

2023-2024

QUARTERLY HAZING REPORT

BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE



BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE
3028 Lindbergh Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225

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Introduction

We are pleased you have chosen Bellingham Technical College as a place to work, study, and learn. The College administration wants to assure you that as part of the BTC community your safety and security are of primary concern. BTC staff are committed to making our campus a safe, nurturing learning environment. Our goal is to provide an environment that enhances and supports the educational mission of BTC.

Beginning Fall Quarter 2022, in compliance with Sam's Law (HB 1751), all institutions of higher education were required to begin publishing a quarterly report disclosing all student groups found responsible for engaging in hazing. These reports are published at least forty-five days before fall quarter commences and at least ten days before the start of all other academic quarters.

At Bellingham Technical College, your safety and security are our priority.

—Bellingham Technical College Administrative Staff

Hazing Prevention Policy

Hazing is prohibited within the Bellingham Technical College community.

Hazing is any conduct committed as part of a person's recruitment, initiation, pledging, admission into, or affiliation with a student organization, athletic team, or living group (collectively "student groups") or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such a student group that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm, or serious psychological or emotional harm, to any student or other person attending Bellingham Technical College, including causing, directing, coercing, or forcing a person to consume any food, liquid, alcohol, drug, or other substance which subjects the person to risk of such harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. "Hazing" does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions. This prohibition applies to conduct that may occur both on and off campus.

In compliance with 2SHB 1751 (2022), the College will implement procedures and programs, including offering students and employees hazing prevention training and programming, implementation of a mandatory reporting procedure, creation of a hazing prevention committee, and publication of a hazing report.

Hazing Violations Overview

As of December 8, 2023, zero (0) student organizations were reported to have violated Bellingham Technical College's student conduct code, antihazing policies, state or federal laws relating to hazing or offenses related to alcohol, drugs, sexual assault, or physical assault were reported for Fall Quarter. The quarter ran from July 5 through December 8, 2023.

The violation statistics provided here were collected from the Student Code of Conduct Officer, Office of the Vice President of Student Services (Title IX Coordinator), Campus Safety Office, and Incident Report Database (internal).

As of August 29, 2023, zero (0) student organizations were reported to have violated Bellingham Technical College's student conduct code, antihazing policies, state or federal laws relating to hazing or offenses related to alcohol, drugs, sexual assault, or physical assault were reported for Summer Quarter. The quarter ran from September 20 through August 29, 2023.

The violation statistics provided here were collected from the Student Code of Conduct Officer, Office of the Vice President of Student Services (Title IX Coordinator), Campus Safety Office, and Incident Report Database (internal).

In compliance with the Federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232g, no personal or identifying information of individual student members shall be included in this report.

Hazing Educational Programs

BTC has partnered with *Get Inclusive* to provide a hazing prevention course to students and employees that educates on the dangers of and prohibition on hazing, including information on hazing awareness, prevention, intervention, and BTC's policy on hazing. This course is offered to all new students each quarter, and is available to view on the Hazing page our website.

In addition, BTC and *Get Inclusive* provide a hazing prevention course to all employees, including student employees, on the signs and dangers of hazing and the college's prohibition on hazing. This course is provided to all employees at the beginning of each academic year and for new employees at the beginning of each academic term.

Hazing Prevention Committee

Beginning Fall Quarter 2022, in compliance with Sam's Law (HB 1751), all institutions of higher education were required to establish a hazing prevention committee to promote and address hazing prevention. The committee has a minimum of six members including a designated chair appointed by the President of Bellingham Technical College. Fifty percent of the committee positions include students currently attending Bellingham Technical College with at least one position filled by a student from a student organization. The other fifty percent of the committee positions includes at least one faculty or staff member and one parent or legal guardian of a student currently enrolled at the college.

A student who is a member of a student organization that was affiliated with a finding of a hazing violation within the last twelve months may not participate in or be a member of the hazing prevention committee.

Types of Hazing

Some activities are clearly understood as hazing, but other activities may be less clear. It is imperative to consider that any act that subjects a specific student or group of students to conditions poorer than those of current members of the organization can be considered hazing. Listed here are various types of hazing:

Violent Hazing: Behaviors that have the potential to cause physical and/or emotional, or psychological harm.

Harassment Hazing: Behaviors that cause emotional anguish or physical discomfort in order to feel like part of the group. Harassment hazing confuses, frustrates, and causes undue stress for new members.

Subtle Hazing: Behaviors that emphasize a power imbalance between new members and other members of the group or team. These types of hazing are often taken-for-granted or accepted as harmless or meaningless. Subtle hazing typically involves activities or attitudes that breach reasonable standards of mutual respect and place new members on the receiving end of ridicule, embarrassment, and/or humiliation tactics. New members often feel the need to endure subtle hazing to feel like part of the group or team.

Hazing Examples

Examples of actions and activities which may constitute hazing include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Compelling individuals to consume alcohol or drugs.
- b) Paddling in any form, shoving, or otherwise striking individuals.
- c) Compelling individuals to engage in sexual behaviors, sexual or racial harassment, or slurs or exhibitionism.
- d) Compelling individuals to eat or drink unusual substances or compelling the consumption of undue amounts or odd preparations of food.
- e) Having harmful substances thrown at, poured on, or otherwise applied to the bodies of individuals.
- f) Morally degrading or humiliating games or activities which make an individual the object of amusement, ridicule, or intimidation.
- g) Transporting individuals against their will, abandoning individuals at distant locations, or conducting any “kidnap,” “ditch,” or “road trip” that may in any way endanger or compromise the health, safety, or comfort of any individual.
- h) Causing an individual to be indecently exposed or exposed to the

elements.

- i) Requiring an individual to remain in a fixed position for a long period of time.
- j) Compelling an individual to be branded or tattooed.
- k) “Line-ups” involving intense shouting or obscenities or insults.
- l) Compelling individuals to participate in activities (pranks, scavenger hunts, etc.) which encourage the defacement of property; engage in theft; harass other individuals, groups of individuals, or organizations.
- m) Excluding an individual from social contact for prolonged periods of time.
- n) Compelling an individual to engage in acts of personal servitude.

Bellingham Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender identity or expression, sex, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, or genetic information in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Executive Director for Human Resources, 3028 Lindbergh Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225, 360.752.8354. BTC publications are available in alternate formats upon request by contacting the Accessibility Resources office at 360.752.8576.