

2025-2026 CAMPUS HAZING TRANSPARENCY REPORT

WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

In compliance with the Stop Campus Hazing Act and the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act (20 USC § 1092(f), 34 CFR 668.46). This report is available on the West Texas A&M University Campus Safety and Security website at:

wtamu.edu/safety



Numerous links to websites are included.

Email kczesnowski@wtamu.edu for assistance if any link does not function.



Office of the President

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Message from the President

Dear WTAMU Community,

At West Texas A&M University, fostering a safe and supportive environment for all students is at the heart of our mission. We are committed to upholding the highest standards of conduct and promoting a culture free from hazing, which undermines the well-being and dignity of our Buffs.

This Campus Hazing Transparency Report (CHTR) represents our dedication to accountability and openness. In compliance with Texas state law (House Bill 2633), this annual report summarizes investigation outcomes for any recognized student organization found in violation of WTAMU's Standards of Student Conduct related to hazing, as defined in our Hazing Policy. By sharing this information, we aim to educate our community, deter harmful behaviors, and reinforce our collective responsibility to one another.

Please know that this report excludes any personally identifiable information to protect privacy, and it focuses solely on recognized organizations. For broader insights into campus safety, including crime statistics and security measures, we invite you to explore our Annual Campus Security Report (ASR) at wtamu.edu/reports.

Together, we can build a stronger, safer WT campus community. If you have questions or concerns, contact the Office of Student Affairs at studentaffairs@wtamu.edu or (806) 651-2950 or the University Police Department at wtpolice@wtamu.edu or (806) 651-2300.

On, On Buffaloes!

Walter V. Wendler
President

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What is the Campus Hazing Transparency Report (CHTR)?

The transparency report summarizes investigation outcomes for any recognized student organization determined to have violated WTAMU's Standards of Student Conduct with respect to hazing, as outlined in WTAMU's Hazing Policy.

- May incorporate additional details deemed essential by WTAMU or mandated by Texas state law.
- Shall exclude any personally identifiable information (PII) of individuals involved.
- WTAMU is not required to report outcomes pertaining to unrecognized student organizations in this transparency document.
- Hazing violations will remain on this report for 5 years.

Additional Resources

For comprehensive details on campus safety, security policies, and related reporting, we encourage you to review West Texas A&M University's Annual Security & Fire Safety Report (ASR), accessible at wtamu.edu/reports. This resource provides further insights beyond the scope of this hazing transparency report.

Summary Differences / Comparison to Annual Campus Security Report (ASR)

	ASR	CHTR
<i>What</i>	Includes crime statistics and policy statement disclosures; including hazing incidents that meet the Federal definition reported to a CSA or LLE	Include hazing incidents reported to a CSA that result in a finding violating the institution's hazing policy
<i>Geography</i>	Clery Act geography	Any location the institution's hazing policy has jurisdiction
<i>How to Count</i>	Distinct incident count	Organizations found responsible count based on distinct investigations (could involve multiple separate incidents in a single report)
<i>Policy Disclosures</i>	Statement of current policies related to hazing and prevention and awareness programs	Statement notifying public of annual availability of hazing statistics; information related to institutional policies related to hazing; and applicable local, State, & Tribal laws on hazing

Hazing Policy Statements

WT Prohibits Crimes of Hazing

West Texas A&M University (WTAMU), a member of The Texas A&M University System, strictly prohibits hazing in accordance with the Stop Campus Hazing Act (SCHA) (enacted December 2024, effective for the 2024-2025 academic year), Texas state law, and the Texas A&M University System Policy 07.01 – Ethics (available at <https://policies.tamug.edu/07-01.pdf>).

Hazing Definition

Institution:

Hazing is defined as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person, whether individually or in concert with others, against another person or persons, regardless of the willingness of such person or persons to participate, that:

- 1) Is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in a student organization (including any fraternity, sorority, athletic team, club, or other recognized student group), whether recognized by WTAMU or not; and
- 2) Cause or creates a risk above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution or the organization, of physical or psychological injury.

