



DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE

Policy on Recognition of Sororities and Fraternities

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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

POLICY ON RECOGNITION OF SORORITIES AND FRATERNITIES

Sororities and fraternities have a historical association with the University of Maryland. When managed responsibly by inter/national headquarters, graduate, alumni, local chapters, housing corporations, and officers, they offer students a valuable social and learning experience. It is the policy of the University, therefore, to offer eligible sororities and fraternities an opportunity to fulfill this purpose by extending them certain privileges, services, and resources. This Policy on Recognition of Sororities and Fraternities explains how sororities and fraternities become recognized fraternities and sororities within the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life and thereby eligible to receive support from the University.

This policy supplements the [Student Organization Registration Guidelines](#) and establishes special requirements for social sororities and fraternities. This Policy is limited to social sororities and fraternities and does not apply to other student organizations, groups, clubs, or honor societies even if their names include Greek letters. The University reserves the right to discontinue or modify these privileges and services, to specially limit eligibility, and to offer them on a selective basis.

SECTION I: BENEFITS OF RECOGNITION

Sororities and fraternities that have been granted recognition by the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life (DFSL) are eligible to receive the following University privileges, resources, and services:

- Eligibility to hold membership in the Interfraternity Council, Multicultural Greek Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, or Panhellenic Association.
- Direct advising, coaching, and chapter support from DFSL full-time and graduate student staff
- Chapter wellness training and education on topics such as risk management, hazing prevention, diversity and inclusion, and sexual assault/violence prevention.
- Ability to apply for residency in sorority and fraternity houses owned by the University. Houses are leased by the University to an organization's housing corporation on a space-available basis and according to documented criteria.

SECTION II: RECOGNITION REQUIREMENTS

Recognition is granted by DFSL upon demonstrating that the sorority or fraternity is responsibly managed, fiscally reliable, a responsible steward of University property, a constructive member of the campus community, and its members willing to observe the rules and laws of the community. In keeping with the expectation that sororities and fraternities be responsibly managed and participate as constructive members of the community, as a rule, recognition will be granted to the sorority or fraternity chapter under the following conditions:

1. Is a registered student organization with the University's Student Organization Resource Center (SORC); and,

2. Has a minimum of five (5) currently enrolled University of Maryland, College Park, undergraduate student members; and,
3. Is in good standing with its International or National Headquarters; newly chartered chapters (i.e., Alpha or founding chapters) without an inter/national infrastructure may be exempt from this requirement at the discretion of the DFSL on a case-by-case basis; and,
4. Holds at least a \$1,000,000 insurance policy submitted annually to DFSL; and,
5. Is accepted by and considered an active participant in one of the four sorority and fraternity governing councils: the Interfraternity Council, the Multicultural Greek Council, the National Pan-Hellenic Council, or the Panhellenic Association; and,
6. Has reasonably complied with the University of Maryland Chapter Expectations (new sororities and fraternities must demonstrate a capacity to meet these requirements); and,
7. Maintains a minimum chapter GPA of 2.5, and a minimum new member class GPA of 2.5; and,
8. Adheres to all University policies and regulations, including but not limited to:
 - a. Alcohol and Social Event Monitoring Policy
 - b. Code of Student Conduct
 - c. Disability and Accessibility Policy
 - d. Hazing Policy
 - e. Housed Chapter Policy (if applicable)
 - f. Intake/New Member Education Policy, including:
 - Students must have 12 or more credits and a 2.5 cumulative grade point average or higher to be offered a bid to join;
 - New Member Education/Intake Programs programs can last no more than six weeks from the date of the bid acceptance program or ceremony;
 - g. Non-Discrimination Policy
 - h. Sexual Misconduct Policy

SECTION III: RECOGNITION PROCESS

A new sorority or fraternity will be considered for recognition upon application to DFSL. The organization will provide information as described in the [*Recognition Application Guidelines*](#) document. DFSL will provide a determination on the application to grant recognition. Denial of recognition may be appealed to the Recognition Appellate Board, whose decision will be considered final upon approval by the Vice President for Student Affairs, or an appointee of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

For chapters that were recognized the previous year, the submission of a Chapter Development Plan Reflection will be considered an application for continued recognition. Recognition is not automatically renewed and will generally be granted for a term of one academic year. Once recognized, a chapter is expected to meet the requirements of recognition continually. Probationary Recognition may be granted with conditions designed to assist the sorority or fraternity to comply with University requirements.

