INTENT

The purpose of this policy is to define hazing, describe hazing-specific educational programming, and outline disciplinary procedures regarding the investigation and referral of cases involving hazing.

DEFINITION OF HAZING

Hazing is defined as an action which:

1. Recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, or
2. Willfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation, admission, affiliation, or continued membership in any organization.

The term hazing shall include, but not be limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, any activity which would subject an individual to extreme mental stress, and any willful destruction or removal of public or private property. The PA hazing law, Act 175, can be found at www.legis.state.pa.us.

Any activity defined above which is indirectly or directly a condition of initiation, admission, affiliation, or continued membership is presumed to be a ‘forced’ activity. The willingness of the individual to participate in such activities does not negate the University’s position on hazing, as an individual cannot consent to be hazed.

Hazing is defined as an Edinboro University Student Code of Conduct violation under section 5(b) of the Student Code of Conduct, Violations of Health, Welfare and Safety.

It reads:

CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS

Act 175 of 1986 prohibits fraternities, sororities, and other student organizations from hazing applicants for membership and from hazing persons who are already members to maintain their
memberships in organizations. The University also prohibits these activities and violations, will be adjudicated under this Act and the University's procedures. Any organization found to have engaged in hazing may have its official recognition permanently revoked. Any student who participates in hazing may be fined, suspended or expelled from the University. Hazing is also a crime, and any student who participates in hazing may be arrested and criminally prosecuted. Conviction may result in incarceration and other applicable sanctions under the Pennsylvania Crimes Code. Persons who may be found in violation of hazing include those who implement or initiate the hazing, anyone in a leadership role in the organization, any new member who willfully participates in hazing activities, and/or any others who agree to the hazing.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Edinboro University of Pennsylvania offers educational programming on hazing. Individuals attending presentations must sign a statement acknowledging that they have received, read, and understand the materials discussed in the session.

All required new member activities by a student organization must be submitted in writing to the Office of Campus Life for review and approval. Any new member activities conducted by student organizations prior to University review, or activities done outside the approved review are violations of University policy. Such actions will be subject to disciplinary sanctions, including but not limited to suspension/revocation of the organization's University recognition. The failure of the University to delete an activity from a proposal does not imply "approval" of the activity.

All student organizations are required as a condition of University recognition to include a statement in their organization's constitution that they will not engage in, or explicitly or implicitly condone any act of hazing as defined by the laws of the Commonwealth and University policy.

PROCEDURES

Any complaint of hazing must be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. This office will review the complaint and take the appropriate actions, which may include police notification for further investigation. University disciplinary action will be initiated by the Office of Student Judicial Affairs as necessary.

Any complaint of hazing reported to Borough of Edinboro officials should be forwarded to the Vice President for Student Affairs for further actions as provided under the University Policy A005, "University Procedures for Responding to Off-Campus Student Behavior Complaints". The University reserves the right to exercise its jurisdiction on matters of off campus student misconduct. The implementation of University disciplinary authority is not a substitute for criminal prosecution, nor does it protect a student from criminal prosecution. Disciplinary action by the University is not subject to challenge on the basis that criminal charges involving the same incident have been dismissed, reduced, or otherwise not entered into the legal system.
## RELATED POLICIES

A012 – Disciplinary Procedures & Student Code of Conduct  
A024 – Student Organizations  
A025 – Student Organization Advisors

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Campus Life &amp; Leadership Development</td>
<td>213 Pogue Student Center</td>
<td>814-732-2768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>405 Scotland Road Edinboro, PA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief</td>
<td>Edinboro University Police</td>
<td>911 Scotland Road Edinboro PA</td>
<td>814-732-2921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Residence Life &amp; Housing &amp; Judicial Affairs</td>
<td>215 Pogue Student Center</td>
<td>814-732-2818</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>405 Scotland Road Edinboro, PA</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Student Government Association</td>
<td>243 Pogue Student Center</td>
<td>814-732-2910</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>405 Scotland Road Edinboro, PA</td>
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