Hazing also includes any act that destroys or removes public or private property, or involves assisting, directing, or causing others to participate in such behaviors for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a recognized student organization or group¹. Examples of hazing include, but are not limited to:

1. Misuse of authority by virtue of one's class rank or leadership position, such as assigning acts of servitude.
2. Whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing harmful substances on someone's body, or similar activity.
3. Causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing sleep deprivation, exposure to elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity.
4. Causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances.
5. Causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to perform sexual acts.
6. Any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct.
7. Any activity that requires a violation of the WTAMU Student Handbook.
8. Any activity that induces, causes or requires another person to perform a duty or task that involves a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law.

Having firsthand knowledge of the planning or occurrence of a hazing incident and failing to report it to appropriate university officials (e.g., the Vice President for Student Affairs, at JBK Suite 102, 806-651-

¹ For the purposes of this policy and definition, a 'student group' refers to any organization at West Texas A&M University with two or more members who are enrolled students, regardless of whether the organization is officially recognized or established by the institution.

2389, Human Resource Office, 806-651-2114, or the University Police Department, 806-651-2300) is a violation.

Previously relied upon “traditions,” the intent of such acts, or coercion by current or former members or leaders of student groups will not suffice as a justifiable reason for participation in such acts. Consent or acquiescence by the person(s) subjected to hazing is not a defense for violating this policy.

Texas State Penal Code:

Hazing is defined in the Texas Education Code Subchapter F. Hazing, Sections 37.151 – 37.157 as follows.

Sec. 37.151. Definitions

In this subchapter:

- 1 "Educational institution" includes a public or private high school.
- 2 "Pledge" means any person who has been accepted by, is considering an offer of membership from, or is in the process of qualifying for membership in an organization.
- 3 "Pledging" means any action or activity related to becoming a member of an organization.
- 4 "Student" means any person who:
 - A. is registered in or in attendance at an educational institution;
 - B. has been accepted for admission at the educational institution where the hazing incident occurs; or
 - C. intends to attend an educational institution during any of its regular sessions after a period of scheduled vacation.
- 5 "Organization" means a fraternity, sorority, association, corporation, order, society, corps, club, or student government, a band or musical group or an academic, athletic, cheerleading, or dance team, including any group or team that participates in National Collegiate Athletic Association competition, or a service, social, or similar group, whose members are primarily students.
- 6 "Hazing" means 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 student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization if the act:
 - A. is any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity;
 - B. involves sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other similar activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
 - C. involves consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance, other than as described by Paragraph (E), that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
 - D. is any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the Penal Code; or
 - E. involves coercing, as defined by Section 1.07, Penal Code, the student to consume:
 - i. a drug; or
 - ii. an alcoholic beverage or liquor in an amount that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student is intoxicated, as defined by Section 49.01, Penal Code.

Sec. 37.152. Personal Hazing Offense

- a) A person commits an offense if the person:

1. engages in hazing;
 2. solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another in engaging in hazing;
 3. recklessly permits hazing to occur; or
 4. has firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident involving a student in an educational institution, or has firsthand knowledge that a specific hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fails to report that knowledge to the dean of students or other appropriate official of the institution, a peace officer, or a law enforcement agency.
- b) The offense of failing to report is a Class B misdemeanor.
 - c) Any other offense under this section that does not cause serious bodily injury to another is a Class B misdemeanor.
 - d) Any other offense under this section that causes serious bodily injury to another is a Class A misdemeanor.
 - e) Any other offense under this section that causes the death of another is a state jail felony.
 - f) Except if an offense causes the death of a student, in sentencing a person convicted of an offense under this section, the court may require the person to perform community service, subject to the same conditions imposed on a person placed on community supervision under Chapter 42A, Code of Criminal Procedure, for an appropriate period of time in lieu of confinement in county jail or in lieu of a part of the time the person is sentenced to confinement in county jail.

Sec. 37.153. Organization Hazing Offense

- a) An organization commits an offense if the organization condones or encourages hazing or if an officer or any combination of members, pledges, or alumni of the organization commits or assists in the commission of hazing.
- b) An offense under this section is a misdemeanor punishable by:
 1. a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$10,000; or
 2. if the court finds that the offense caused personal injury, property damage, or other loss, a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than double the amount lost or expenses incurred because of the injury, damage, or loss.

