

ABAC Policies and Procedures			
Document Name	ABAC Policy #4.7 – Policy on Anti-Hazing	Public or Private?	Public
Classification <small>(Policy, Procedure, Standard, or Guideline, See OP101)</small>	Policy and Procedure	Date Proposed	07 May 2026
Document Number <small>(See OP101)</small>	AA 103	Date Effective	15 May 2026
Subject	Need for an institutional policy to establish expectations for conduct, outline reporting and investigation procedures, and affirm the College’s commitment to the health, safety, dignity, and well-being of all members of the College community.	Date Last Reviewed	N/A
Group(s) Impacted	Students, Student Organizations, Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Other Participants.	Responsible Office(s)	Office of Student Affairs

1 Document Summary

The Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC or the College) Anti-Hazing Policy establishes a zero-tolerance prohibition on hazing at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, aligning institutional expectations with federal and Georgia law, including the Max Gruver Act and Board of Regents policy. It defines hazing broadly, outlines reporting, investigation, and sanctioning procedures, and emphasizes accountability for individuals and organizations while protecting those who report incidents. The policy also highlights ABAC’s commitment to prevention, education, transparency, and the safety and wellbeing of the campus community through compliance with Clery reporting requirements and public disclosure obligations.

2 Purpose

2.1 Policy Statement

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College strives to foster a safe and respectful environment in which students may engage in activities and organizations without compromising their health, safety, or well-being. Hazing is strictly prohibited and is incompatible with the mission and values of ABAC and the University System of Georgia. Hazing is a violation of Georgia law, federal law, and Board of Regents Policy 4.6.7 and may result in institutional disciplinary action, criminal prosecution, or both. ABAC maintains a zero-tolerance stance toward hazing by individuals and organizations, whether recognized or unrecognized.

Hazing Constitutes Criminal Conduct.

Hazing is illegal in the State of Georgia. All reported incidents will be investigated and may result in institutional discipline and referral to law enforcement.

2.2 Authority and Alignment

The policy is grounded in multiple governing authorities, explicitly stating that hazing is a violation of Georgia law, federal law, and University System of Georgia Board of Regents policy (Policy 4.6.7), and may result in both institutional discipline and criminal prosecution. It is aligned with key federal and state requirements, including the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act, the Stop Campus Hazing Act, and Georgia's Max Gruver Act (O.C.G.A. § 16-5-61), incorporating their definitions, reporting expectations, and transparency requirements into institutional procedures and public disclosures. Additionally, the policy reflects best practices in hazing prevention and compliance by integrating federally defined reporting standards (e.g., Clery crime statistics), ensuring alignment between institutional conduct processes and broader legal and regulatory frameworks.

2.3 Reason for the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to prohibit hazing at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) and to ensure compliance with applicable federal law, Georgia law, and Board of Regents (BOR) policy. This policy establishes expectations for conduct, outlines reporting and investigation procedures, and affirms the College's commitment to the health, safety, dignity, and well-being of all members of the College community.

3 Definitions

3.1 Student

A *student* is any individual enrolled or prospectively enrolled at ABAC, including individuals enrolled full-time or part-time, those residing in College housing, individuals between academic terms, or those otherwise maintaining a continuing relationship with the institution.

3.2 School/Student Organization

A *school or student organization* includes any group in which two or more members are enrolled students or alumni, whether or not the organization is formally established or recognized by ABAC or the University System of Georgia.

3.3 Hazing

In accordance with Board of Regents Policy 4.6.7, O.C.G.A. § 16-5-61 (Max Gruver Act), and the Stop Campus Hazing Act, *hazing* is defined as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by an individual or group against another person, regardless of the individual's willingness to participate, that:

- a. Is committed in connection with initiation into, affiliation with, or maintenance of membership in a school or student organization; and
- b. Causes or creates a risk, beyond the reasonable risks associated with participation in institutional or organizational activities, of physical or psychological injury including-

“Hazing” is defined under the Stop Campus Hazing Act (SCHA) as 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 institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team), of physical or psychological injury including—
 - 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 local, 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.

The express or implied consent of the victim is not a defense. Apathy or acquiescence in the presence of hazing may also constitute a violation of this policy.

4 Procedures

4.1 Prohibited Conduct and Accountability

Students and student organizations may be held responsible for engaging in, encouraging, directing, assisting with, or knowingly permitting hazing activities. Student organizations may be sanctioned independently of individual member responsibility.

Retaliation against any individual who reports hazing, cooperates with an investigation, or participates in related proceedings is strictly prohibited and constitutes a separate policy violation.

4.2 Reporting, Data Collection, and Public Disclosure

ABAC complies with all federal and state requirements related to the collection, reporting, and public disclosure of hazing incidents. All hazing incidents reported to campus security

authorities or local law enforcement are documented and included in the Annual Security & Fire Safety Report, in accordance with the Clery Act and the Stop Campus Hazing Act. For Clery reporting purposes, ABAC applies the federal hazing definition set forth in 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f). The broader institutional definition in this policy is used for conduct, prevention, and transparency purposes.

