HAZING AND INITIATION POLICY

July 2026 (last revised May 2025)

Ozark Christian College is committed to maintaining an educational environment free from all forms of hazing. Hazing violates not only the institutional policies outlined in the Student Code of Conduct but also Missouri State Law on Hazing (RSMo §578.365) and the federal Stop Campus Hazing Act (H.R. 5646). Hazing violators may be subject to civil liability and criminal prosecution in addition to college accountability sanctions.

WHAT IS HAZING?

STOP CAMPUS HAZING ACT (Federal Definition)

The term "hazing," for purposes of reporting statistics on hazing incidents, means 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 is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in, a student organization; and 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:

- Whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on someone's body, or similar activity
- Causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity
- Causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances
- Causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing a person to perform sexual acts
- Any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct
- Any activity against another person that includes a crime
- Any activity that induces, causes, or requires another person to perform a duty or task that is a crime

MISSOURI LAW ON HAZING (RSMo §578.365)

In Missouri, hazing is a class A misdemeanor, unless the act creates a substantial risk to the life of the student or prospective member, in which case it is a class D felony.

A person commits the offense of hazing if he or she knowingly participates in or causes a willful act, occurring on or off the campus of a public or private college or university, directed against a student or a prospective member of an organization operating under the sanction of a public or private college or university, that recklessly endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student or prospective member for the purpose of initiation or admission into or continued membership in any such organization to the extent that such person is knowingly placed at probable risk of the loss of life or probable bodily or psychological harm. Consent is not a defense to hazing. Acts of hazing include:

1. Any activity which recklessly endangers the physical health or safety of the student or prospective member, including but not limited to physical brutality, whipping, beating, branding, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, or forced smoking or chewing of tobacco products;
2. Any activity which recklessly endangers the mental health of the student or prospective member, including but not limited to sleep deprivation, physical confinement, or other extreme stress-inducing activity; or
3. Any activity that requires the student or prospective member to perform a duty or task which involves a violation of the criminal laws of this state or any political subdivision in this state.

DEFINITION OF A RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATION

The Clery Act defines a "recognized student organization" as any organization at an institution of higher education where two or more members are enrolled students, regardless of whether the organization is formally established or recognized by the institution. This definition encompasses a wide range of groups, including clubs, societies, athletic teams, fraternities, sororities, and student government.

CONSENT NOT A DEFENSE

Consent to or acquiescence in hazing activity is not a defense. Any of the activities described herein where the initiation or admission into, or affiliation with, or continued membership in a recognized student organization is directly conditioned shall be presumed to be "compelled activities;" the willingness of an individual to participate notwithstanding. It is not a defense to prosecution of an offense that the person against whom the hazing was directed consented to or acquiesced in the hazing activity.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ORGANIZATION

The recognized student organization has the responsibility to ensure its activities are acceptable under this policy. If you are not sure whether an activity is hazing, the activity should be avoided or discussed with the appropriate college official, such as a Residence

Director or Resident Assistant, prior to further activity. Questions regarding the acceptability of a proposed organizational activity should be discussed with the Vice President of Student Affairs.

PREVENTION, REPORTING, DISCIPLINE, AND INVESTIGATIVE PROCESSES

- The leader of each recognized student organization is responsible for informing its members of OCC's policy regarding hazing. The leader should discuss and distribute a copy of this policy to each new member of the organization and annually to current members.
- The leader of each recognized student organization is responsible for informing their guests and alumni members of that Organization regarding this policy and is additionally responsible for controlling the actions of their guests and alumni members of that organization regarding this policy.
- It is the responsibility of any and all individuals who have firsthand knowledge of the planning or actual occurrence of a hazing activity to promptly report said knowledge to any of the following:
  Campus Security: security@occ.edu
  Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students: storms.andy@occ.edu
  Associate Dean of Students/Director of Compliance: compliance@occ.edu
  Campus Security Authority: RA, RD, Student Mentor/Life Group Leader
  Anonymous Crime Report: Anonymous Incident Reporting
- Investigations, discipline, and sanctions will be handled through the Student Conduct Process as described in the Student Handbook.
- Retaliation against any individual, including victims of hazing, good faith reporters, witnesses, or cooperating individuals, is prohibited and may result in further disciplinary action.
- Findings of responsibility will be recorded on the Campus Hazing Transparency Report, which is updated twice a year.

IMMUNITY

Any person who voluntarily reports a specific hazing incident involving a student in an educational institution to an appropriate official of the institution may be immune from civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed as a result of the reported hazing incident if the person:

- reports the incident before being contacted by the institution concerning the incident or otherwise being included in the institution's investigation of the incident; and
- as determined by the Dean of Students or other appropriate official of the institution designated by the institution, cooperates in good faith throughout any institutional process regarding the incident.

A person is not immune if the person:

- reports the person's own act of hazing; or
- reports an incident of hazing in bad faith or with malice.

Consumer Information
Annual Security and Fire Safety Report

7/1/2026

Ozark Christian College Campus Hazing Transparency Report (CHTR)

Only recorded if Student Organization found responsible for hazing incident

Updated 2X year

Student Organization	Date of Incident	Date Investigation Initiated	Date Investigation Concluded	General Description	Findings (Rationale) for determination of responsibility (Sanctions/Action Plan)	Illegal Use or Abuse of Drugs/Alcohol (Y/N)	Date Outcome Notification to Student Organization
No Hazing Incidents for Fall 2025							
No Hazing incidents for Spring 2026							