

# Alvernia University Antihazing Policy

## Section I: Policy Statement

Consistent with its Catholic Franciscan mission, it is the express intent of Alvernia University that hazing of any type will not be tolerated. Any student, student group, student organization, 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, up to and including expulsion, and may also face criminal charges under state law including, but not limited to, prosecution pursuant to The Timothy J. Piazza Antihazing Law, 18 Pa. C.S. § 2801, et seq.

## Section II: Purpose

The purpose of this document is to state Alvernia University Anti-Hazing Policy; identify the manner in which Alvernia University will enforce this Policy; and identify resources for reporting violations of this Policy.

**Section III: Application** – It is the express intent of Alvernia University that this policy shall apply to each of the following:

- Individual students – this includes all enrolled students, any prospective students (including recruits) and any students who have been admitted to the University.
- Organizations – this includes all registered student organizations, teams, honor societies, student groups affiliated with specific departments (ex: student ambassadors, orientation leaders, resident assistants, tutors, etc.)
- Other persons associated with an organization – this includes any advisors, alumni, coaches and any representatives, directors, trustees or officers of any nationals or parent organization.

## Section IV: Jurisdiction

This Policy applies to any acts of Hazing, Aggravated Hazing, or Organizational Hazing, as hereinafter defined, occurring on or off campus.

## Section V: Prohibited Acts

Alvernia University adheres to The Timothy J. Piazza Antihazing Law. The Timothy J. Piazza Antihazing Law defines hazing to include: Hazing, Aggravated Hazing, and Organizational Hazing. Hazing, Aggravated Hazing, and Organizational Hazing (defined below) are each prohibited by Alvernia University Policy. It shall not be a defense that the consent of the minor or student was sought or obtained. It is also not a defense that the conduct was sanctioned or approved by the organization.

**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 any of the items listed below in (1) – (6). Hazing shall NOT include reasonable and customary athletic, law enforcement or military training, contests, competitions or events.

1. Violate Federal or State criminal law;
2. Consume any food, liquid, alcoholic liquid, drug or other substance which subjects the minor or student to a risk of emotional or physical harm;
3. Endure brutality of a physical nature, including whipping, beating, branding, calisthenics or exposure to the elements;
4. 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;
5. Endure brutality of a sexual nature;
6. Endure any other activity that creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to the minor or student.

**Aggravated Hazing:** A person commits the offense of aggravated hazing if the person commits a violation of Hazing that results in serious bodily injury i.e. bodily injury that creates a substantial risk of death or which causes serious, permanent disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ, 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.

**Organizational Hazing:** An organization commits the offence of Organizational Hazing if the organization intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly promotes or facilitates a violation of Hazing or Aggravated Hazing.

## **Section VI: Reporting Violations of this Policy**

Alvernia University encourages all members of the Alvernia University 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:

1. Director of Public Safety
2. Vice-President for Enrollment and University Life
3. Dean of Students

## **Section VII: Enforcement of this Policy**

Any violation of this Policy shall be deemed a violation of Alvernia University Code of Citizenship and applicable laws. All allegations of Hazing, Aggravated Hazing, or Organizational Hazing will be investigated by Public Safety and referred to Community Standards for follow up.

## **Section VIII: Sanctions**

Anyone found responsible for violating this Policy may face disciplinary action as stated in the Student Handbook including expulsion from the University.

## **Section IX: Institutional Bi-Annual Report**

Alvernia University will maintain a report of all violations of this Policy or of Federal or State laws related to hazing that are reported to Alvernia University. Alvernia University will update the report biennially on January 1 and August 1 and will post the updated report on its publicly accessible Internet website.