

SUNY Canton Hazing Prevention and Awareness  
in accordance with the Stop Campus Hazing Act  
June 17, 2025

**SUNY Canton's Hazing Policy & Procedure**

**Anti-Hazing Policy Statement**

[SUNY Canton; Student Handbook, Section 30: Student Life, Hazing 30.10](#)

SUNY Canton prohibits the taking of any action, creating, or participating in the creation of any situation that endangers mental or physical health, endangers safety, involves the forced consumption of alcohol or drugs, or destroys or removes public or private property, for the purpose of initiation into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership, in a group or organization. Individuals and/or organizations in violation of this policy are subject to disciplinary action by the appropriate disciplinary body of the College and may be subject to any applicable provision of the [New York State Penal Law](#). Students who are present for, but do not report, the hazing of others may be subject to disciplinary action under this policy as well. Any suspension/expulsion from the College due to hazing will result in a notation being placed on the student's academic transcript, loss of all academic credits for the semester of violation, and liable for all the semester's tuition and fees.

Due to the supportive and condoning role played by "audiences" or witnesses to hazing, the College will interpret a person's presence during hazing (even if the person is a bystander and not directly acting) as condoning the activities and therefore, participating. The College will hold such persons collectively responsible along with the directly acting participants.

**Definitions**

**1. Hazing**

Any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with other persons) against another person or persons, regardless of the willingness of such other person or persons to participate, that:

- Is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in, a student organization; and
- Causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team), of physical or psychological injury. The following are non-exhaustive examples of conduct that causes or creates such a risk:

- Whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on someone's body, or similar activity;
- Causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity;
- Causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances;
- Causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to perform sexual acts;
- Any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct;
- Any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of applicable local, New York State, Tribal, or Federal law; and
- Any activity that induces, causes, or requires another person to perform a duty or task that involves a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law.

This definition is compliant with New York State law. Under New York State Penal Law, a person may be charged with hazing if, during another person's initiation into or affiliation with any organization, they intentionally or recklessly engage in conduct that creates a substantial risk of and/or causes physical injury to another person. A criminal charge of hazing may result in a violation or misdemeanor. This may apply, but is not limited to, Greek organizations, clubs, Student Government Associations, and athletic teams.

*\*An individual student or group of students that intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causes or creates an unreasonable risk of harm to another student as a requirement for initiation into, affiliation with, or continued membership of a recognized or unrecognized student organization, regardless of whether a student willingly participates. This may apply, but is not limited to, Greek organizations, clubs, Student Government Associations, and athletic teams.*

## **2. Student Organization**

An organization at an institution of higher education (such as a club, society, association, varsity or junior varsity athletic team, club sports team, fraternity, sorority, band, or student government) in which two or more of the members are students enrolled at the institution of higher education, whether or not the organization is established or recognized by the institution.

## **Reporting Incidents of Hazing**

SUNY Canton encourages the reporting of incidents of hazing and takes every such report seriously. It will investigate all reports diligently and thoroughly in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and other applicable policies and procedures. Individuals found responsible for committing, soliciting, encouraging, directing, aiding, or recklessly permitting hazing to occur will be subject to disciplinary sanctions that could include suspension or expulsion.

Any person may report hazing in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed for the SUNY Canton Greek Life Coordinator:

**Greek Life Coordinator**

Department: Student Activities, Involvement & Leadership  
Mailing Address: 34 Cornell Drive, Miller Campus Center 211,  
Canton, NY 13617  
Phone: 315-386-7315  
Email: [greeklife@canton.edu](mailto:greeklife@canton.edu)

**Private and Confidential Reporting**

SUNY Canton will respect the privacy of reporters but cannot guarantee confidentiality for hazing reports. The information you provide to a non-confidential resource will be relayed only as necessary to investigate and/or seek a resolution and/or to comply with other appropriate SUNY Canton policies and procedures, and any federal, state, and/or local laws, rules, and regulations. SUNY Canton will limit the disclosure as much as possible, even if the institution determines that the request for confidentiality cannot be honored.

Offices and officials who are confidential resources will not report to law enforcement or university officials without a complainant/reporting party's permission, except for extreme circumstances, such as a health and/or safety emergency. SUNY Canton offices that are considered confidential are as follows:

**Director of Counseling**

Miller Campus Center 225  
(315) 386-7314

**Director of Student Health**

Miller Campus Center 004  
(315) 386-7333

Additionally, SUNY Canton's [CARE \(Care, Assess, Respond, Educate\) Team](#) includes a group of trained professionals from various departments across campus who provide support, care, and advocacy for students in need. Their primary objective is to connect students with the support and resources they need to be healthy and productive members of our campus and greater community. We encourage all members of our campus to reach out to the CARE Team when a concern for a student arises.

