



The College at  
**BROCKPORT**  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

**POLICY TITLE: Hazing Policy**

**OVERVIEW:** This policy defines hazing and informs students and organizations of possible disciplinary action(s) when found in violation of The College's hazing policy. Students and organizations may also be subject to criminal prosecution for violation of the New York state anti-hazing law.

**OFFICE/DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE:** Student Conduct Office

**DATE UPDATED:** Approved by the College Council on April 4, 2006

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**STATEMENT OF POSITION**

The College at Brockport recognizes that student groups and athletic teams are integral parts of campus life. They provide leadership opportunities, social and academic support, scholarship, friendship and community service. The College has an obligation to protect the environment within which they operate. All students are expected to conduct themselves responsibly and respect the rights of their fellow citizens. Any departure from these standards may result in disciplinary action.

**DEFINITIONS**

For purposes of this policy:

- A. Organization means an athletic team, association, club sports, order, society, corps, cooperative, student organization, fraternity, sorority or other similar group that is affiliated with the College and whose membership consists primarily of students enrolled at the College. Organization includes a local chapter, unit or other local division consisting primarily of students, regardless of the nature of membership of the larger public or private organization.
- B. The term "student" includes all persons taking courses at The College at Brockport, either fulltime or part time, matriculated or non-matriculated, pursuing undergraduate, graduate, or professional studies. Persons who withdraw after allegedly violating the *Code of Student Social Conduct*, who are not officially enrolled for a particular term but who have a continuing relationship with The College at Brockport or who have been notified of their acceptance for admission are considered "students" as are persons who are living in The College at Brockport residence halls, although not enrolled in this institution. The *Code of Student Social Conduct* apply at all locations of The College at Brockport, including the MetroCenter. Student means any person who is enrolled at The College at Brockport.

**CODE OF STUDENT SOCIAL CONDUCT**

Hazing is any action or situation in the course of a person's initiation, admission into, or membership in an organization that:

- a. recklessly or intentionally endangers her/his emotional or physical health; and/or
- b. is intended to humiliate another person; and/or
- c. destroys, defaces, or removes public or private property; and/or

- d. constitutes any other illegal act.

The College at Brockport prohibits any recognized student organization from engaging collectively or individually in the following practices as part of initiation into or affiliation with any organization. The College at Brockport endorses the definition of hazing to include: Any mental or physical requirement, request or obligation placed upon any person (pledge, associate member, member, affiliate or guest) that could cause discomfort, pain, fright, disgrace or injury, or that is personally degrading or that violates any federal, state, local statute or College policy.

The New York state law states that a person is guilty of hazing when, in the course of another person's initiation into or affiliation with any organization, s/he intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct that creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person and thereby causes such injury. This offense is now a Class A misdemeanor, which may be punishable by:

- a. Three (3) years probation and up to \$1000 fine.
- b. One (1) year in jail and up to \$1000 fine.
- c. Sixty (60) days in jail, three (3) years probation and up to \$1000 fine.
- d. Conditional discharge and up to \$1000 fine.
- e. Facing permanent criminal record.

All students and/or student groups are also subject to College disciplinary actions for any hazing policy violations.

A person(s) or organization(s) may be charged with hazing under the *Code of Student Social Conduct* according to Respect for the Dignity of the Person, #16. Sanctions to persons found responsible of hazing range up to and include expulsion. Sanctions for organizations found responsible of hazing range up to and include permanent loss of recognition and possible criminal charges against the organization's leaders and/or members. Charges of hazing are referred to and investigated by University Police and/or the local municipal law enforcement agency having legal jurisdiction.

Any questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Office of the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs at (585) 395-2137.

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Links to New York State law on Hazing:

Hazing 1st Degree and Hazing 2nd Degree — Sections 120.16 and 120.17  
<http://ypdcrime.com/penal.law/article120.htm>

Sentences for Misdemeanors and Violations — Section 70.15  
<http://ypdcrime.com/penal.law/article70.htm>