

PRACTICES THAT INDICATE A PHILOSOPHY OF HAZING

It is not only important to review the Delta Sigma Pi Risk Management Policy every term but it is also important to discuss the philosophy of hazing to make sure that it is not happening within your chapter. Below is a list of practices that indicate hazing but it is not limited to just what is listed. If you feel that your chapter reflects any of these practices please reach out to the Executive Director or Associate Director of Chapter Services at the Central Office to assist you.

- Pledges answering calls and identifying themselves as pledges; wearing large pledge buttons; pledges carrying notebooks with the word “PLEDGE” written boldly on them, pledges dressing alike (except on letter or professional day); pledge wrist or ankle bracelets.
- Standardized greetings by pledge to members (Sir, Officer, Mr./Ms.); members calling pledges “Hey Pledge” instead of by their name. Pledge nicknames/discriminatory language.
- 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.
- 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.”
- Calendars referring to unity night, pledge night, or bonding activities. Changes to the pledge calendar/agenda later in the process. Taping paper over the windows during pledge meetings. Unannounced pledge events/meetings. Pledge events labeled as “TBA.”
- Pledges performing housecleaning duties in the chapter office or brothers’ rooms. Pledge auctions; pledge services as fundraising.
- Specific quotes or programmed answers to questions. Oral examinations.
- Numerous rules for pledges detailing what pledges must and must not do. Often called tips, helpful hints, brother interview etiquette, or ideas to remember.
- Frequent reference to and use of the words “respect” or “tradition” and emphasis on pledge class unity.
- Deviating from the Pledge Education Programs; use of outdated copies of *The Crown & Delta*; not having copies of *The Crown & Delta*.
- Overnight events (for pledges); 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.
- The chapter spends more time on pledging than they do on professional and service programming; more emphasis on pledge projects than member education.
- Faculty, Chapter Advisor, and National Officers NOT being informed and invited to pledge meetings and events.
- Demerit points; punishments; performance or questioning; scavenger, treasure, and photo hunts.

Mental hazing would include, but would not necessarily be limited to, the activities and procedures included in the following statement of policy:

- At no time during pledge education is there to be verbal abuse of an individual, including shouting, screaming and the use of profanity.
- Shotgun, line-up or oral questioning; down the line “round robin” recitation of the purpose; candlelight questioning; pledge reviews involving questioning; pledge interview/questioning in front of a large group of brothers; questioning from alumni; gavel banging; darkened rooms and shouting at pledges are not to be used as procedures in determining a pledge’s qualifications for membership or for any other reason.
- There will be no deceptive statement or activity for the purpose of frightening or mentally disturbing an individual. Such deception includes, but is not limited to, causing a person to believe some action or event is taking place or will take place that, in fact, will not occur such as brothers tell the pledges if they reveal certain information they won’t be initiated. Leading pledges to believe if one is not initiated, no one will be.
- Blindfolds are not to be used at any time.

There will be no activities during pledge education except those attempting to increase a person's knowledge of the Fraternity and the person's professional intent, the Pledge Education Program submitted to and approved by the National Fraternity shall not be deviated from. All pledge education activities must be carried on in a dignified manner and must show proper respect for another person as a professional equal. Pledges cannot be required to plan or attend any Fraternity function 24 hours prior to initiation. (From National Policies, Section E, Policy 4)

There are no excuses for hazing:

- I went through it, so they have to go through it.
- They have to go through something to earn their way in.
- The pledges want to be hazed/volunteer to participate.
- No one ever got hurt doing this.
- We'd lose popularity on campus if we eliminated hazing.
- It gives pledges some memories.
- It makes pledges closer.
- There is no other way to discipline pledges.

Belief that any acts are harmless or the consent or cooperation of the hazing recipient will not constitute a defense. Rationalization on how to circumvent these and other acts of hazing is not enough. Delta Sigma Pi insists on the complete and total elimination of any activity which either is or closely resembles hazing. The procedures prescribed in the Ritual and approved Pledge Education Program are the only procedures considered appropriate during the entire process.

The chapter President in general and the Vice President-Pledge Education, specifically, are responsible for the Pledge Education Program of the chapter. The designated pledge educator is responsible for the Pledge Education Program for a colony. Each is responsible for informing all members and pledges about the policy on hazing. However, all organizational members are responsible for reviewing this policy. Any organizational member who fails to enforce this policy or who engages in hazing or who fails to report a suspected or confirmed hazing incident is subject to Fraternity discipline. Chapters or colonies engaging in acts of hazing are subject to disciplinary action, including chapter charter revocation as provided in the Bylaws.

The International Fraternity of Delta Sigma Pi does not condone hazing and has issued this statement to protect the rights of prospective members. Any hazing violations should be reported to the Fraternity's Central Office Staff or any National Volunteer of the Fraternity (District Director, Receiver, Regional Vice President, Provincial Vice President, Collegian of the Year, Vice President- Finance, Past Grand President, and Grand President).

HOW TO BUILD BROTHERHOOD WITHOUT HAZING, USING TRADITION

There are many benefits of being a part of Delta Sigma Pi but something that makes us stand out over other organizations is the sense of brotherhood that is created not only throughout your chapter but throughout the Fraternity as a whole. There are many different ways to build brotherhood, below you can find how to do this without hazing while using positive traditions.

Tradition (n) – a belief, custom, or practice passed down by our family, used in social settings, in religious denominations, in government or societies, or with educational honors. Most often used to commemorate an occasion, share gratitude, or provide historical reference.

- Greeting/holiday cards.
- Annual chapter scrapbooks, photo albums, yearbooks.
- Passing a jeweled president's badge down during officer transition.
- Annual Founders' Day (November 7), Alumni Day (April 25) or chapter birthday banquet or other event.
- Token of appreciation (small gifts) to outgoing officers as part of transition.
- Wearing of purple/gold graduation cords at commencement.
- Presenting graduation cords to chapter graduates in good standing.
- Weekly designated days for wearing letters or professional dress.
- Member awards (brother of the year, officer's choice award, perfect attendance, inspirational superlatives); annually apply for national awards.
- Contribution to the Leadership Foundation in honor of brother of the year, Chapter Advisor, or other leadership individual.
- Use of flowers or mementos for the Graduating Senior Ceremony or Memorial Service.
- Annual photo composites.
- Annual alumni reunion or alumni reception.
- Officers signing Ritual books or Robert's Rules of Order before passing down to new officers; use of guest books at recruiting, banquets, public events.
- Annual 'welcome back' themed event, annual summer event.
- Chapter gift/recognition to all new initiates (flowers on initiation day, candy, donation to Leadership Foundation in their name).
- Care package sent to chapter members temporarily away (study abroad, interns, military).
- Always conducting the Officer Installation Ceremony, passing of the gavel to new Chancellor.
- Recurring/annual event (fundraising, social, professional, philanthropy).
- Annual educational trip by majority of the chapter (business tours, LEAD events).
- Red roses distributed on Founders' Day (on faculty desks, library, student activity office, notable alumni).
- Signing birthday cards for members, monthly birthday cake.
- Thank you notes to faculty, alumni donors, chapter speakers, etc.
- General expectation of excellence; actions build goodwill.

Traditions to avoid:

- Any involving solely pledges.
- Any focusing on alcohol.
- Any involving scavenger hunts, searches, or clues.
- Anything potentially creating a negative public image or violates the Risk Management Policy or any university policy.