SECTION IV: RECOGNITION STATUS

At the conclusion of each academic year, the Recognition Review Board will holistically assess each chapter's progress and performance in meeting all recognition requirements as outlined in Section II of this Policy on Recognition. The Recognition Review Board includes the following individuals:

- Assistant/Associate Director of Advising and Programming (chair)
- Coordinator for Advising and Programming (IFC and MGC)
- Coordinator for Advising and Programming (NPHC)
- Coordinator for Equity and Social Justice (PHA)
- Governing Council Representative from each of the four governing councils (IFC, MGC, NPHC, PHA)

Each chapter will receive a Recognition Letter prior to the start of the academic year that outlines their Recognition status. Chapters that have met all recognition requirements will be able to fully participate in the community. Chapters that do not meet the recognition requirements will be placed on a probationary status which will include an individualized chapter support program and may include restrictions such as:

- required educational programs
- no social events for one semester or one academic year (on or off campus)
- cannot participate in community-wide F/S such as Homecoming or Greek Week on any level
- cannot participate in intramurals for one semester or one academic year
- cannot participate in some or all Step Shows
- other conditions will be determined on a case-by-case basis

Maintaining Probationary Recognition status for two consecutive years is grounds for immediate removal. Chapters that do not achieve Recognized status after two consecutive years of Probationary Recognition and wish to maintain recognition will be given the opportunity to demonstrate and prove why the chapter should continue to exist on campus through a Show Cause Hearing.

Show Cause Hearing: After two consecutive years of Probationary Recognition, or at the request of the Director, chapters will participate in a Show Cause Hearing. During the Show Cause Hearing, the chapter will be expected to address efforts and plans related to the unmet requirements or behavioral concerns listed in their recognition status letter and/or Show Cause Hearing notice. The chapter should also address any initiatives, programs, or goals that would allow DFSL staff to have a clearer vision for the chapter's potential success if recognition is continued. Chapter members should collaborate with advisors and regional volunteers in developing the presentation. The presentation should be no longer than 30 minutes. The outcome of a Show Cause hearing is either (1) a final year of Probationary Recognition or (2) revocation of recognition.

SECTION V: REVOCATION OF RECOGNITION

Recognition status may be changed or revoked at any time by DFSL for a pattern or incident of misconduct, criminal activity, fiscal default, or neglect by:

- any officer or member of the sorority or fraternity when representing the organization; or,
- a resident on premises owned, leased, or licensed by the sorority or fraternity; or,
- the housing corporation of the sorority or fraternity; or,
- an invitee or guest of the sorority or fraternity,

which, in the judgment of the Director, poses an unacceptable risk of harm to persons or property, including liability or financial loss to the University or community.

Circumstances and conduct that are cause for revocation, especially when occurring in connection with chapter activities, include but are not limited to:

- a. Hazing, infliction of bodily injury, sexual assault, setting fires, and indecent behavior, whether resulting in arrest, criminal prosecution, finding of guilt, or conviction.
- b. Alcohol violations, underage drinking, drug or substance abuse.
- c. Willful or negligent damage to public or private property, including University property; theft of public or private property, including University property. If housed in University facilities, failure to exercise appropriate care for the property.
- d. Recurring social or academic probation or a violation of probation.
- e. Recommendation of the Office of Student Conduct arising from violations of the Code of Student Conduct or the Code of Academic Integrity.
- f. Failure to pay University rents, fees, charges, or other obligations to the institution.
- g. Failure to exercise appropriate care, if applicable, in using and maintaining University facilities.
- h. Default on lease or contract obligations to the University, including failure to promptly vacate a sorority or fraternity house owned by the University at the end of a housing corporation's lease.
- i. Withdrawal of the charter or other form of affiliation by the international or national organization.
- j. Two consecutive years of Probationary Recognition
- k. Failure to maintain membership in good standing with one of the sorority or fraternity governing councils unless exempted by the DFSL.
- l. Failure to comply with Section II of this policy.

The unqualified cooperation and assistance of the chapter, alumni, house corporation, and international and national organizations, when informed by the University of the possibility of such behavior and the adequacy of their response, will be evaluated when revocation is being considered. Normally, a sorority or fraternity whose recognition is revoked will not be eligible to reapply for Recognition for a minimum of four (4) years.

SECTION VI: APPEALS

Chapters wishing to appeal their recognition status, corresponding conditions, or revocation of recognition may submit to the Director a written appeal within 10 business days of receipt of the notice. Appeals will be reviewed by the Recognition Appellate Board which is appointed by the Vice President for Student Affairs or their appointee and includes the following individuals:

- Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, or appointee (chairperson)
- Student Affairs staff member (not a DFSL staff member)
- Faculty Member
- Chapter Advisor Representative
- One member (different from students on the Recognition Review Board) from the four governing council executive boards (IFC, MGC, NPHC, and PHA).

The Board will consider the chapter's appeal, recognition compliance file, records of any policy infractions, and any response to the appeal by the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life. Determinations of the Board regarding recognition status and corresponding conditions are considered final. Determinations of the Board regarding revocation of recognition will be final upon approval by the Vice President for Student Affairs.

SECTION VII: PERIODIC REVIEW

This Policy will be evaluated on a periodic basis.