The College maintains a publicly accessible Hazing Transparency and Max Gruver Report webpage in accordance with Georgia law and Board of Regents requirements. Public disclosures exclude personally identifiable student information and comply with FERPA.

Reports can be submitted online by submitting a [Hazing Incident Report](#). The ABAC Police can also be notified at 229-391-5060 or dial 911. The [USG Ethics Hotline](#) is also available as a confidential reporting portal.

Individuals who report hazing in good faith are protected from retaliation under college policy and Georgia law. Retaliation against reporters is strictly prohibited and may result in disciplinary action as described in the Student Code of Conduct.

4.3 Investigation Procedures and Due Process

Reports of hazing will be addressed through established institutional procedures that ensure prompt, fair, and impartial investigation and resolution. Investigations will be conducted by qualified personnel and will afford due process protections consistent with Board of Regents policy and applicable institutional procedures.

When alleged conduct may constitute a criminal offense, the College may refer the matter to law enforcement and may proceed concurrently with institutional action.

The College follows a comprehensive process to ensure a fair and thorough investigation of hazing allegations as detailed in the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Procedures include:

- **Intake:** Upon receiving a hazing report, the Dean of Students Office conducts a preliminary assessment and determines appropriate next steps, including emergency interventions if necessary.
- **Collaborate:** Collaborate with ABAC Police as appropriate.
- **Interim Measures:** Safety measures are implemented if needed to protect individuals and the campus community.
- **Investigation:** Investigators conduct interviews, gather evidence, and document findings. All parties are provided with due process protections throughout the investigation.
- **Confidentiality:** Maintain confidentiality to the extent possible, consistent with the need for a fair and effective inquiry.

- **Resolution:** Cases are adjudicated through the student conduct process, providing the accused organization with opportunities to respond to allegations and present evidence.
- **Appeal:** Organizations found responsible may appeal decisions through established institutional procedures outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.
- **Document:** All investigations and outcomes are properly documented in accordance with federal and state requirements.
- **Review:** Evaluate organizational and campus-wide risk factors.

4.4 Resolution, Sanctions, and Appeals

Upon completion of an investigation, ABAC will determine responsibility and impose sanctions consistent with the Student Code of Conduct and applicable Board of Regents and institutional procedures.

Sanctions for individuals and/or organizations may include, but not limited to, educational sanctions, probation, loss of privileges, suspension, expulsion, or loss of organizational recognition. Interim measures may be implemented when necessary to protect the health and safety of the campus community.

Limited amnesty from institutional discipline may be available for individuals who make good-faith reports of hazing or seek emergency medical assistance, consistent with Board of Regents policy and Georgia law.

Appeals may be submitted in accordance with established institutional procedures.

4.5 Prevention and Education

ABAC is committed to hazing prevention through education, training, awareness initiatives, and the promotion of lawful, respectful alternatives to hazing for leadership development and organizational membership.

In alignment with the Stop Campus Hazing Act, ABAC will:

- Maintain a centralized reporting system for hazing incidents.
- Provide annual hazing prevention training for all club & organizational advisors, athletic coaches, and new employees.
- Provide hazing prevention training for all incoming freshmen students, all athletes, all prospective Greeks and all recognized student organization presidents.
- Implement hazing awareness session for incoming students at new student orientation.
- Provide student leadership development series session on hazing to include bystander intervention, awareness skill building, ethical leadership, and promotional strategies for building group cohesion without hazing.
- Implement educational campaigns such as digital signage and posters across campus.

- Conduct a biennial assessment of hazing prevention efforts and campus climate regarding hazing behaviors.

5 Scope

This policy applies to hazing committed by students and by school or student organizations, whether the conduct occurs on or off campus, online, during travel, or at any event or activity connected to recruitment, initiation, affiliation, continued membership, or participation in a school or student organization.

This policy may also apply to conduct by non-students, including alumni or other participants, when such conduct falls within this scope or otherwise impacts the College community. Hazing-related behavior may be addressed under this policy and/or other applicable institutional policies, procedures, or laws.

6 Enforcement

6.1 Policy Owner

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

6.2 Executive Sponsors

Cabinet

Office of Academic Affairs (OAA)

Office of Student Affairs

ABAC Police

6.3 Point of Contact

Office of Student Affairs

7 Related / Internal Linkages

Policy compliant template – Document Number OP101

8 Source Documents

- [Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act](#), as amended by the Stop Campus Hazing Act (Public Law 118-173, 2024)
- [Georgia's Max Gruver Act](#) (2021 Georgia Laws Act 144 / O.C.G.A. § 16-5-61 (criminal prohibition) and § 20-1-30 (institutional transparency/public disclosure))
- [USG Board of Regents Policy 4.6.7](#) on Hazing
- [ABAC Student Code of Conduct](#)

9 Review and Approval History

___ – Cabinet Approval

___ – Cabinet Revisions

___ – First Read at Cabinet