INTENT

This policy is intended to define actions which constitute hazing, describe University educational programming, clarify University disciplinary procedures regarding investigation and referral of cases involving hazing, and explain penalties which exist under both Pennsylvania law and Edinboro University policy.

DEFINITION OF HAZING

Hazing is defined, in addition to its common and usual meaning, as an action on or off campus which:

1. recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student; or which
2. willfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition of continued membership in, any organization operating under the sanction of or recognized as a student organization by Edinboro University.

The term hazing shall include, but not be limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as:

1. whipping
2. beating
3. branding
4. forced calisthenics
5. exposure to the elements
6. forced consumption of food, liquor, drugs (legal or illegal) or other substances
7. any other forced physical activity adversely affecting the physical health and safety of the individual.
The term hazing shall also include any activity which would subject an individual to extreme mental stress, such as:

1. sleep deprivation
2. forced exclusion from social contact
3. forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment
4. any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of a student.

The term hazing also includes any willful destruction or removal of public or private property.

Any activity, as defined above, which is indirectly or directly a condition of initiation or admission into, or affiliation with, or continued membership in a recognized organization shall be presumed to be "forced" activity, willingness of the individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.

Hazing is defined as an Edinboro University Student Code of Conduct violation under section 6(a) of the Student Code of Conduct, Code of Conduct Violations. It reads:

**CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS**

6(a). Acts against the public order and decency, such as disorderly conduct, criminal mischief, fighting, unreasonable noise, public intoxication due to use of alcohol or controlled substances, lewd or indecent conduct, hazing, and other acts of disruption or disturbance.

Hazing is further defined, in accord with Act 175 of 1986, in section 6(b) of the Student Code of Conduct, Code of Conduct Violations.

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING**

Edinboro University of Pennsylvania requires that each student organization, in order to become or remain chartered by Edinboro University, must send an organizational officer to attend the University's annual (Fall Semester) presentation on "hazing." This presentation includes information on the Anti-Hazing Law, civil liabilities of hazing, criminal penalties for hazing, University sanctions for hazing, and acceptable "pledging" conduct and Greek activities. Each participant will receive an information packet on hazing from the University.

The organizational officers attending the presentation must sign and return to the Assistant Director of Student Development/University Programming and Activities a statement acknowledging that they have received, read, and understood the materials discussing "hazing" in the information packet given to them by the University. Return of this written acknowledgment is a condition of recognition as an Edinboro University Student Organization.
A second "hazing" presentation will be conducted by Edinboro University on or before the second week of February of each academic year. The second presentation must be attended by an organizational officer of any student organization recognized after the date of the Fall Semester presentation on hazing and any student organization planning Winter-Spring Semester pledging activities. A written acknowledgment (as described above) must be returned to the Assistant Director of Student Development/University Programming and Activities as a condition of recognition as a Student Organization of Edinboro University.

Further, all proposed pledging activities by a student organization must be submitted in writing to the Assistant Director of Student Development/University Programming and Activities or in the case of Fraternities, the advisor to the Interfraternal Council, or in the case of Sororities, the advisor to the Panhellenic Council for review and deletion of patently offensive actions. Any pledging activity conducted by members of a student organization prior to University review or pledging activities found outside the limits of the reviewed and accepted pledging proposal are violations of the Edinboro University Disciplinary Procedures and Student Code of Conduct and will subject the organization to disciplinary sanctions including but not limited to suspension/revocation of the student organization’s University recognition.

The failure of the University to delete a pledging activity from a proposal does not imply "approval" of the activity. Any pledging activity which results in destruction of property or the endangerment of the health, safety, or welfare of a person, or otherwise constitutes hazing, will subject those responsible to disciplinary action.

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

**PROCEDURES**

Any activity which conforms to the conduct described under the DEFINITION OF HAZING section of this policy will be referred to as hazing for the remainder of this policy.

Any complaint of hazing discovered by or reported to Edinboro University faculty or administration should be forwarded to the Vice President for Student Affairs. The Vice President for Student Affairs will review and determine the sufficiency of the complaint; assess any other relevant evidence regarding the complaint; and take action she/he deems appropriate including, but not limited to, referral of the complaint to the University Police and/or Student Affairs Staff for further investigation and appropriate action. University disciplinary action will be conducted by the Office of Student Standards.
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, "University Procedures for Responding to Off-Campus Student Behavior Complaints."

The University reserves the right to exercise its jurisdiction on matters of student behavior and discipline. 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.

**PENALTIES**

All penalties imposed under the exercise of University disciplinary authority are separate from any penalty imposed under the Anti-Hazing Law, other criminal laws or other Edinboro University Policy regulations which may apply.

As of the date this policy was first initiated, conviction under the Anti-Hazing Law of the crime of hazing was a misdemeanor of the third degree and is punishable by a jail sentence of up to one year and/or a fine of up to $2,500.

Hazing is defined as a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and is subject to the disciplinary sanctions listed in the Edinboro University of Pennsylvania Disciplinary Procedures and Student Code of Conduct, which include, but are not limited to, the imposition of probation, suspension, or dismissal.

Edinboro University may withhold diplomas or transcripts pending compliance with rules as a penalty in addition to other disciplinary sanctions imposed.

Student Organizations which have disregarded University regulations against hazing are subject to suspension or revocation of group recognition and all benefits accompanying such recognition, in addition to any other disciplinary sanctions imposed.