

Prohibition of Hazing (Answer Book, #VI-3C, June 12, 1996)

Hazing is not permitted either in student organizations or in the informal gatherings of students. All acts of hazing by any organization, individual, college personnel, or alumnus, are specifically forbidden. According to West Virginia's Antihazing Law (#18-16-2), "any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of another person or persons or causes another person or persons to destroy or remove public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in, any organization operating under the sanction of or recognized as an organization by an institution of higher education."

Such activities and situations include, but are not limited to: "any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, or any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health and safety of the individual or individuals, and includes any activity which would subject the individual or individuals to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual or individuals, or any willful destruction or removal of public or private property."

Any person who is involved in acts of hazing will be subject to the College's disciplinary procedures. According to West Virginia's law (#18-16-3), "any person or persons who causes hazing is guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined no less than one hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, or confined in a county or regional jail, not more than nine months, or both fined and imprisoned."