

# Cheyney University Policy SA-2010-3005

## Policy on Hazing

**Approved by:** Student Affairs Council/ President's Cabinet

**History:** Issued -- 4-22-2010

**Related Policies:** n/a

**Additional References:** n/a

### **A. Policy**

The most damaging instrument to student groups/organizations (social, honor, service, athletic) is the employment of a program of education, pledging or membership which includes hazing. This counterproductive and hazardous custom has no rightful place in any student group/organization.

Hazing at Cheyney University is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Hazing risks human lives, brutalizes everyone involved, and jeopardizes the very existence of student groups/organizations on the Cheyney University campus.

### **B. Definition**

The Pennsylvania Hazing Law mandates that colleges and universities across the Commonwealth adopt policies prohibiting hazing. Such policies are intended to ensure that students and other persons connected with organizations recognized by the institution do not engage in any activity that can be construed as hazing. Students and student organizations found to be in violation of this policy will be dealt with severely, both by judicial action and criminal prosecution.

"Hazing" as defined by the Pennsylvania Hazing Law is:

"Any action or situation created, which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student or which willfully destroys or removes public 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 education. The term shall include, but not be limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or 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

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which would result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which would adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual, or any willful destruction or removal of public property or which is personally degrading or violates any federal, state, local statute or university policy is also considered hazing.<sup>1</sup>

In addition to hazing, the following is considered to be a violation:

- A. Conducting or participating in unapproved membership intake activities on campus or off;
- B. Participating in on-campus or off-campus membership intake activities by an approved or unrecognized Greek letter or social organization outside of the intake window approved by the university (pre-pledging). Furthermore, any inductee (pledge) who willingly participates in any act of hazing will also be considered in violation of this policy.

#### **C. Procedure**

- 1. The officers, primarily the president of each organization, are responsible for informing members (pledges/new members, associate members, affiliates, guests, alumni) of the hazing policy. The policy will be read by the president of the organization to the membership at the first meeting of the organization each semester and will be posted in a prominent place for the members to see. Prospective members (pledges, postulates, etc.), hereafter referred to as pledges, will be informed of the time and place of all activities and a schedule should be included in an education manual.
- 2. Any person experiencing or witnessing an action in violation of this policy is encouraged to report the incident to the Director of Student Standards and/or Coordinator of Greek Life. Appropriate university disciplinary procedures and municipal and State statutes are applicable, including House Bill 749, the Anti-Hazing Law.
- 3. All social fraternities and sororities must file the Anti-Hazing Compliance Form with the Coordinator of Greek Life one week prior to the beginning of each pledge period. Other organizations will file with the Director of Student Standards.
- 4. Cases of alleged violations of this policy may be thoroughly investigated by a representative panel of students and faculty/administrators and may result in suspension of all pledge activities during the period of investigation. If cleared of the charges, the pledges must complete the entire pledging period before initiation, as determined by the Coordinator of Greek Life or the Director of Student Standards.

#### **Lodging Complaints**

The following groups or individuals may lodge a complaint concerning this policy:

Any student organization as a group.

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<sup>1</sup> Cheyney Student Code of Conduct

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Any individual member of a student organization.  
Any pledge/associate member of a student organization.  
Any probationary student organization as a group.

Any probationary member.  
Advisor of a student organization.

Alumni of a student organization.  
Any individual affiliated with the university.

**Sanctions**

Sanctions will be in line with the University Judicial Code.

In cases of violations, the operations of the organizations/group will be reviewed by the Director of Student Standards and the national organization may be involved where applicable. A statement of expectations and guidelines will be developed for the organization to follow. Official warnings for minor violations, in cases where no previous disciplinary record is indicated, may be issued by the Director of Student Standards.

**Please Note:**

Any student who participates in hazing is subject to the University Judicial system and may be suspended or expelled from the university. Hazing is a criminal offense. Any student who participates in hazing may be arrested and prosecuted. Convictions may result in applicable penalty under the Pennsylvania Crimes Code.