

Practices That Indicate a Philosophy of Hazing

1. Pledges answering the telephone and identifying themselves as pledges; wearing large pledge buttons; pledges carrying notebooks with the word “PLEDGE” written boldly on them.
2. Pledges dressing alike (except on letter or professional day); pledge wrist or ankle bracelets.
3. Standardized greetings by pledge to members (Sir, Officer, Mr./Ms.); members calling pledges “Hey Pledge” instead of by their name. Pledge nicknames/discriminatory language.
4. Pledges required to carry certain objects—purple pens, black books, change for a quarter, matches, Wall Street Journal, paddle, brick, brother roster, or any other items which are not normally carried or which are uniform in appearance.
5. Pledges required to wear their pledge pins at all times except for the “Four S’s.” Pledges required to wear their pledge pin “24-7.”
6. Calendars that refer to unity night, pledge night, or bonding activities. Changes to the pledge calendar/agenda later in the process. Taping newspaper over the windows during pledge meetings. Unannounced pledge events/meetings. Pledge events labeled as “TBA.”
7. Pledges performing housecleaning duties in the chapter office, lounge, or brothers’ rooms. Pledge auctions; pledge services as fundraising.
8. Specific quotes or programmed answers to questions. Orally speaking with punctuation.
9. Brothers tell the pledges that if they reveal certain information they won’t be initiated. Leading pledges to believe if one is not initiated, no one will be. Deceptive statements.
10. Numerous rules for pledges detailing what pledges must and must not do. Often called tips, helpful hints, brother interview etiquette, or ideas to remember.
11. Frequent reference to and use of the words “respect” or “tradition” and emphasis on pledge class unity.

12. Lack of correctly written pledge education programs; use of outdated pledge manuals; not having pledge manuals.
13. Overnight events; any pledge gathering between midnight and 8 a.m.; off campus events. Pledge road trips; group travel; implied expectation of attendance at events requiring additional money.
14. The chapter spends more time on pledging than they do on professional and service programming; more emphasis on pledge projects than member education.
15. Shotgun or line-up questioning; down the line “round robin” recitation of the purpose; pledge reviews that involve questioning ceremonies; pledge interview/questioning in front of a large group of brothers; questioning from alumni; gavel banging; darkened rooms; shouting at pledges; use of candles at any time outside of our Ritual.
16. Faculty, Advisor, and National Officers NOT being informed and invited to pledge meetings and events.
17. Demerit points; punishments; performance or questioning to get signatures; scavenger, treasure, and photo hunts.

Unacceptable Excuses for Hazing:

1. I went through it, so they have to go through it.
2. They have to go through something to earn their way in.
3. The pledges want to be hazed.
4. No one ever got hurt doing this.
5. We’d lose popularity on campus if we eliminated hazing.
6. It gives pledges some memories.
7. It makes pledges closer.
8. There is no other way to discipline pledges.