

# POLICY



Widener University

## ANTI-HAZING POLICY

---

**Policy Status:**

Active

**Responsible Executive(s):**

Vice President, Student Engagement and Transformation & Dean of Students

**Responsible Office(s):**

Office of the Dean of Students, Office of Student Conduct, Office of Campus Safety, and the Office of Student Engagement

**Contact(s):**

Fred McCall, Vice President for Student Engagement and Transformation

Carlyle Lawrence, Assistant Dean of Students, Office of Student Conduct

Austin Duckett, Assistant Dean of Students, Office of Student Engagement

Allison Taddei, Director, Office of Campus Safety

# POLICY



Widener University

## ANTI-HAZING POLICY

---

### POLICY STATEMENT

Widener University, a leading private tri-state university, prohibits all acts of hazing and adheres to all state and federal anti-hazing laws, including the Timothy J. Piazza Antihazing Law, the Delaware Anti-Hazing Law, and the federal Stop Campus Hazing Act. Any violation of this policy shall be deemed a violation of the applicable Widener University *Student Code of Conduct* and may also constitute a violation of the Widener University Equal Opportunity, Harassment and Nondiscrimination Policy.

### SCOPE AND EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy applies to all Widener University students and employees enrolled or employed at all three campuses located in Pennsylvania and Delaware. The effective date of this policy is June 23, 2025. Obligations for recording and reporting hazing incidents and outcomes began as early as August 2013.

### DEFINITIONS

- A. The Pennsylvania Timothy J. Piazza Anti-hazing law defines hazing to include Hazing, Aggravated Hazing, and Organizational Hazing as set forth below:
  - a. **HAZING.** A person commits the offense of hazing 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 or participate in any of the following behaviors or actions:
    - i. Violate federal or state criminal law;
    - ii. Consume any food, liquid, alcoholic liquid, drug or other substance which subjects the minor or student to a risk of emotional or physical harm;

# POLICY



Widener University

- iii. Endure brutality of a physical nature, including whipping, beating, branding, calisthenics or exposure to the elements;
  - iv. 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.
  - v. Endure brutality of a sexual nature; or
  - vi. Endure any other activity that creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to the minor or student. Hazing also includes any action or situation that requires or encourages violation of University policy.
- b. **AGGRAVATED HAZING.** A person commits the offense of aggravated hazing if the person commits a violation of 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 student.
- c. **ORGANIZATIONAL HAZING.** An organization commits the offense of organizational hazing if the organization intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly promotes or facilitates a violation of Hazing or Aggravated Hazing.
- B. The Delaware Anti-hazing Law defines hazing as any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, or which willfully destroys or removes public or private property 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 learning.
- a. Hazing includes, but is not limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the

# POLICY



Widener University

elements, forced consumption of food, liquor, drugs or any other substance, or any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health and safety of the individual, and shall include any activity which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual, or any willful destruction or removal of public or private property. For purposes of the Delaware Anti-hazing Law, any activity upon which the admission or initiation into or affiliation with or continued membership in an organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be “forced” activity, the willingness of the individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.

Any student, student group, student organization (recognized or not), team, or other persons associated with a student group or organization found responsible for Hazing, Aggravated Hazing, or Organizational Hazing, under this policy, whether occurring on or off campus, may face disciplinary action from the University, and may also face criminal charges under state law or federal law. It is not a defense that the consent of the minor or student was sought or obtained, or that an instance of hazing was sanctioned or approved by the organization.

- C. Under the federal Stop Campus Hazing Act (“SCHA”), hazing means 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:
- a. is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in, a student organization; and
  - b. 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:

# POLICY



Widener University

- i. whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing harmful substance on someone's body, or similar activity.
- ii. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity.
- iii. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances.
- iv. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to perform sexual acts;
- v. any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct;
- vi. any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of local, state, tribal, or federal law; and
- vii. 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 federal law.

- c. Under this policy and in accordance with the SCHA, "student organization" is defined as an organization at Widener University (such as a club, society, association, varsity or junior varsity athletic team, club sports team, fraternity, sorority, band, or student government or other group of enrolled students) in which two or more of the members of the group are students enrolled or intend to be enrolled at Widener University whether or not the organization is established or recognized by the institution.

