

Antihazing Policy

As a University in the Catholic tradition, Immaculata encourages students to form bonds of loyalty and commitment with all members of the campus community. However, some forms of group bonding, such as hazing, are strictly prohibited.

No recognized organization may have as a condition for initial membership or continued membership any activity which can be defined as hazing or any behavior the performance of which violates a person's conscience, good judgment or norms generally accepted as governing behavior in society.

Hazing is prohibited by both the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Immaculata University. Hazing is defined 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 membership in an organization." Such activities shall be presumed to be "forced" activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.

By way of example, the following behaviors are considered a violation of this policy, regardless of whether they meet the definition of "hazing":

1. Transporting a student against the student's will;
2. The marking or branding of a student;
3. Preventing a student from fulfilling academic responsibilities;
4. Requiring a student to eat or drink against the student's will;
5. Requesting or requiring a student to perform personal service or acts of servitude;
6. Paddling and/or striking in any manner;
7. Preventing a student from practicing personal hygiene;
8. Causing a student to be indecently exposed;
9. Coercing a student into violating state or federal law or University policy;
10. Requiring a student to dress or act in a manner causing ridicule or humiliation;
11. Any forced physical activity or forced calisthenics; and
12. Any activity that would subject the individual to extreme mental stress such as sleep deprivation or forced exclusion from social contact.

Organizations or individual members of organizations that violate the University's policy on hazing and related behaviors may result in disciplinary action, including the student organization losing University recognition.

The policy is contained in the University's Policy Manual, Vol. VI, Non-Academic Student Life Policies, Section 6.5.1.16 *Hazing*.

IMMACULATA UNIVERSITY ANTIHAZING POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL VIOLATION REPORT
August 2022

Institutional Violation Report

The following is a compilation of reported violations of the University's Antihazing Policy or related federal or state laws for the previous five years.

Subject	Date of Charge(s)	Details	Date of Resolution
Eta Phi Tau Sorority	May 5, 2017	<p><u>Description</u> During February and March 2017, potential new members of the sorority :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were driven in a car while blindfolded to an area on campus and then were instructed to walk along a campus path while still blindfolded. • “Bobbed” for onions. • Performed personal tasks for current sorority members. • Performed embarrassing activities including wearing unusual clothing and makeup, and participating in “Truth or Dare” questioning. • Received verbal abuse while participating in new member activities. <p><u>Findings</u> Interviews with potential new and current members of the sorority confirmed that the listed activities did take place as part of the new member process. As a result, it was determined the sorority violated the university's antihazing policy.</p> <p><u>Penalties</u> The sorority was placed on one year suspension. All members were required to perform community service and complete educational programming.</p>	July 14, 2017
Omicron Pi Epsilon Sorority	May 5, 2017	<p><u>Description</u> During February and March 2017, potential new members of the sorority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performed personal tasks for current sorority members. • Wore costumes while conducting a scavenger hunt. • Had to take bites of apples and onions. • Performed calisthenics during “Exercise Hour”. • Performed various late night activities and stayed up all night once during “Hell Week”. • Received verbal abuse while participating in new member activities. • 	July 19, 2017

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		<p><u>Findings</u> Interviews with potential new and current members of the sorority confirmed that the listed activities did take place as part of the new member process. As a result, it was determined the sorority violated the university's anti-hazing policy.</p> <p><u>Penalties</u> The sorority was placed on one year suspension. All members were required to complete educational programming.</p>	
Alpha Xi	August 28, 2019	<p><u>Description</u> A member of the sorority wrote a letter stating that in a previous academic year, potential new members were led around outside in cold weather while they were blindfolded. They were kept outside until 4:00 am the night before mid-term exams and were not permitted to use the bathroom.</p> <p><u>Findings</u> The reporting sorority member would not provide specific dates or additional details to investigators. Other sorority members and potential new members were interviewed. They denied that this activity occurred while they were in the sorority. No information was discovered to corroborate the hazing described in the letter.</p> <p>No further action was taken.</p>	September 30, 2019
Omicron Pi Epsilon Sorority	October 22, 2019	<p><u>Description</u> A potential new member of the sorority reported on a planned activity involving dancing blindfolded and previous activities this semester, including a scavenger hunt and skits.</p> <p><u>Findings</u> Interviews with potential new members and current members of the sorority could not confirm that any past or planned activities violated the University's anti-hazing policy or could be considered hazing.</p> <p>No further action was taken.</p>	October 25, 2019