

Middle Georgia State University

Hazing Disclosures

Organization:

Alpha Eta Rho

Incident Date:

November 17, 2025

Complaint Received:

November 18, 2025

Investigation began:

November 18, 2025

Investigation end:

January 14, 2026

Organization notified:

January 15, 2026

Description of violation(s):

It was alleged that some members of Alpha Eta Rho engaged in behavior that constituted a violation of MGA Student Code of Conduct #6 – Hazing, specifically related to the Stop Campus Hazing Act Definition “*any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with other persons) against another person or persons regardless of the willingness of such other 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 (e.g., a club, athletic team, fraternity, or sorority); and (2) causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the IHE or the organization, of physical or psychological injury.*”

While the investigation did not find evidence that supported that potential new members (PNMs) were subjected to the abuse or illegal use of drugs or alcohol, nor did anyone report any physical injury, PNMs were asked or required to participate in activities that caused some PNMs to face humiliation, degradation, servitude and harassment. These activities included:

- The requirement to respond to frequent text messages throughout the day and night
- Cleaning of rooms/apartments/residences of current members
- Picking up/delivering food to current members
- PNMs picking up toothpicks that were thrown/scattered in the yards of at least two current members
- “Pumping oil”, an act that some PNMs interpreted to be simulating a sex act
- “Corn Pledge”, a punishment assigned or threatened to a few PNMs that involved watching a pornographic movie and then writing a one-page summary of what they watched.
- Sleep deprivation of some PNMs during “Hell Week”
- Asking some PNMs sexually explicit and inappropriate questions during the final interview process

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While some PNMs reported participation in these activities was voluntary and they could opt out at any point, other PNMs clearly stated that participation was mandatory and failure to participate would result in termination of their membership process.

Finding(s):

Leadership of Alpha Eta Rho accepted responsibility for an alleged hazing violation, specifically, by having at least one prospective member participate in an act or acts that created a risk of psychological injury and/or humiliation.

Sanctions:

- Probationary status for a period of one (1) year (Spring, Summer, and Fall Semesters of 2026)
 - During this time, further violations of the MGA Code of Conduct may result in a defined period of suspension for the organization, potential loss of leadership roles, and charges against individual members of the organization.
- Mandatory hazing prevention/awareness training for all student leaders during the probationary period.
- Continued inclusion of all sanctioned activities of the organization in Presence/KnightLife.
 - Sanctioned activities were defined as all organizational activities and meetings held on-campus as well as off-campus events that are promoted on-campus via social media, flyers, etc. that have or require advisor approval.
- A list of prospective members will be provided to the Associate Vice-President for Student Affairs for spring semester 2026 and fall semester 2026.
- Notification will be made to the National Alpha Eta Rho of this incident.
- The Associate Vice-President for Student Affairs will work to review and revise the initiation process for all new/prospective members to provide clear expectations to members as to what activities are required and what activities are intended to provide opportunities for prospective members to develop bonds between each other and existing members of the organization. This revision will include a more consistency in the final interview process to minimize inconsistencies, misinterpretations, and any behaviors that could be construed or identified as "hazing".
- Upon request by the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, leadership will provide access to "pledge books" for prospective members during the probationary period.
- Inclusion of this decision, the name of the organization (but not individual student names), date of occurrence(s) and investigation, the finding/agreement, and adjudication sanctions on MGA's hazing reporting webpage.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Michael Stewart

Associate Vice President for Student Affairs

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