

Anti-Hazing Policy

Purpose:

Raritan Valley Community seeks to promote an environment where students may participate in activities, teams and organizations without compromising their health, safety, or welfare. It is therefore the College's policy that hazing is prohibited. The impact of hazing activities can result in irrevocable harm to their victims, victims' families, and the college community.

Authority:

This College policy draws its authority from the following source(s).

- New Jersey Public Law 2021 c.208

Definition:

"Hazing" means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a student, whether individually or in concert with other persons, against another student, and in which both of the following apply:

- The act was committed in connection with an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in any organization that is affiliated with the College; and
- The act contributes to a substantial risk of potential physical injury, mental harm, or degradation; or causes physical injury, mental harm, or personal degradation.

Even if a person consents to an act that constitutes hazing, it does not mean the action does not violate policy. Students will still be held accountable for the act. Hazing, shall not include any reasonable and customary athletic, law enforcement, or military training, contests, competitions, or events.

Policy Statement:

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, they knowingly or recklessly organizes, promotes, facilitates or engages in any conduct which places or may place another person in danger of bodily injury. Examples of hazing include but are not limited to any of the following behaviors that causes, coerces, or forces another person to:

- (1) violate federal or state criminal law;
- (2) consume any food, liquid, alcoholic liquid, drug or other substance which subjects the other person to a risk of emotional or physical harm;

(3) endure brutality of a physical nature, including but not limited to whipping, beating, branding, calisthenics, or exposure to the elements;

(4) endure brutality of a mental nature, including but not limited to any 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; or

(6) endure any other activity that creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to the person.

Students found to be in violation of this policy are subject to disciplinary penalties, under the Student Code of Conduct, up to and including expulsion from the College. If an act of hazing results in bodily injury or involves any action that violates the law, the case may also result in a referral to local law enforcement.

Responsible Administrator - Dean of Student Affairs

Revised: June 2022

Communication - This policy is communicated to the College community in the following documents:

- Student Handbook
- College Website