**D. UNIVERSITY OR INSTITUTION.** For the purpose of this policy, the term "university" or "institution" refers to Widener University including all campuses located in Pennsylvania and Delaware.

# POLICY



Widener University

## REPORTING VIOLATIONS OF THIS POLICY

Widener University encourages all members of the campus community who believe that they have witnessed, experienced, or are aware of conduct that constitutes Hazing, Aggravated Hazing, or Organizational Hazing in violation of this policy to report the violation to the applicable Office of Student Conduct. All reports of hazing will be investigated promptly and shared with the appropriate departments. Members of the University community are able to report violations in the following ways:

- Report an incident online by using the [Hazing Incident Report Form](#).
- Visit the Office of Student Conduct located on the main level of the University Center or call the office by dialing (610) 499-4391.
- Visit the Campus Safety Department located on the ground level of Old Main or call the office by dialing (610) 499-4200.

## POLICY VIOLATION CONSEQUENCES

Any student, student organization (recognized or not), employee, team, or other persons associated with a student organization found responsible of Hazing, Aggravated Hazing, or Organizational Hazing under this policy, whether occurring on or off campus, may face disciplinary action from the University, and may also face criminal charges under state law or federal law. Disciplinary sanctions for students and employees will be in line with the appropriate student, faculty, or staff handbook.

## PREVENTION AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS

Widener University will offer research-informed, campus-wide education and prevention programming designed to reach all members of the University community which addresses this policy, how to report Hazing, information about the University's hazing response process, applicable federal, state, local and tribal laws, and primary prevention strategies, including digital and in-person resources. The goals of all educational and prevention programming shall include:

- To raise awareness about hazing and hazing prevention efforts.

# POLICY



Widener University

- To equip members of the University community with the knowledge and skills to identify and prevent hazing in all forms and in all environments.
- To foster a culture of respect and inclusivity within groups and organizations.

Widener University offers the following ongoing and annual programming and prevention programs:

- National Hazing Prevention Week Program
- Risk Management Workshops for Fraternities and Sororities
- Bystander intervention training for new students, athletic teams, and other groups
- Student Organization Policy Training Workshops

## PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

As required by the Stop Campus Hazing Act and the Timothy J. Piazza Anti-Hazing Law, the University will publicly [report a summary of findings](#) concerning any student organization found to be in violation of the Student Code of Conduct related to hazing. Reports of hazing policies and statistics shall also be published in the [Annual Security and Fire Safety Report](#), with statistical reporting commencing on October 1, 2026.

## CAMPUS HAZING TRANSPARENCY REPORT

Widener University will publish findings of hazing violations committed by an established or recognized University student organization in a Campus Hazing Transparency Report starting on December 23, 2025, for the period beginning July 1, 2025, and updated bi-annually thereafter. Bi-annual updates will only be made to the report when new hazing violations have occurred. The report will be published on the University's website.

For each incident where an established or recognized Student Organization was found to have committed a hazing violation, the report will include details of the incident, including, without limitation, the date of the hazing violation, the name of the organization and a description of the violation. The report will not include personally identifiable information, as defined in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

# POLICY



Widener University

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Role	Responsibility
<b>Assistant Dean of Students – Office of Student Conduct</b>	Receives all hazing incident report forms, convenes the necessary departments to review all allegations, and oversees all conduct processes as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.
<b>Assistant Dean of Students – Office of Student Engagement</b>	Assists with the adjudication of hazing incidents involving recognized student clubs and organizations.
<b>Campus Safety Department</b>	Addresses immediate threats to campus safety, consults on or assists with investigations related to reported incidents.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS AND FORMS

- [Hazing Incident Report Form](#)
- [Widener University Student Handbook](#)
- [Annual Security and Fire Safety Report](#)
- [Delaware Law School Student Handbook](#)
- [Commonwealth Law School Student Handbook](#)

## RELATED POLICIES

- [Timothy J. Piazza Anti-Hazing Law](#)
- [Delaware Anti-Hazing Law](#)
- [Stop Campus Hazing Act](#)



# POLICY



Widener University

## UPDATE LOG

Date	Name	Change
6/21/25	Austin Duckett	Policy, and related web updates, made in compliance with Delaware Anti-Hazing Law and the federal Stop Campus Hazing Act.

**Date Approved:**

July 16, 2025

**Date Published:**

July 16, 2025

**Effective Date:**

June 23, 2025