

Princeton University Biannual Update on Hazing- February 1, 2023

The University strongly prohibits hazing on campus and within the University community and publishes this report in accordance with N.J.S.A. § 18A:3-27.4. Members of our community are informed that hazing is a violation of New Jersey law as well as a violation of University policy (*Rights, Rules, Responsibilities 2.2.7*).

In accordance with N.J.S.A. § 18A:3-27.4, a copy of this biannual update will be posted on the website of the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students. This report includes, for the reporting period of August 1, 2022 through February 1, 2023, (1) all adjudicated violations of the University's policy prohibiting hazing, and (2) all violations of federal or state laws relating to hazing that are reported to the University. This report will include the following details of each case: (a) the date the subject was charged with a violation of the applicable policy / law; (b) a description of the violation, any investigation and findings, and if applicable, the penalties imposed; and (c) the date on which the matter was resolved.

Listed below are the New Jersey law and the University's policy on hazing and acceptable behavior.

New Jersey Law

- a. A person is guilty of hazing, if, in connection with initiation of applicants to or members of a student or fraternal organization, whose membership is primarily students or alumni of the organization or an institution of higher education, the person knowingly or recklessly:
 1. causes, coerces, or otherwise induces another person to commit an act that violates federal or State criminal law;
 2. causes, coerces, or otherwise induces another person to consume any food, liquid, alcoholic liquid, drug or other substance which subjects the person to a risk of emotional or physical harm or is otherwise deleterious to the person's health;
 3. subjects another person to abuse, mistreatment, harassment, or degradation of a physical nature, including, but not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, excessive calisthenics, or exposure to the elements;
 4. subjects another person to abuse, mistreatment, harassment, or degradation of a mental or emotional nature, including, but not limited to, activity adversely affecting the mental or emotional health or dignity of the individual, sleep deprivation, exclusion from social contact, or conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment;
 5. subjects another person to abuse, mistreatment, harassment, or degradation of a sexual nature; or
 6. subjects another person to any other activity that creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to the person.

Hazing shall not include any reasonable and customary athletic, law enforcement, or military training; contests; competitions; or events.

- b. Hazing is a crime of the third degree if an actor commits an act of hazing which results in death or serious bodily injury to another person and is a crime of the fourth degree if the actor commits an act of hazing which results in bodily injury to another person. Otherwise, hazing is a disorderly persons offense.
- c. In addition to any other sanctions or penalties that may be imposed under law, knowingly or recklessly promoting or facilitating a person to commit an act of hazing shall be subject to a fine under law of not less than \$1,000 or more than \$5,000 for an initial violation, and a fine of not less than \$5,000 or more than \$15,000 for each subsequent violation.

N.J.S.A. § 2C:40-3.

Consent shall not be available as a defense to a prosecution under law, and it shall not be an affirmative defense to a prosecution under law that the conduct in which the actor engaged was sanctioned or approved. N.J.S.A. § 2C:40-4.

Conduct constituting an offense under the law may be prosecuted under any applicable provision of Title 2C:40 of the New Jersey Statutes. N.J.S.A. § 2C:40-5.

University Policy Prohibiting Hazing (*Rights, Rules, Responsibilities 2.2.7*)

Any student shall have the right to be free of all activities which might constitute hazing, while attempting to become a member of, or maintain membership in, a fraternity, sorority, athletic team, student organization, eating club, or other organization. Organizations, their members, and their prospective members are prohibited from engaging in or encouraging others to engage in activities that are defined as hazing.

Hazing encompasses a broad range of behaviors that (a) may place another person in danger of bodily injury, or (b) that demonstrates indifference or disregard for another person's dignity or well-being.

Examples of hazing include but are not limited to the following:

Ingestion of alcohol, food, drugs, or any undesirable substance.

Participation in sexual rituals or assaults.

Emotionally or psychologically abusive or demeaning behavior.

Acts that could result in physical, psychological, or emotional deprivation or harm.

Physical abuse, e.g., whipping, paddling, beating, tattooing, branding, and exposure to the elements, or the threat of such behaviors.

Participation in illegal activities or activities prohibited by University policy.

Requiring nudity.

Requiring the completion of errands.

Where an activity amounts to hazing, a person's consent to the activity is not a defense. In order to encourage students who may hesitate to report incidents of hazing for fear of revealing other policy violations, the University may offer leniency to a reporting student with respect to the behavior reported, depending on the circumstances involved.

See also *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities* Section [1.4](#), providing that members of the University community are expected to act in accordance with applicable law.

