

Purpose

Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences prohibits hazing in all forms. The College seeks to foster a safe and healthy community built on individual respect and educational achievement, in line with the College's mission. As such, the below policy defines the College's policy regarding hazing and the steps that will be taken should an alleged violation be reported. Any member of the PA College community found responsible for Hazing in any form under this policy, whether on or off campus, may face disciplinary action from the College, and may also face criminal charges under state law, including The Timothy J. Piazza Antihazing Law, 18 Pa. C.S. § 2801, et seq.

Scope/Jurisdiction

Hazing is an act that can permeate all facets of campus. It is the responsibility of every member of the PA College Community (prospective students, current students, employees, club/organization leaders and members, volunteers, visitors, and any individual otherwise associated with PA College) to aid in the prevention of hazing within our community. This policy applies to all members of the PA College Community and to any acts of hazing in any form occurring on or off campus.

Definitions

PA College Community

For the purposes of this policy, PA College Community includes prospective students, current students, employees, club/organization leaders and members, volunteers, visitors, and any individual otherwise associated with PA College.

Hazing

A person commits the offense of hazing (a misdemeanor of the third degree) if the person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly, for the purpose of initiating, admitting or affiliating a minor or student into or with an organization, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing a minor or student's membership or status in an organization, causes, coerces or forces a minor or student to do any of the following:

1. Violate Federal or State criminal law;
2. Consume any food, liquid, alcoholic liquid, drug or other substance which subjects the minor or student to a risk of emotional or physical harm;
3. Endure brutality of a physical nature, including whipping, beating, branding, calisthenics or exposure to the elements;
4. Endure brutality of a mental nature, including activity adversely affecting the mental health or dignity of the individual, sleep deprivation, exclusion from social contact or conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment;
5. Endure brutality of a sexual nature; or
6. Endure any other activity that creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to the minor or student.

Aggravated Hazing

A person commits the offense of aggravated hazing (a felony of the third degree) if they commit hazing that results in serious bodily injury or death to the minor or student and:

1. The person acts with reckless indifference to the health and safety of the minor or student; or
2. The person causes, coerces or forces the consumption of an alcoholic liquid or drug by the minor or the students.

Organizational Hazing

An organization that intentionally, knowingly or recklessly promotes or facilitates hazing or aggravated hazing commits the offense of organizational hazing and shall be subject to potential penalties.

Organization

A fraternity, sorority, association, corporation, order, society, corps, club or service, social or similar group, whose members are primarily minors, students or alumni of the organization or institution. This includes local organizations affiliated with national or international organizations.

Safe Harbor

In certain cases, immunity from hazing policy and law may be granted. See the Policy Detail below for more information.

Policy Detail

A. PA College Policy

PA College adheres to The Timothy J Piazza Antihazing Law. Hazing in any form, whether by person or organization, is prohibited in all of its forms (defined above). It shall not be a defense that the consent of the minor or student was sought or obtained. It is also not a defense that the conduct was sanctioned or approved by the organization or an institution.

B. Reporting Violations of this Policy

PA College encourages all members of the PA College Community who believe that they have witnessed, experienced, or are aware of conduct that constitutes hazing in any form in violation of this policy. Any individual may report an allegation of hazing to any PA College representative, or submit a report via the [Code of Conduct Violation form](#). Any PA College representative made aware of an allegation of hazing should report it immediately to the Dean of Students.

C. Enforcement of this Policy

Any violation of this Policy shall be deemed a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct & Disciplinary Policy](#). Investigations into alleged hazing violations shall follow the process outlined in said policy.

D. Sanctions

Anyone found responsible for violating this policy may face disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from PA College. Internal action taken by PA College is separate and apart from any action that may be taken by the appropriate authorities should said action violate criminal code (see below for possible penalties under Pennsylvania State Law).

E. Institutional Bi-Annual Report

PA College will maintain a report of all violations of this policy, as well as violations of Federal or State laws, related to hazing that are reported to PA College. This report will be updated biennially on January 1 and August 1 and will be posted on the public institutional website.

References: PA Act 80 of 2018 (“The Timothy Piazza Antihazing Law”)

Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY STATEMENT

Effective Date: 1/9/19

Last Revised:

Last Reviewed:

Policy 10.7.7

Antihazing

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Audience:	All College
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