

State Anti-Hazing Laws

The following is a collection of anti-hazing statutes in the states that the College operates. These statutes prohibit any willful action that recklessly endangers the physical health of a student; some states include mental health as well.

Alabama § 16-1-23- Hazing prohibited; penalty- Class C misdemeanor- prohibits “any willful action taken or situation created, whether on or off any school, college, university, or other educational premises, which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of any student.” It includes striking, beating, or maiming as well as attempting to do the same and prohibits encouraging, aiding, and assisting in hazing.

California PENAL CODE – PEN [240-248]- Hazing is defined as an initiation process, “any method of initiation or preinitiation into a student organization or student body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury to any former, current, or prospective student of any school, community college, college, university, or other educational institution in this state.” The punishment of committing or conspiring to haze is a misdemeanor with a fine between \$100 to \$5,000 and up to one-year imprisonment.

Colorado § 18-9-124- Class 3 misdemeanor- prohibits reckless endangerment of the health or safety of others for the purpose of initiation.

Florida 240.1325 - All institutions must adopt a written anti-hazing policy complete with penalties. Those penalties shall be in addition to any penalties imposed for a violation of criminal laws in Florida.

Georgia § 16-5-61- Hazing is a misdemeanor of high and aggravated nature- prohibits any possible activity that endangers the physical health of a student, regardless of a student’s willing participation, in connection with initiation.

Illinois § 720 ILCS- Class A misdemeanor, except that hazing that results in death of great bodily harm is a Class 4 felony. “A person commits hazing when he or she knowingly requires the performance of any act by a student” and “for the purpose of induction or admission into any group, organization, or society associated or connected with that institution.”

Missouri §578.365- Class A Misdemeanor; Class C felony is the act creates a substantial risk to the life of the person.

Oklahoma § 1190- For an organization, punishable by a fine of not more than One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) and loss of rights for one year. The punishment for an individual is a fine up to \$500 and /or imprisonment up to 90 days. Prohibits dangers to physical and mental health.

Texas § Sec. 37.151- Class B misdemeanor, Class A if results in bodily injury. State felony if results in death. An organization may be fined if it condones or encourages hazing.

Washington §§ 28B.10.900- Misdemeanor- any organization that knowingly permits hazing is strictly liable for harm caused to persons or property.