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COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## **Hazing Policy**

### **Policy Number 7-**

### **04**

Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania

Approved by University Senate, 4/10/2025

Issued by President Bashar W. Hanna as Policy 7-04 on 4/21/2025

Responsible Office: The Office of Student Conduct in collaboration with the Office of the Dean of Students is responsible for the policy and policy review process.

Previous Policy: PRP 4650

### **1. Purpose**

This policy is in accordance with Act 80 of 2018, the Timothy Piazza Antihazing Law, 18 Pa.C.S.§2809 et seq and Public Law 118-173-DEC. 23, 2024, “Stop Campus Hazing Act”.

### **2. Scope**

This policy applies to all students, student groups, student clubs, or other related student organizations as defined in this policy.

### **3. Definitions, Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **3.1. Definitions**

3.1.1. **Hazing**- Any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with other persons) against another person or persons regardless of the willingness of such other person or persons to participate, that-

3.1.1.1. is committed in the course of an initiation into an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in a student organization; and

3.1.1.2. causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team), of physical or psychological injury including-



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- 3.1.1.2.1. whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing of harmful substance on someone's body, or similar activity;
- 3.1.1.2.2. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or other substances;
- 3.1.1.2.3. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances;
- 3.1.1.2.4. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to preform sexual acts;
- 3.1.1.2.5. any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct;
- 3.1.1.2.6. any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law; and
- 3.1.1.2.7. any activity that induces, causes, or requires another person to perform a duty or task that involves a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Feral law;
- 3.1.1.3 results in destruction or removal of property (theft).

**3.1.2 Student Organizations-** An organization at an institution of higher education (such as a club, society, association, varsity or junior varsity athletic team, club sports team, fraternity, sorority, band, or student government) in which two or more of the members are students enrolled at the institution of higher education, whether or not the organization is established or recognized by the institution.

**3.1.3 Campus Hazing Transparency Report-** A report summarizing findings concerning any student organization (except that this shall only apply to student organizations that are established or recognized by the institution) found to be in violation of an institution's standards of conduct relating to hazing as defined within this policy.

## 3.2. Roles and Responsibilities

- 3.2.1. The Office of Student Conduct will coordinate with the Dean of Students (or designee) and related partners (for example, but not limited to: Athletics, Fraternity and Sorority Life, Student clubs and orgs.) to review the hazing policy.
- 3.2.2. Fraternity and Sorority Life, Athletics, or other partners that are responsible for student organizations, as defined in this policy, are responsible for facilitating educational hazing efforts and prevention programs.



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- 3.2.3. The Office of Student Conduct will be responsible for managing reports of hazing and subsequent adjudication or due process through the Student Code of Conduct.

## 4. Policy

- 4.1 This policy is in accordance with Act 80 of 2018, the Timothy Piazza Antihazing Law, 18 Pa.C.S. §2809 et seq and Public Law 118-173-DEC. 23, 2024, “Stop Campus Hazing Act”.
- 4.2 All acts of hazing as defined in this policy are prohibited and will be addressed and adjudicated in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Student Code of Conduct. Students found responsible for hazing are subject to suspension or expulsion. Hazing is also a criminal offense; all reports of hazing to the University will also be reported to law enforcement.
- 4.3 All student organizations are responsible for ensuring that members of their organization are trained in hazing prevention.

## 5. Procedures, Standards, and Guidelines

- 5.1. Reports of hazing should be reported through the University incident report system, which can be found at the [Office of Student Conduct](#) webpage and the [Student Complaints and Concerns](#) webpage.
- 5.2. Students that, in good faith, report hazing, may be granted amnesty (defined as safe harbor in the *Stop Campus Hazing Act*) for possible policy violations. Students reporting, must reasonably believe they were the first person to report the hazing and to remain eligible for amnesty, a student must cooperate with University Officials looking into the report of hazing. The Office of Student Conduct will make the determination as to whether or not, based on the totality of the circumstances, that a student is eligible for amnesty in relation to a report of hazing.

## 6. Compliance and Enforcement

- 6.1. All initial reports of hazing will be reviewed by the Office of Student Conduct. The Office of Student Conduct, in collaboration with the Dean of Students, will evaluate each report and determine next steps.
- 6.2. If after an investigation, it is determined that a student organization and/or individual students will be charged with Student Code of Conduct violations, the Office of Student Conduct will conduct due process as detailed in the Student



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Code of Conduct.



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- 6.3. Student organizations are responsible for hazing education and prevention for their individual organization. Student organizations that do not complete education, and maintain sufficient documentation of the efforts, should be held responsible through appropriate student organizational structures or due process. Student organizations could be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for, “Failure to Comply” in higher-level or egregious circumstances.
- 6.4. All acts of hazing will be reported to University Police.

## **7. Additional Information**

### **7.1 Supporting Documents**

- 7.1.1 [Student Code of Conduct](#)
- 7.1.2 [Student Complaints and Concerns](#)
- 7.1.3 [8 Pa. C.S. § 2802](#)
- 7.1.4 [Timothy J. Piazza Antihazing Law](#)
- 7.1.5 [The Hazing Prevention Network](#)
- 7.1.6 [StopHazing resources](#)
- 7.1.7 [The Anti-Hazing Coalition](#)

### **7.2 History**

7.2.1 Every University policy will undergo a regular review on a five-year cycle, with approximately 20% of the total policies inventory being reviewed each year. This review will be conducted by the responsible division/office to assure that the policy remains relevant and aligns with applicable federal and state laws and regulations, PASSHE Board of Governors policies, and other University policies, procedures, standards, or guidelines.

### **7.3 Related Policies**

- 7.3.1 [Student Code of Conduct](#)
- 7.3.2 [Student Complaints and Concerns](#)



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#### **7.4 Contacts for additional information**

7.4.1 Office of Student Conduct, Commonwealth University, [studentconduct@commonwealthu.edu](mailto:studentconduct@commonwealthu.edu);  
(570) 389-4734

7.4.2 Dean of Students Office, Commonwealth University, [deanofstudents@commonwealthu.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@commonwealthu.edu);  
(570) 389-4734