Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life
Hazing Policy & New Member Bill of Rights

New York State Penal Law §120.16 & §120.17

§ 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.

RIT Student Rights & Responsibilities §III.B.10

HAZING:

Any intentional or reckless act; occurring on or off the campus of RIT; by one person alone or acting with others; directed against an RIT student; that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of that RIT student; and is reasonably believed by that RIT student as being for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are or include students at RIT or other universities.

For the purposes of this section, the term “organization” includes, but is not limited to, any Greek organization, athletic team or other RIT-recognized student organization.

The term “hazing” as defined here, includes, but is not limited to:

• Physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, or placement of a harmful substance on the body;
• Other physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, physical bondage, calisthenics, ―road trips‖ or taking a student to an outlying area and dropping him/her off, compulsory servitude or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that may adversely affect the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
• Consumption of food, water, other liquid, alcoholic beverage, drug, or other substance which subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or which otherwise may adversely affect the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
• Activity that creates an unreasonable risk of causing severe psychological shock or public humiliation to the student;
• Activity that induces, causes or requires the student to perform a duty or task which involves a violation of local, state or federal laws, or the RIT Code of Conduct; and
• Any misuse of authority by virtue of one's class rank, organizational position, longevity in the organization and/or leadership role.

Failure to report such activities to an appropriate university official (such as RIT Public Safety, Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, Center for Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs, Center for Student Conduct) is additional, independent grounds for violation under this section. Students who report hazing activities to an appropriate university official on a timely basis will not be subject to penalty for this failure to report through the RIT Student Conduct process. Such immunity shall only pertain to the charge of failure to report, and not an independent allegation of hazing.

Any organization that violates this section may also be subject to discipline under the RIT Code of Conduct separate from those involving individual students.
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Compliance Certification and Agreement Form

As President of the _______________________ chapter of _______________________, I hereby certify that the chapter has received a copy of the New York State Penal Law Sections 120.16 & 120.17 and the Rochester Institute of Technology’s Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy on Hazing and that all Members and New Members have reviewed both.

The chapter understands and will be in compliance with both policies. Members and New Members of this chapter understand that, if found to be in violation of the aforementioned policies disciplinary action will be taken. Such action may include, but is not limited to, revocation of the Institute’s recognition of the chapter and suspension or dismissal of individual chapter Members and New Members from the Institute.

I understand that the chapter advisor(s) and, if appropriate, the inter/national office of the Fraternity/Sorority will be notified of any confirmed instances of hazing.

_________________________________          ___________________________          _______________
President (print)                     Signature                                    Date

_________________________________          ___________________________          _______________
Membership Intake Officer (print)     Signature                                    Date

_________________________________          ___________________________          _______________
New Member (print)                    Signature                                    Date

This is hereby acknowledged by the Fraternity/Sorority advisers.

_________________________________          ___________________________          _______________
Chapter Advisor (print)               Signature                                    Date

_________________________________          ___________________________          _______________
Chapter Advisor (print)               Signature                                    Date
New/Associate Member Bill of Rights

There are a number of activities that are constructive parts of a new/associate member education program that will contribute to your becoming a more active and productive member of your Greek-lettered organization. However, there are other activities in which you might be asked to take part that are a violation of inter/national fraternity and sorority regulations, RIT NPHC, NALFO, Panhellenic or Interfraternity Council regulations, RIT policies, or even NY State Law. These activities constitute “hazing”.

Listed below is a New/Associate Member Bill of Rights that specifically outlines activities that fraternity or sorority members cannot require of you. If they do so, the fraternity or sorority and the individual member(s) in question are subject to severe penalties up to and including permanent removal of RIT recognition status, suspension from RIT, and possible removal of the chapter’s charter. New/associate members participating in “hazing” activities may also be subject to judicial sanctions. Please study your rights and make certain that they are not violated.

No new/associate member shall be required by any person or persons to perform an act which:

1. Interferes with the academic process – causes the new/associate member to miss or be ill prepared for classes, labs, study sessions, or tests;
2. Causes the new/associate member to violate RIT policies;
3. Requires or pressures that new/associate member to consume alcohol or drugs;
4. Prevents the new/associate member from securing normal amounts of sleep (no activities between the hours of 12:00 AM and 8:00 AM);
5. Requires the new/associate member to perform personal services for collegiate or alumni members (including but not limited to driving around members and/or their guests (including members of other organizations), “shopping” for members, etc.);
6. Is sadistic – treats the new/associate member in a “sub-human” manner;
7. Is illegal – including the use of drugs and alcohol;
8. Is immoral – including anything contrary to the Mission of RIT;
9. Places the new/associate member in physical danger or jeopardy of losing his/her life;
10. Places severe emotional stress upon the new/associate member;
11. Requires the new/associate member to be present at activities for unreasonable periods of time;
12. Requires the associate member to participate in a “Kangaroo” court or other individual questioning activities;
13. Prescribes the wearing of anything to identify new/associate membership status (this includes T-shirts, or wearing of required clothing) with the exception of new/associate member pins (as prescribed and defined in policy by national headquarters);
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14. Requires new/associate members to carry items that they would not normally carry (including but not limited to paddles, bricks, signature books, etc.)

15. Requires the new/associate member to answer the telephone in a manner unlike a member would answer it;

16. Prevents the new/associate member from speaking for a period of time;

17. Involves the abandonment of new/associate members or active members thereby requiring them to find their own way back to campus;

18. Requires the blindfolding of the new/associate member (exceptions: during low ropes course with trained facilitator, or as prescribed in writing for inter/national Ritual);

19. Requires the new/associate member to stand when a collegiate or alumna/us member enters a room;

20. Requires a new/associate member to intentionally deface property; or requires the new/associate member to clean up the defacement;

21. Requires calling other new/associate members “names”;

22. Requires the new/associate members to enter the house from a specific location;

23. Requires new/associate members to eat meals together, attend unscheduled meetings, or sleep in the house together for any length of time without written permission from RIT and inter/national office;

24. Requires a new/associate member to address or refer to a member in a manner different from how they are normally addressed;

25. Requires new/associate members to participate in scavenger hunts or similar activities by any name that involve taking of items, time deadlines, etc.