Welcome to the University of North Texas. UNT is a community of individuals who care about you and want you to be successful. It is important that as you begin your journey as a student on our campus that you know what is expected of you. At UNT, we recognize that freedom of expression and public assembly are fundamental rights of all persons and are essential components of the education process. These activities promote debate and the sharing of ideas, which are the foundation of educational institutions. In addition, UNT is committed to providing a safe environment for all members of the university community and prohibits hazing by any student, student group or employee.

Read the policies below to understand your expectations.

Free Speech

The University of North Texas (UNT) recognizes that freedom of expression and public assembly are fundamental rights of all persons and are essential components of the education process. These activities promote debate and the sharing of ideas, which are the foundation of educational institutions.

The responsibility of the University to operate and maintain an effective and efficient institution of higher education requires regulation of the time, place and manner of assembly, speech, and other expressive activities on the grounds of the University. In keeping with this responsibility, students, faculty, staff and visitors are free to exercise the rights to assemble and engage in expressive activity in a constitutionally-protected manner subject only to the content-neutral regulations necessary to fulfill the mission and obligations of the University; preserve the rights of others, coordinate multiple uses of limited space; assure preservation of the campus facilities and grounds; and assure financial accountability for any damage caused by these activities.

The UNT Free Speech policy can be found at https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-006

Hazing

The university wants to take this opportunity to inform the university community about the dangers and consequences of hazing.

Hazing is a criminal act under the state law of Texas.

By definition, hazing is any intentional, knowing or reckless act by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in or maintaining membership in an organization whose members are or include UNT students.

Hazing occurs regardless of whether the act is committed on or off the university campus and regardless of whether the student victim may have consented to or acquiesced in the activity.

A person engages in hazing not only by directly engaging in hazing activity, but also by soliciting, directing, encouraging, directing, aiding or attempting to aid another in hazing; or by recklessly allowing hazing to occur; or by knowingly failing to report firsthand knowledge that a specific hazing incident is planned or has occurred; any person reporting a specific hazing incident involving a student to the Dean of Students or other appropriate university official is immune from civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred as a result of the report.

Students may be prosecuted for committing an act of hazing or for failing to report first-hand knowledge of hazing.
Examples of Hazing

Examples of hazing include but are not limited to:

- Any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity.

- Any type of physical activity that subjects a student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of a student, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space or calisthenics.

- 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; Any activity involving consumption of alcoholic beverages, liquor, drugs, food, liquid or any other substance that exposes a student to unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.

- Any activity that intimidates or threatens a student with ostracism or that subjects the student to extreme mental stress, shame or humiliation that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from entering or remaining registered at UNT, or that may reasonably be expected to cause the student to leave the organization or UNT rather than submit to hazing whether the act is committed in person or communicated by other media including social networking.

- Any activity that induces, causes or requires a student to perform a duty or task that requires commission of an illegal act.

How to Report Hazing

Incidents or planned incidents of hazing must be reported in writing to any one of the following:

- Dean of Students Office, 940-565-2648 or 940-565-2039
- UNT Police Department, 940-565-3000
- UNT Hazing Hotline, 940-369-STOP (7867)

Amnesty

The university may elect not to pursue disciplinary sanctions for a violation of this policy against persons who voluntarily and in good faith provide information to the Dean of Students or an appropriate university official related to hazing.

The UNT Hazing policy can be found at https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-013