

Hazing Prohibition Policy

The University of Scranton is a caring and compassionate community where, by working together, challenging each other to strive for excellence, and engaging in service, students are transformed in positive ways through their involvement in clubs, organizations, and teams. Hazing and/or other inappropriate club, organization, or team activities that endanger, degrade, or devalue the worth of another person are antithetical to our University's values. While *cura personalis* calls us to care for the whole person, hazing disrespects and devalues people.

Therefore, the University of Scranton strictly prohibits students from engaging in hazing activity for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any student group (i.e., organization, club, team). Any activity organized by a student group or members of a student group that involves other students in practices which (1) endanger or potentially endanger an individual's physical, emotional, or psychological well-being (as determined at the sole discretion of the University), (2) constitute violations of University policies or local, state, or federal ordinances and laws, or (3) involve the distribution or removal of public or private property shall be immediate cause for disciplinary action. It shall not matter whether such practices were mandatory or voluntarily entered into by any of the students or the student group members in question, including new and initiated student members.

Hazing includes, but is not limited to, brutality of a physical nature, forced or coerced consumption of food, alcohol, drugs, or other substances, forced or coerced sleep deprivation or excessive fatigue, forced or coerced exclusion from social contact, or forced or coerced actions such as public stunts or buffoonery which could result in humiliation or embarrassment. For purposes of this policy, any activity directly or indirectly conditioned with initiation, admission into, affiliation with or continued membership in any student group shall be presumed to be "forced or coerced" activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.

Individuals and student groups found in violation of this policy will be subject to University disciplinary action that could include loss of recognition, suspension or expulsion from the University. In addition, students may also be subject to criminal charges as a result of concurrent violations of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Antihazing Law (18 Pa.C.S.A. § 2801) which law states that a person who causes or participates in hazing may face criminal charges including a misdemeanor, or a felony charge when the hazing results in serious injury or death.