

Barnard College
Anti-Hazing Policy
Updated July 9, 2026

I. Policy Statement

Barnard College (the “College”) promotes academic excellence, fosters respect for each individual of our community, and protects the campus so that the College may fulfill our educational mission. Every student has the right to participate in the life of the College—including, but not limited to, academic clubs, performance groups, and student organizations—without fear of humiliation, degradation, or physical or mental harm. Barnard College expressly prohibits hazing by any member of the College community or visitor. Such conduct may violate this Policy, be inconsistent with the values of the College’s educational mission, and/or constitute criminal activity.

This Policy prohibits hazing, promotes the culture of respect and responsibility that is needed for a safe and inclusive environment, and ensures compliance with the federal Stop Campus Hazing Act (“SCHA”), as well as other applicable laws and College policies.

II. Scope

This Policy applies to all students, student organizations, faculty, staff, and visitors of Barnard College. It covers conduct that occurs on Barnard’s campus, off campus, at any College-sponsored event, and/or online.

The College does not recognize any off-campus student organization. However, this Policy applies regardless of whether the group is formally recognized by the College or is an informal association.

III. Definitions

Hazing, as defined in the SCHA, is 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:

1. is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in, a student organization; and
2. causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the College, of physical or psychological injury.

Under New York law, a person is guilty of hazing when, in the course of another person’s initiation into or affiliation with any organization, they intentionally or recklessly engage in conduct, including, but not limited to, making physical contact with or requiring physical activity of such other person, which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person. New York Penal Law § 120.16 and § 120.17.

Student organization, for purposes of this Policy, is defined as an organization (such as a club, society, association, sports team, music group, or student government) in which two or more of the members are students currently enrolled at the College, whether or not the organization is established or recognized by the College. Organizations recognized by other institutions of higher education, including Columbia University, will meet this Policy's definition of student organization, provided two or more of its members are students enrolled at the College.

IV. Prohibited Conduct

Hazing can take many forms. Prohibited activities include, but are not limited to:

- **Physical Abuse:** Pushing, paddling, branding, or any form of physical violence; excessive exercise; or forced exposure to the elements.
- **Alcohol and Substances:** Coerced consumption of alcohol, drugs, or other substances.
- **Sleep and Personal Liberty:** Deprivation of sleep or forced confinement; "kidnapping" or abandoning individuals; or restricting communication with friends or family.
- **Humiliation:** Requiring members to wear degrading apparel in public or perform menial tasks for senior members; public stunts; or any act that a reasonable person would find demeaning, uncomfortable, embarrassing, humiliating, or ridiculing.
- **Sexual Acts:** Coercing or inducing another person to perform sexual acts.
- **Academic Interference:** Activities that intentionally interfere with a student's ability to attend class, complete assignments, or maintain their academic standing.
- **Verbal Abuse:** Use of threatening words or conduct to control, intimidate, or hurt someone, or place another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm.
- **Illegal Activity:** Conduct (1) against another person that violates local, State, or Federal law; (2) that induces another person to violate the law; and/or (3) that results in destruction or removal of public or private property.
- Engaging in or assisting hazing activities, including apathy or acquiescence in the presence of hazing.
- Failing to report hazing when required to do so; and
- Retaliating against individuals who report hazing incidents or activities.

The actual, express, or implied consent of participants is **not** an excuse for hazing.

V. Reporting Hazing

The College encourages all members of the community to report incidents of hazing immediately. College CARES staff and other mandated reporters are required to report incidents of potential hazing. Reports may be made in the following ways:

- **Emergency:** In cases of immediate physical danger, contact CARES (campus safety) at 212-854-6666 or dial 911.
- **Official Reporting:** Direct non-emergency reports to the Director of Student Intervention and Community Standards.
- **Anonymous Reporting:** Reports may be submitted through the College's online [Information Report Form](#). Although anonymous reports are accepted, the College's

ability to investigate and respond may be limited if the reporter does not provide contact information.

VI. Investigation of Hazing

The College will take prompt action to investigate allegations of hazing and take action, if substantiated, pursuant to the relevant policies as follows:

- Students: through the [Student Code of Conduct, Honor Code, and Conduct Process](#)
- Organizations: through the [Student Code of Conduct, Honor Code, and Conduct Process](#)
- Staff members: by Human Resources (HR) under applicable policies and procedures
- Faculty members: by HR and the Office of the Provost under applicable policies and procedures, including the [Code of Academic Freedom and Tenure](#)

Reports also will be referred to:

- Other appropriate offices, as relevant to the incident and individuals involved, i.e. the Office of Nondiscrimination, Residential Life, Athletics, Office of Inclusion & Belonging, the Dean of the College, Office of Student Intervention and Community Standards, etc.
- CARES (campus safety), to enable compliance with the College's obligations under the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act.

VII. Resources and Support

The College offers a variety of campus-wide resources for those who have experienced issues such as hazing, harassment, or similar misconduct.

Confidential support is available through the Furman Counseling Center and other designated confidential resources. A full list is maintained on the [Additional Well-Being Resources](#) webpage with [resources for emergency mental health and urgent concerns](#). The office handling the investigation also may provide additional referrals, resources, and support.

VIII. Disciplinary Action and Sanctions

Individuals or student organizations found responsible for violating this Policy may face disciplinary sanctions, as set forth under the relevant investigation process above. Members of student organizations may be held individually responsible for violations, even if the organization is not formally sanctioned.

Any other individual found to have participated in any act of hazing may be subject to immediate ejection from the College campus.

The sanctions described herein are independent from any criminal or civil law to which an individual or organization may be subject, including New York's Anti-Hazing law, Penal Law Sections [120.16](#) and [120.17](#).

IX. Reporting

The College will include in its Clery [Annual Security Report](#) (1) a statement of current policies relating to hazing, how to report hazing incidents, the process used to investigate hazing allegations, and information on applicable laws on hazing; and (2) a statement of policy regarding prevention and awareness programs relating to hazing that includes a description of prevention programs.

Finally, the College posts its Campus Hazing Transparency Report twice a year, on the [campus safety website](#), summarizing findings concerning any student organization found to be in violation of the College's standards of conduct relating to hazing.

X. Education and Prevention

The Dean of the College will ensure that annual anti-hazing education is provided for student leaders and organization advisors. It is the responsibility of every student leader to ensure that their group's traditions and initiation practices align with this Policy and the values of the College.

The College also conducts annual campus-wide prevention and awareness programs that are designed to reach students, faculty, and staff. These efforts include, but are not limited to:

- Primary prevention strategies, such as bystander intervention training, leadership training for student organization leaders, and nondiscrimination training.
- Hazing training for staff, faculty, and campus safety officers.
- Ongoing assessment and adaptation of programs based on evidence and emerging best practices.

These efforts are led by professional staff reporting to the Dean of the College, in collaboration with campus safety and other campus wellness partners. The Annual Security Report will contain additional information regarding such programs.

Version Control:

Version	Date	Changes Made	Approved By
1.0	July 9, 2026	Initial Version	President Laura Rosenbury