

## **Health and Safety: Antihazing Policy**

### **I. Scope**

This policy is an institutional policy and applies campus wide.

### **II. Purpose**

This policy describes the conduct that constitutes hazing, its prohibition at the University, how a report of hazing is handled, and the potential sanctions if a party is found to have violated this policy.

### **III. Definitions**

**A. Hazing:** "[a]ny action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student; this could be for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in, any organization operating under the sanction of or recognized as an organization by an institution of higher education." Hazing is a violation of Pennsylvania State law (24 P.S. § 5353) and University policy. Specifically, hazing is defined as follows:

- Any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers mental or physical health or involves the forced consumption of liquor or drugs for the purpose of initiation into or affiliation with any organization.
- Having to endure brutality of a physical nature, including whipping, beating, branding, calisthenics, or exposure to the elements;
- Having to 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;
- Having to endure brutality of a sexual nature; or
- Endure any other activity that creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to the student.

**B. Organizational Hazing:** when a Student Organization intentionally, knowingly or recklessly promotes or facilitates a violation of hazing or aggravated hazing.

**C. Aggravated Hazing:** any of the activities described in the previous definition of hazing that result in serious bodily injury or death to the student, and the person committing the hazing acts with reckless indifference to the health and safety of the student coerces or forces the consumption of an alcoholic liquid or drug by the student.

### **IV. General Policy**

Hazing in any form is prohibited. Any individual(s), organizations and/or university-sponsored club accused of such offenses will be subject to immediate disciplinary action.

## **V. Implementation**

The Timothy J. Piazza Antihazing Law holds anyone accountable for behavior that jeopardizes the safety and well-being of others and demonstrates the seriousness with which the state and University approach the issue.

If it is discovered an act or an attempted act of hazing has happened either on campus or in connection with a campus-related activity against an individual, a group of students, or a Seton Hill staff member, a report should be filed immediately and submitted to the Dean of Students or Campus Police. Reports, which will be considered confidential, can either be made by phone, email, in person, or even submitted anonymously.

The Dean of Students and the University's Conduct Officer will call for an official formal meeting on campus with all involved parties, witnesses, organizational leaders, along with campus police to establish and launch a full investigation into reported allegations.

## **VI. Sanctions**

In accordance with Pennsylvania law, the penalty for student or employee violators could be the imposition of fines, expulsion, suspension, dismissal, the withholding of diplomas or transcripts pending compliance with the rules or payment of fines, or other appropriate disciplinary action. In the case of any organization authorizing such conduct, violation may result in the revocation of permission to operate on campus.

In addition to violating the Seton Hill University student code of conduct, there may also be potential criminal consequences pursuant to Pennsylvania law.

## **VII. Questions and Interpretation**

All questions concerning this policy should be directed to the Policy Administrator/Owner at [policies@setonhill.edu](mailto:policies@setonhill.edu).