

Executive Sponsor: Vice  
President for Student Life

# Hazing Prohibition Policy

Issued in Current Format:  
06/25. Note this it is not a  
new policy. Prior to 2025, this  
policy appeared in several  
separate resources, including  
the Student Handbook and  
Office of General Counsel's  
website.

## I. Policy Statement

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's Antihazing Law (18 Pa.C.S.A. § 2801) which 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.

## **II. Reason for Policy**

This longstanding policy exists for as part of the University's effort, consistent with it's Catholic and Jesuit mission, to foster a safe living-learning community where the human dignity of all people is upheld.

## **III. Entities Affected by This Policy**

This policy, originally published in the Student Handbook, is focused on students. However, to ensure compliance with federal and state laws, aspects of this policy are also applicable to faculty, staff and administrators.

## **IV. Reporting Violations of this Policy**

The University of Scranton strongly encourages any member of the community who has experienced, witnessed, or is aware of potential hazing in violation of this policy to report the same. Reports can be made to University Police, the Office of Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution, or the Dean of Students Office. In the event that the potential hazing involves possible violations of the [Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy](#) or the [Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy](#), the matter can be reported to the Office of Equity and Diversity as well.

### **University Police**

Parking Pavillion, 800 Mulberry St.  
(570)941-7888 (non-emergency)  
(570)941-7777 (emergency)  
[Silent Witness Reporting Form](#)

### **Office of Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution**

201 DeNaples Center  
(570)941-7680

### **Dean of Students Office**

201 DeNaples Center  
(570)941-7680

### **Office of Equity & Diversity**

315 Institute of Molecular Biology & Medicine  
(570)941-6645

## **IV. Investigation of Hazing Incidents**

The process to investigate any reports of hazing made through these offices is spelled out in the University's Student Code of Conduct, which is available in the Student Handbook ([www.scranton.edu/studenthandbook](http://www.scranton.edu/studenthandbook)) and in the applicable policies managed by the [Office of Equity and Diversity](#). Additionally, in the event that the alleged misconduct may also violate the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Antihazing Law (18 Pa.C.S.A. § 2801) also known as the Timothy J. Piazza Antihazing Law, University of Scranton Police and/or local law enforcement may conduct an independent criminal investigation.

## **V. Related State and Federal Laws on Hazing**

Federal: [Stop Campus Hazing Act](#)

State: [Timothy J. Piazza Antihazing Law](#)

## **VI. Website Address for this Policy**

This policy and related information (including information about hazing awareness and prevention efforts) are available at [www.scranton.edu/antihazing](http://www.scranton.edu/antihazing). It will also be available on other related University websites including, but not limited to, Athletics, Center for Student Engagement, Dean of Students Office, and Center for Health Education & Wellness.

Additionally, the policy will be published annually in the Student Handbook.

## **VI. Contacts**

For Policy Clarification and Interpretation, please contact the Office of Student Life, Suite 201 The DeNaples Center. (570) 941-7680.