Anti-Hazing Policy

Misericordia University is committed to providing a learning environment that is free of violence and supports the health and well-being of its students. Our core values guide and govern the actions of our community. Intentional behaviors that put a person at risk of physical and/or emotional harm are an affront to the dignity of the individual and are at odds with the values and mission of the University.

This Anti-Hazing Policy applies to behaviors that take place on the campus, at University sponsored events, and may also apply to off campus events, when the administration determines, in its discretion, that the off-campus conduct affects a substantial University interest. Sanctions can be applied to individuals, and/or organizations, clubs and athletic teams.

Prohibited Conduct

Hazing

Misericordia University has no tolerance for hazing. Hazing is defined by Pennsylvania law\*, and for purposes of this Policy, as follows: When a person “intentionally, knowingly or recklessly,” for the purpose of initiating, admitting, or affiliating a student into or with a club, organization, or athletic team, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing a student’s membership or status in a club, organization, or an athletic team, causes, coerces, or forces a student to do any of the following:

* Violate federal or state criminal law
* Consume any food, liquid, alcoholic liquid, drug or other substance which subjects the student to a risk of emotional or physical harm
* Endure brutality of a physical nature, including whipping, beating, branding, calisthenics, or exposure to the elements
* 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
* Endure brutality of a sexual nature (link to definitions section of Title IX)
* Endure any other activity that creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to the student.

The above types of behavior will be considered hazing even if the student consents to the activity or if the conduct was sanctioned by the club, organization, or athletic team.

\* See PA State Law: [Timothy J. Piazza Antihazing Law](https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/uconsCheck.cfm?yr=2018&sessInd=0&act=80)

Aggravated Hazing

Aggravated Hazing is defined by Pennsylvania law\*, and for purposes of this Policy, as follows:

A person, club, organization or athletic team commits aggravated hazing when the hazing results in serious bodily injury or death to a student and:

* the person, club, organization, or athletic team acts with reckless indifference to the health and safety of a student; or
* the person, club, organization, or athletic team causes, coerces for forces the consumption of an alcoholic liquid or drug by the student.

(Note: Aggravated hazing is a felony of the third degree and will automatically result in the University contacting local law enforcement as well as utilizing the University Conduct System. The University retains the right to contact law enforcement in all hazing incidents.)

\* See PA State Law: [Timothy J. Piazza Antihazing Law](https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/uconsCheck.cfm?yr=2018&sessInd=0&act=80)

Organizational Hazing

An organization, club, or athletic team that intentionally, knowingly or recklessly promotes or facilitates hazing or aggravated hazing commits the offense of organizational hazing and will be held accountable by the University. Organizational hazing is also violative of Pennsylvania law\*, and subject to penalties as set forth in the law.

\* See PA State Law: [Timothy J. Piazza Antihazing Law](https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/uconsCheck.cfm?yr=2018&sessInd=0&act=80)

Sanctions

Individuals and/or clubs, organizations or athletic teams can be found responsible for hazing or aggravated hazing. The following is a list of sanctions that can be applied by the University if a violation of this policy occurs:

* Educational Sanctions (link to list of educational sanctions)
* Status Sanctions (link to list of status sanctions)
* Club, Organization or Athletic Team Probation
* Club, Organization or Athletic Team Suspension
* Revocation of the club or organization charter

This listing does not include those sanctions that an individual, club, organization, or athletic team could also be subject to pursuant to law, including, but not limited to, the Pennsylvania Antihazing Law, 18 Pa.C.S. § 2801, et seq.

Safe Harbor

Under certain specific conditions, and consistent with PA state law, when a student seeks medical assistance for another student who is believed to be in need of immediate medical attention to prevent death or serious bodily injury due to hazing, neither the student who is in need of medical attention nor the student who has reported it will be charged with violations of the Anti-Hazing policy.

See *Amnesty Policy for Medical Emergencies involving Drugs/Alcohol/Hazing* for more information.

See *PA State Law Regarding Alcohol Amnesty* ***- 18Pa.C.S.§ 6308.1. Safe Harbor***for more information.

See *PA State Law Regarding Drug Amnesty* ***– PA Act 139 Section 13.7***for more information.

ReporTING

Anyone can report concerns related to hazing by submitting a form online. This Incident Reporting form can be found [here](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MisericordiaUniv&layout_id=3).