Sec. 37.154. Consent Not a Defense

It is not a defense to prosecution of an offense under this subchapter that the person against whom the hazing was directed consented to or acquiesced in the hazing activity.

Sec. 37.155. Immunity from Prosecution or Civil Liberty Available

- a) In the prosecution of an offense under this subchapter, the court may grant immunity from prosecution for the offense to each person who is subpoenaed to testify for the prosecution and who does testify for the prosecution.
- b) Any person, including an entity organized to support an organization, who voluntarily reports a specific hazing incident involving a student in an educational institution to the dean of students or other appropriate official of the institution, a peace officer, or a law enforcement agency is immune from civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed as a result of the reported hazing incident if the person:
 1. reports the incident before being contacted by the institution or a law enforcement agency concerning the incident or otherwise being included in the institution's or a law enforcement agency's investigation of the incident; and
 2. cooperates in good faith throughout:
 - A. any institutional process regarding the incident, as determined by the dean of students or other appropriate official of the institution designated by the institution; or

- B. any law enforcement agency's investigation regarding the incident, as determined by the chief or other appropriate official of the law enforcement agency designated by the law enforcement agency.
- c) Immunity under Subsection (b) extends to participation in any judicial proceeding resulting from the report.
- d) A person is not immune under Subsection (b) if the person:
 - 1. reports the person's own act of hazing; or
 - 2. reports an incident of hazing in bad faith or with malice.

Sec. 37.156. Offenses in Addition to Other Penal Provisions

This subchapter does not affect or repeal any penal law of this state. This subchapter does not limit or affect the right of an educational institution to enforce its own penalties against hazing.

Sec. 37.157. Reporting by Medical Authorities

A doctor or other medical practitioner who treats a student who may have been subjected to hazing activities:

may report the suspected hazing activities to police or other law enforcement officials; and is immune from civil or other liability that might otherwise be imposed or incurred as a result of the report, unless the report is made in bad faith or with malice.

Compliance with Federal and State Law

Hazing is a violation of both federal and Texas state law. Under the Stop Campus Hazing Act, WTAMU is required to and will:

- Compile and disclose hazing incident statistics in the Annual Campus Security Report (Clery Act Report) for incidents reported to campus security authorities or local law enforcement.
- Publish a Campus Hazing Transparency Report by December 23, 2025, updated at least twice yearly, detailing hazing violations by student organizations, including the organization's name, incident description, dates, findings, and sanctions, without personally identifiable information.
- Implement a research-informed, campus-wide hazing prevention and awareness program by June 23, 2025, to educate students, staff, and faculty on hazing policies, reporting procedures, bystander intervention, ethical leadership, and group cohesion strategies without hazing.

Hazing violates Texas state law under Texas Education Code, Sections 37.151 and 51.936.

Reporting

Reporting and Immunity

Persons who are recipients or victims of hazing (and who have not perpetrated hazing behavior on others in the same incident) and who report the activities to the Vice President for Student Affairs, Human Resource Office, or the University Police Department will not be charged with a violation of this hazing policy.

This policy does not prohibit:

1. Customary public athletic events, contests, or competitions sponsored by WTAMU, or their organized and supervised practices.
2. Activities or conduct that further the goals of a legitimate educational curriculum, extracurricular program, or military training program, as defined and approved by WTAMU.

Reporting Resources

To report hazing, contact:

- **Vice President for Student Affairs:** JBK Suite 102, 806-651-2389
- **Human Resources Office:** Old Main 308, 806-651-2114
- **University Police Department:** 806-651-2300 (available 24 hours a day)
- **National Anti-Hazing Hotline:** 1-888-NOT-HAZE (1-888-668-4293)

Anonymous reports may be submitted, but providing specific details ensures a prompt and thorough investigation. In emergencies, call 9-1-1.

Organizations Found in Violation of Hazing

2025-2026 Academic year (as of July 1, 2025)

WTAMU currently has zero violations of hazing to report.