAT IS HAZING?

TEXAS STATE LAW AND THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN DEFINE HAZING AS:
Any intentional, knowing or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a person for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in or maintaining membership in any organization.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
» Hazing can include physical violence, forced physical activities, as well as psychological and emotional harm
» Hazing can be done by both individuals and groups
» Hazing happens both on and off campus, in public and private spaces
» Hazing can happen in organizations not recognized by the university
» Hazing can be subtle, harassing or violent in nature

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLE OF ACTIVITIES THAT CAN BE CONSIDERED HAZING?

» Calisthenics (such as sit-ups, push-ups, wall-sits or any other form of physical exercise)
» Wearing or carrying any embarrassing, uncomfortable, degrading or physically burdensome article
» Physical contact (such as pushing, paddling, tackling or any other similar contact)
» Confining individuals in an area that is uncomfortable or dangerous (hot box effect, high temperature, too small, etc.)
» Transportation and abandonment (road trips, kidnaps, walks, rides, drops, etc.)
» Demeaning names and other forms of verbal harassment
» Throwing any substance on a person
» Any form of individual interrogation, yelling or screaming
» Requiring boxing matches or fights for entertainment
» Total or partial nudity at any time
» Consumption of alcoholic beverages accompanied by either threats or peer pressure
» Any type of servitude that is of personal benefit to individual organization members
» Wearing clothing that is embarrassing and not part of a uniform
» Assigning pranks such as stealing, painting objects, or harassing other organizations
» Intentionally messing up an area for the purpose of clean up
» Lineups for the purpose of interrogating, demeaning or intimidating
WHAT YOU CAN DO

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE OR EXPERIENCE HAZING

BeVocal is recognizing a potentially harmful situation or interaction and choosing to respond in a way that could positively influence the outcome.

» RECOGNIZE THE POTENTIAL HARM:
Harm is anything that constitutes a negative physical, mental, social, or emotional response affecting a community, a group of individuals, or a single person.

» CHOOSE TO RESPOND:
BeVocal promotes strategies to help reduce barriers to intervention and motivate individuals to assume personal and collective responsibility.

» TAKE ACTION:
Intervention strategies, or the way individuals take action, may appear as direct or indirect action.

If you feel safe to do so, interrupt the behavior. Speak to the person creating/leading the hazing activity. Whether it is subtle, harassing or violent hazing activity, it is a problem and should be interpreted as such.

» REPORT IT TO THE DEAN OF STUDENTS
Hazing is a student conduct violation that can be reported online.

» CALL THE BEHAVIOR CONCERNS AND COVID-19 ADVICE LINE
Speak with someone about your concern. Callers can remain anonymous.
512.232.5050

» REPORT IT TO THE UT POLICE DEPARTMENT
Hazing is a crime that can be reported to UTPD or any police agency.
Emergency: 911
UTPD Non-Emergency Line: 512.471.4441

IS IT HAZING?
ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS:

1. Could this activity endanger the mental or physical health or safety of a student?
2. Is the organization expecting or encouraging students to participate in order to join or maintain membership?
3. Are members intimidating or harassing others?
4. Are all members in the group participating equally in the activity?
5. Am I being asked to keep these activities secret?
6. Do I feel the activities in question support my values and the values of the organization?

SEEK CHANGE
If your organization activities include behavior that could lead to hazing, get involved to change practices to be inclusive and safe for everyone. Hazing.utexas.edu offers a variety of hazing prevention resources for all types of groups and organizations.