### **Amnesty Related to Hazing Reports**

SUNY Canton recognizes that students are sometimes reluctant to report hazing activity, due to a fear of potential consequences for their own conduct. For this reason, the University has adopted an [amnesty policy](#) (SUNY Canton 30.8.6 Bystander Intervention and Amnesty Policy) which states that a student who acts in good faith to report activity that may fall within the definition of hazing and/or a victim who cooperates fully as a witness in the investigation and disciplinary process may not be subject to student conduct sanctions related to their own participation in hazing behavior and other behavior including related to alcohol and/or drug violations, as determined by the University in its sole discretion.

In the event amnesty is granted for self-reported behaviors, if evidence is presented that the student has continued to engage in hazing behaviors or has knowledge of hazing activity that was not reported, they may be held accountable for past behavior. Students who choose to report and request amnesty for their own conduct should know that amnesty does not apply to any criminal or civil action that may be taken by any law enforcement agencies, including University Police.

### **Investigation Process**

After a report is received, SUNY Canton will quickly review the submission and determine the next appropriate actions. If a report is criminal in nature, University Police and/or local law enforcement will be contacted. SUNY Canton will also conduct its own investigation to prevent a recurrence of the alleged hazing and to determine if there are potential violations of the Student Code of Conduct and/or any other applicable processes, depending upon the nature of the complaint.

### **Retaliation**

No person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual because the individual made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this Hazing Policy and Procedure. Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed with the Office of Student Conduct and/or Human Resources. Any reports of retaliation involving an employee covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement will be addressed through the appropriate processes.

### **Hazing Prevention and Awareness Programs**

SUNY Canton is committed to fostering a safe, respectful, and inclusive campus environment through proactive hazing prevention and awareness efforts. In alignment with institutional policy and best practices, we offer comprehensive, research-informed programs each semester to educate and empower students, staff, and faculty.

To proactively prevent hazing, SUNY Canton provides the following campus initiatives:

- ***Mandatory Anti-Hazing Training for Greek Life:*** Conducted each semester prior to the start of pledging activities, this training is required for all current and prospective members of Greek-letter organizations. The session includes:
  - Educational presentations on the risks and consequences of hazing
  - Videos featuring real-world hazing incidents and their impacts
  - Detailed guidance on how to report hazing anonymously or directly
  - A distribution of resources, tools, and support contacts
  - A signed pledge from each participant affirming their commitment to a hazing-free environment
- ***Bystander Intervention and Ethical Leadership:*** Incorporated into anti-hazing programming are evidence-based strategies to encourage ethical group leadership, promote inclusive group cohesion, and train students in effective bystander intervention techniques to prevent harmful behaviors before they occur.
- ***Supplemental Prevention Education:*** Additional mandatory training sessions held each semester include:
  - *Title IX Training:* Covers prevention and response related to gender-based discrimination, harassment, and violence.
  - *Narcan Training:* Educates participants on overdose prevention and the use of Narcan, reflecting our broader commitment to health and safety.

These ongoing efforts underscore our commitment to cultivating a campus culture where every student can thrive in organizations that value safety, respect, and personal dignity.

## Hazing Transparency Report

The Stop Campus Hazing Act amends section 485 (f) of the Higher Education Act, otherwise known as the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act. The Stop Campus Hazing Act requires the campus to release a report at least twice a year that summarizes all hazing violations of the institution's code of conduct by student organizations recognized by the institution. The first of these reports will be released in December 2025 and again prior to each fall and spring semester.

## Other Helpful Resources and Information

### New York State Penal Law, Chapter 716, Section 1

Effective November 1, 1988

- **120.16: Hazing in the first degree**  
A person is guilty of hazing in the first degree when, in the course of another person's initiation into or affiliation with any organization, he intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a

third person and thereby causes such injury. Hazing in the first degree is a class A misdemeanor.

- **120.17: Hazing in the second degree**

A person is guilty of hazing in the second degree when, in the course of another person's initiation or affiliation with any organization, he intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person. Hazing in the second degree is a violation.

### **Civil Penalties**

In addition to the consequences of violating University policies and state law prohibiting hazing, both individuals and chapters can be sued in civil court for mental or physical harm that results from hazing. Individual group members (and their parents), group leaders, advisors, the organization, and national affiliates may be sued. Hazing on college campuses has resulted in numerous successful lawsuits.