

2025-2026

*Winter Quarter*

# QUARTERLY HAZING TRANSPARENCY 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 RCW 28B.10.900 through RCW 28B.10.907, 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 45 days before fall quarter commences and at least 10 days before the start of all other academic quarters.*

*Beginning December 2025, the quarterly report has been updated to reflect reporting transparency requirements outlined in the Stop Campus Hazing Act (H.R. 5646, 2024). Hazing incidents will also be reported in the Annual Security Report, published no later than October 1 each year.*

*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 act committed as part of a person's recruitment, initiation, pledging, admission into, or affiliation with, or maintenance of membership in 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, 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.

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

- a. 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;
- b. Humiliation by ritual act;
- c. Striking another person with an object or body part;
- d. Causing someone to experience excessive fatigue, exposure to the elements, confinement in small spaces, extreme calisthenics, and physical and/or psychological shock;
- e. Causing someone to engage in degrading or humiliating games or activities that create a risk of serious psychological, emotional, and/or physical harm;
- f. Any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through use of threatening words or conduct;
- g. Whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on someone's body, or similar activity;
- h. Compelling individuals to engage in sexual behaviors, sexual or racial harassment, slurs, or exhibitionism;
- i. 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 health, safety, or comfort;
- j. Compelling an individual to be branded or tattooed;
- k. "Line ups" involving intense shouting, obscenities, or insults;
- l. Compelling individuals to participate in activities (pranks, scavenger hunts, etc.) which encourage the defacement of property; engaged in theft; harass other individuals, groups, 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; or
- o. Any activity that includes a criminal violation of federal, state, local, or tribal law.

In compliance with RCW 28B.10.901 through RCW 28B.10.907 and H.R. 5646, the College has implemented 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, publication of a quarterly hazing transparency report.

## Hazing Violations Overview

As of April 8, 2026, zero (0) student groups 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 for Winter Quarter. The quarter ran from January 6 through March 27, 2026.

The violation statistics provided here were collected from the Student Conduct Officer (Hazing Prevention Committee Chair), Vice President of Student Services' Office, Title IX Coordinator, Safety Director, and internal Incident Reporting Database (Maxient, LLC).

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

## 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.

## Primary Prevention Educational Programs

Bellingham Technical College (BTC) has partnered with *Vector Solutions* to provide a research-informed hazing prevention and awareness course to all students that educates on the dangers of and prohibition on hazing, including information on hazing awareness, prevention, intervention, and BTC's policy on hazing. BTC's policy includes information on how to report incidents of hazing, the process used to investigate hazing incidents, and applicable state laws on hazing. This course is offered to all new students each quarter, and is available to view on the [Hazing](#) page of the BTC website.

Under BTC policy and RCW 29B.10.907, all BTC employees are mandatory reporters of hazing. To support employees' compliance with this requirement, BTC and *Vector Solutions* provide a hazing prevention and awareness course to all employees, including student employees, including information 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 RCW 28B.10.900 through RCW 28B.10.907, 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.

Hazing Prevention Committee Chair:

Abby Buchanan (she/her) | [abuchanan@btc.edu](mailto:abuchanan@btc.edu) | 360.752.8305

## **Hazing Investigations**

Investigation of allegations of hazing will be conducted pursuant to WAC 495B-121-280. A student conduct officer, or designee, may review and investigate any complaint or allegation of hazing by a student group. A student group will be notified through its named officer(s) and address on file with the college. A student group may designate one representative who may speak on behalf of a student group during any investigation and/or disciplinary proceeding.

Investigations will be completed in a timely manner, and the results of the investigation shall be referred to the student conduct officer or designee for disciplinary action. If a student conduct officer or designee determines that a complaint appears to state a violation of the student conduct code, the student conduct officer or designee will consider whether the matter might be resolved through agreement with the respondent or through alternative dispute resolution proceedings involving the parties. If the student conduct officer or designee has determined that a complaint has merit and if the matter is not resolved through agreement or informal dispute resolution, the student conduct officer or designee may initiate disciplinary action against the student group.

## **Hazing Sanctions**

Sanctions for violations of BTC's anti-hazing policies are outlined in WAC 495B-121-275 and WAC 495B-121-286.

Any person who participates in the hazing of another shall forfeit any entitlement to state-funded grants, scholarships, or awards for a period of time determined by the college.

In addition to initiating discipline proceedings for the violation of the student conduct code, the college may refer any violations of federal, state, or local laws to civil and criminal authorities for disposition. The college shall proceed with student disciplinary proceedings regardless of whether the underlying conduct is subject to civil or criminal prosecution.

## **Applicable State and Local Laws**

Washington state law RCW 28B.10.901 provides that hazing is a criminal offense, typically punishable as a gross misdemeanor under RCW 9A.20.021. However, any violation of Washington state hazing law that causes substantial bodily harm, as defined in RCW 9A.04.110, to another person is a class C felony.

Furthermore, Washington state law provides that any student group that knowingly permits hazing is strictly liable for harm caused to persons or property resulting from hazing. If the organization or association is a corporation, whether for profit or nonprofit, the individual directors of the corporation may be held individually liable for damages.

## **Annual Security Report**

Pursuant to the Stop Campus Hazing Act (SCHA) amendments to the Clery Act (2024), incidents of hazing that meet the federal statutory definition reported to campus security authorities (CSAs) that occur within BTC's Clery Act geography will be included within the Annual Security Report (ASR). The current ASR is available to view on the [Campus Safety](#) page of the BTC website.

*Bellingham Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, creed, color, sex, gender identity or expression, citizenship or immigration status, national origin, age, religion, disability, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, genetic information, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability, pregnancy, marital status, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local law in its programs, activities, and services. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies/Section 504: Director for Human Resources, 360.752.8354, or [hr@btc.edu](mailto:hr@btc.edu). For Title IX compliance, contact: Title IX Coordinator, 360.752.8305, or [title9@btc.edu](mailto:title9@btc.edu). Mailing address: 3028 Lindbergh Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225. BTC publications are available in alternate formats upon request by contacting the Accessibility Resources office at 360.752.8576.*