On Oct. 19, 2018, Governor Tom Wolf signed Senate Bill 1090, the Timothy J. Piazza Antihazing Law, which strengthens penalties for hazing and ensures that schools have safeguards to protect students. The new law provides several measures to prevent hazing, including requiring schools to have anti-hazing rules, enforcement policies and preventative measures and to make information about hazing violations, including biannual violation reports, available to the public to help inform students and parents.

Under the Timothy J. Piazza Antihazing Law, the definition of hazing includes but is not limited to the following examples of conduct: any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student or which willfully destroys or removes 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 operating under the sanction of or recognized as an organization by an institution of higher education.

Washington & Jefferson College has a zero-tolerance policy in regard to hazing incidents, as articulated in the Student Handbook it is the policy of Washington & Jefferson College that hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the College mission and are strictly prohibited at all times. In accordance with the full text of W&J’s Hazing Policy can be found in Article V.K. of the Student Code of Conduct.

Over the past five consecutive years, there have been no reported incidents or findings that resulted in violations of the institution’s antihazing policy, Federal or State laws related to hazing at Washington & Jefferson College.

For more information related to antihazing policy and the Student Code of Conduct, or to report a suspected violation, please reach out to the Director of Community Standards and Support Services in the Office of Student Life at Washington & Jefferson College.