Acceptable Behavior

Any new member initiation process should be conducted in a manner that respects the dignity of new members and protects their mental and physical well-being. Examples of acceptable behavior include the promotion of scholarship or service, the development of leadership or social skills or of career goals, involvement with alumni, building an awareness of organizational history, development of a sense of solidarity with other organization members, or activities that otherwise promote the mission of the organization or of the University.

For additional information, see <https://odus.princeton.edu/community-standards/hazing>.

Fraternities and Sororities (*Rights, Rules, Responsibilities 2.2.8.*)

The University does not recognize fraternities and sororities because, in general, they do not add in positive ways to the overall residential experience on the campus. These organizations can contribute to a sense of social exclusiveness and often place an excessive emphasis on alcohol. Students are discouraged from participating in these organizations. Sororities and fraternities are not permitted to use any University resources or participate in University-sponsored events (e.g., Student Activities Fair, Princeton Preview Program, etc.).

Any individual experiencing or witnessing behavior suspected of hazing is encouraged to report the behavior by calling the Department of Public Safety, filing a report through the anonymous EthicsPoint hotline, or contacting their residential college dean or the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students. All good-faith reports of hazing will be taken seriously and thoroughly investigated by the University.

Princeton University’s Biannual Update- February 1, 2023

(Reporting Period of March 1, 2022 through February 1, 2023)

Date Subject was Charged with Violation	Subject/ Organization	Description of Violation	Findings	Penalty	Date Resolved
8/17/22	Members of student organization	Four (4) students organized a student organization initiation process, during which students were falsely told they were participating in a “second tryout” and that resulted in new members being criticized, intimidated, or demeaned during the initiation process. They also served alcohol to minors. One (1) student was held responsible as a member who helped with the initiation process and had an unrelated alcohol policy violation.	Responsible for participation in hazing as members, alcohol policy violations	6 months of disciplinary probation (4 students); 4 months of disciplinary probation (1 student)	8/22/22
	Members of student organization	Seventeen (17) students attended a student organization initiation process, during which students were falsely told they were participating in a “second tryout” and that resulted in new members being criticized, intimidated,	Responsible for participation in hazing as members	Reprimand	8/22/22

		or demeaned during the initiation process. They helped in some way by either staffing stations for the “tryout” or picking up students and bringing them to the event.			
12/16/22	Students in fraternity	Three (3) students organized events as pledges/new members or as members. In these events, new members (including minors) were encouraged to consume foods, liquids, and alcoholic beverages in a manner that risked physical and emotional harm, and were made to participate in physically and emotionally demeaning and/or dangerous conduct that placed the new members at a substantial risk of physical injury and other harms, and which resulted in physical injury to some new members.	Responsible for participation in hazing as member and new member; high-risk alcohol violations, and disorderly conduct	Withheld degree for two years (2 students); Suspension for two years (1 student)	1/23/23
12/16/22	Students in fraternity	Twenty-four (24) students attended events as a member or a new member/pledge. In these events, new members were encouraged to consume foods, liquids, and alcoholic beverages in a manner that risked physical and emotional harm, and participated in physically and emotionally demeaning and/or dangerous	Responsible for participating in hazing as a prospective member/pledge (24 students); hazing as a member (10 students); dishonesty (15 students); disorderly conduct (11); failure to get	Suspension for one year (4 students) to 18 months (1 student); suspension for one semester (10 students); withheld degree for one semester (2 students);	1/23/23

		<p>conduct that carried a substantial risk of physical injury and other harms. Ten (10) of those students also attended similar events as members where pledges experienced similar conduct once they were members. Fifteen (15) of those students were part of a deliberate and systemic effort to withhold information from investigators and provide incomplete and inaccurate information. Two (2) of those students failed to cooperate with the investigation.</p>	<p>help for student who was having an adverse nicotine reaction (3 students); and non-cooperation (2 students). Censure was added in some cases to underscore the seriousness of the conduct.</p>	<p>48 months of disciplinary probation (2 students); 24 months of disciplinary probation (1 student); 15 months of disciplinary probation (1 student); 12 months of disciplinary probation (2 students); 9 months of disciplinary probation (1 student). Seven (7) students who were suspended had censure added to their penalty for their dishonesty or failure to get help or to underscore the seriousness of their conduct. Factors considered in issuing penalties included whether the students</p>	
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				participated in hazing as both a pledge/new member and as a member, whether they were dishonest and their level of dishonesty, whether they had additional charges for failure to get help or non-cooperation, whether they were particularly cooperative with the investigation, and the seriousness of their conduct.	
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