

## **Davidson College Patterson Court Office New Member Bills of Rights**

There are a number of activities that are constructive parts of new member education and will contribute to your becoming a more active and productive member of your Patterson Court organization. However, there are other activities in which you might be asked to take part that are a violation of the Davidson Honor Code or Code of Responsibility, Patterson Court Council and/or inter/national fraternity regulations (where applicable). These activities may constitute “hazing.”

Listed below is a *New Member Bill of Rights* that specifically outlines activities that fraternity or eating-house members **cannot** require of you. **If they do so, the fraternity or eating-house and the individual member(s) in question may be subject to severe penalties up to and including permanent removal of Davidson College recognition for the organization, suspension/removal from Davidson for the individuals involved, and possibly removal of the chapter’s national charter** (where applicable.) New members participating in “hazing” activities may also be subject to judicial sanctions. Please study your rights and make certain that they are not violated.

No new member shall be required by any person or persons to perform any act which:

1. Interferes with the academic process – causes a new member to miss or be ill prepared for classes, labs, study sessions, or tests
2. Causes the new member to violate the Davidson College Honor Code, Davidson College Code of Responsibility, Davidson College policies, or reflects negatively upon the reputation of Davidson College, the participants, or the organization
3. Requires or pressures a new member to consume alcohol
4. Prevents a new member from securing normal amounts of sleep (no activities between the hours of midnight and 8 a.m.)
5. Requires a new member to perform personal services for collegiate or alumni members (including, but not limited to, driving around members and/or their guests (including members of other organizations), “shopping” for members, etc.)
6. Is sadistic – treats a new member in a “sub-human” manner
7. Is illegal – including the use of drugs and alcohol
8. Is immoral
9. Places a new member in physical danger or in jeopardy of losing his or her life
10. Places severe emotional stress upon a new member
11. Requires a new member to be present at activities for unreasonable periods of time
12. Requires more than six hours/week on new member activities

13. Coerces new members to attend meetings/activities through fines/sanctions that are not also levied against existing members
14. Requires a new member to participate in a “Kangaroo” Court or other individual questioning activities
15. Prescribes the wearing of anything to identify new member status (this includes new member or Self-Selection day T-shirts, or wearing of required clothing)
16. Requires a new member to carry items that they would not normally bear (including paddles, bricks, signature books, etc.)
17. Requires a new member to answer the telephone in a manner unlike a member would answer it
18. Prevents a new member from speaking for a period of time
19. Involves the abandonment of new members or organization members thereby requiring them to find their own way back to campus
20. Requires the blindfolding of a new member (exceptions: during low ropes course with trained facilitator, or as prescribed in writing for Ritual)
21. Requires a new member to stand when a collegiate or alumna/us member enters a room
22. Requires a new member to intentionally deface a house/chapter room/suite/apt. etc.; or requires a new member to clean the house/chapter room/suite/apt., etc. of others
23. Requires calling other new member “names”
24. Requires a new member to enter the house/suite/building only from a specific door
25. Requires new members to eat meals together, attend unscheduled “call-down” meetings or sleep in the house/suite/apt. together for any length of time without prior, written permission from the Patterson Court Office
26. Requires a new member to address or refer to members in a manner different from how they are addressed (i.e. *Mr./Ms. Smith* for members, *Pledge Jean* for new members)
27. Requires new members to participate in scavenger hunts or similar activities by any name that involves taking of items, time deadlines, etc.

**THIS LIST IS IN NO WAY INCLUSIVE.**

ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING BELIEVED HAZING OR VIOLATIONS OF NEW MEMBERS’ RIGHTS OR OTHER QUESTIONABLE ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE PATTERSON COURT ADVISOR AT 704/894-2188.

EACH NEW MEMBER MUST SIGN *THE NEW MEMBER BILL OF RIGHTS CONFIRMATION FORM* TO ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF OUR ZERO TOLERANCE FOR HAZING.