



West Virginia University®
POTOMAC STATE COLLEGE



2025

WVU POTOMAC STATE COLLEGE HAZING TRANSPARENCY REPORT

July 1, 2025 – Dec. 23, 2025

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Introduction

West Virginia University Potomac State College (WVU PSC) provides this Campus Hazing Transparency Report (“CHTR”) in compliance with the Stop Campus Hazing Act, Public Law No: 118-173. The purpose of this law, enacted in 2024, requires institutions who were not already doing so, to take specific measures to prevent hazing through prevention education efforts, report allegations of hazing on the Annual Security Report, and address allegations of hazing through the student conduct code process.

The CHTR documents cases in which established or recognized student organizations, or a member or members of an established or student organization are found responsible for a hazing violation at WVU PSC.

Availability of Hazing Statistics in Annual Security Report

WVU PSC tracks allegations of hazing that were reported to have occurred on Clery Geography specifically for the inclusion in the University’s Annual Security Report. No confirmation, investigation, or discipline is necessary for these statistics to be counted. The University started collecting those statistics during the 2025 calendar year and they will be included in the 2026 and subsequent published Annual Security Reports. The current Annual Security Report for Keyser Campus of West Virginia University is available and can be found at the link below:

[WVU PSC 2025 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report](#)

WVU PSC Hazing Related Policies

Hazing is a prohibited offense under the West Virginia University Campus Student Code. The hazing definitions and additional information relating to the Stop Campus Hazing Act information about how to report hazing and the university investigation process can also be found in the Student Conduct Code: <https://studentexperience.potomacstatecollege.edu/student-life/office-of-student-conduct>

WVU PSC Hazing Prevention Programming

In November 2025, the “Hazing: What you need to know” eLearning course was created and is required for first semester WVU Students at all campuses. This course covers the definition of hazing, how to identify hazing behaviors, strategies for prevention, how to report hazing incidents, and the University’s process for investigating allegations and handling disciplinary actions.

While completion of this training is required for certain student groups, it is strongly recommended that all members of the campus community — including faculty and staff — take the training as well.

Anyone can take the training by clicking the link below:

<https://rise.articulate.com/share/MOHDPQt--08t5ypEcJyCqA92bmXYr5H3>

Additional hazing prevention programming available at WVU can be found here:

WVU PSC / W. Va. State Code Definitions of Hazing

The Student Conduct Code and discipline procedure for the main campus of West Virginia University defines hazing as follows:

"Hazing" means to cause 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 the members of which are primarily students. Hazing includes but is not limited to, acts of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, required consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance, or any other required physical activity which may reasonably be deemed to adversely affect the physical health and safety of the person or persons so treated, and includes any activity that would subject the person or persons so treated to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, required conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other required activity that may reasonably be deemed to adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the person or persons so treated, or any willful destruction or removal of public or private property. Hazing, whether with or without another's consent, is prohibited. See generally West Virginia Code §18-16-2(1)(stating "implied or expressed consent or willingness of a person or persons to hazing may not be a defense . . .").

Pursuant to West Virginia Code §18-16-2, hazing means:

"[T]o cause 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 the members of which are primarily students or alumni of an institution of higher education. The term includes, but is not limited to, acts of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, required consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance, or any other required physical activity which could reasonably be deemed to adversely affect the physical health and safety of the person or persons so treated, and includes any activity which would subject the person or persons so treated to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, required conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other required activity which could reasonably be deemed to adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the person or persons so treated, or any willful destruction or removal of public or private property: Provided, That the implied or expressed consent or willingness of a person or persons to hazing may not be a defense under this section."

The penalty for hazing, under West Virginia law, is set in W. Va. Code §18-16-3, and provides:

"Any person who causes hazing is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000, or confined in jail for not more than nine months, or both fined and confined."

Responsible Findings of Hazing

WVU PSC monitors cases of alleged hazing on and off our campuses. The chart below includes hazing complaints against recognized or established student organizations that have been investigated by the University, in which the organizations(s) and/or their members were found responsible. The results below reflect incidents reported and/or findings of responsibility that have been made during the timeframe specified in the title of this report.