



University of Connecticut Social Fraternity & Sorority Recognition Policy

The University of Connecticut embraces the belief that student-centered programs, services, and co-curricular opportunities will enhance student learning, engage students in their academic and University experiences, and prepare students for the world of tomorrow. Accordingly, it actively supports a community in which thriving and sustainable student organizations can register and exist.

The University also supports the existence of a social fraternity and sorority community because of the scholastic, leadership, fellowship, and public service opportunities that these organizations can provide. These experiences allow students to develop skills and values that will inherently impact the lives they lead upon graduation. The University believes that when the fraternity and sorority chapters of inter/national fraternal organizations function in accordance with their stated mission and the mission of the institution, the entire campus community benefits from the involvement, leadership, and service of its members.

With this approach the University acknowledges its authority to formally associate with inter/national social fraternity and sorority organizations and recognize their corresponding University chapter.

A. Social Fraternal Organizations Defined

For the purposes of this policy 'social fraternal organizations' are defined as student groups, affiliated with an inter/national organization, whose primary concern is the personal, intellectual, and social development of members. This may be developed through planned social, educational, and service programs. These groups are often, but not always referred to as 'fellowships', 'fraternities', 'sororities', or 'societies' and may be single-gendered or co-educational in nature.

B. Expansion

Expansion is the process by which inter/national organizations can (re)establish chapters on campus and includes the formalization of a relationship between the University and the corresponding inter/national entity. This document addresses the University's policy regarding the establishment of a relationship with inter/national entities and the recognition of a corresponding social fraternal organization.

C. 'Register' vs 'Recognize'

Students wishing to form a registered student organization on campus and avail themselves of the associated benefits of being a 'Registered Student Organization' may do so by completing the registration requirements set forth by the University.

'Recognition' is the process by which the University formally associates with – *recognizes* - a student organization as a social fraternal organization in good standing and includes the University's formalization of relations with the organization's corresponding inter/national entity. University privileges associated with being *recognized* as a University of Connecticut fraternity or sorority include, but are not limited to, access to meeting and program space, dedicated University staff support and advisement, eligibility for on-campus chapter housing, recruitment support, customized student leader training and development opportunities, eligibility for recognition, funding, and programmatic support and more specifically designated for recognized fraternities and sororities in good standing.

D. Student Organization Categorization and Self-Identification

The registration of student organizations on campus is overseen by the Department of Student Activities, Student Organization Support area. As part of the organization registration process, student organization leaders have the ability to categorize and describe their organization based upon its mission and activities (e.g. academic, political, religious, community service, etc.). The use and designation of the category ‘Greek Fraternity/Sorority’, and the use of the phrases ‘social fraternity’ or ‘social sorority’, or reasonable facsimiles thereof in any descriptions of an organization are restricted only to those fraternities/sororities that have been specifically recognized by the University pursuant to the terms and conditions of this policy. Please see section J. ‘Unauthorized Activity’ in this document for more information. The purpose of this provision is to ensure that only those student organizations that are recognized by the University and receiving the benefits/support associated with recognition are holding themselves out to be social fraternities or sororities.

E. Expansion Conditions and Parameters

To ensure responsible growth, and to effectively support new chapters during their initial years, thus enabling organizations to provide a positive experience for their members and the community, no more than two (2) new organizations per council will receive University recognition each application cycle. Invitations will be extended based on community needs, student interest, University priorities and the following:

- **Equity:** ensuring the opportunities for expansion reflect the University community
- **Sustainability:** assessing the likelihood that a new chapter has the best chance to succeed
- **University Community Health:** gauging the overall health of the University community including, but not limited to conduct, mental health, financial stability, etc.
- **Fraternity/Sorority Community Health:** examining the health of the Fraternity/Sorority community – including that of individual councils and their member chapters – through the consideration of multiple metrics including, but not limited to, Expectations of Excellence.

Decisions about if/how many organizations will be extended invitations to be recognized as a social fraternity/sorority at the University will be made by the Director of Fraternity and Sorority Development. It should be noted that the University reserves the right to forego expansion in any given year as well as postpone/suspend any expansion planned or already underway should concerns around the priorities listed above arise.

Any organization or student seeking to establish a chapter at the University should contact the Center for Fraternity and Sorority Development, Student Union 307 or visit greeklife.uconn.edu for additional information and **before conducting any activities on the University campus.**

F. Expansion Consideration Process

The University has a defined process for groups seeking University recognition as a fraternity or sorority. Efforts made to establish a new chapter, interest group or colony outside of this process will jeopardize the organization’s ability to gain recognition (See section J. ‘Unauthorized Activity’ in this document for more information). The general steps associated with expansion are outlined below. Specific and important information related to each step is detailed in the *Expansion Application Information Packet*.



1. Call for Expansion Applications

The University will invite expansion applications from inter/national organizations and provide dates and deadlines for the various stages, required steps, documents, etc. The invitation will be made to inter/national organizations which might be considering establishing a chapter at the University. The invitation of applications may not occur every year and will only occur after the aforementioned expansion conditions and parameters have been considered. The invitation of applications does not imply that the University will ultimately invite an organization to be recognized.

2. Application Material Submission

Interested inter/national organizations will need to submit all application material by the stated deadline. Incomplete applications or those received after the deadline will not be eligible for expansion consideration for that year. Examples of application documentation include, but may not be limited to an application form, a general organization overview, a letter of support from inter/national organization, certain organizational policies and standards, member development and education plans, chapter operations manual, chapter support and resources, expansion/reactivation and sustainability strategy, and more. Interested parties must check the *Expansion Application Information Packet* for important additional and specific information related to submitting an application.

3. Community Presentation (Virtual)

Based on a review of all material submitted and after consultation with Council Leadership, up to 2 (two) applicant groups, represented by interested students and national representatives, may be invited to present in person before the respective governing council and members of the university community (faculty, staff, and students). Details regarding the content of the presentation will be communicated at the time an invitation is extended. Those in attendance will be asked to provide feedback. NOTE: Being invited to present should not be interpreted as having been invited to be recognized.

4. Group Evaluation

A committee, consisting of CFSD staff, student leaders, and possibly other members of the University community will review all application material, including presentation material and notes, and develop a report including 'pros', 'cons', and other considerations associated with extending a formal invitation to invite an inter/national organization to establish a chapter on campus and be recognized by the University.

5. Invitation to (Re)Join our Community

Based on a review of the committee's report(s) and on all of the information provided through this process, the Director of Fraternity and Sorority Development, after consultation with the staff of the Center for Fraternity and Sorority Development and student leaders, will determine if, and which inter/national organization(s) should be extended an invitation to join the University fraternity and sorority community. Any group not invited to join the University will be eligible to reapply in the future.

6. Recognition

Following the inter/national organization's acceptance of an invitation by the University, CFSD and the inter/national organization will work together to determine appropriate steps and timelines for chapter establishment and final recognition by the University. Once the appropriate steps have been met the students will be able to register the organization as a social fraternal organization and be recognized by the University.

G. Statement on Citywide & Metro Chapters

The University does not recognize citywide or metropolitan chapters and thus, all chapters must be based and chartered exclusively at the University of Connecticut. Additionally, recognized fraternities and sororities must limit membership to currently enrolled students at the University.

H. General Fraternity/Sorority Eligibility Requirements for Recognition

The establishment of a recognized social fraternal organization begins and ends with a partnership between the University and the inter/national organization. Therefore, students will not be able to form a recognized social fraternal organization unless this partnership has been established. Inter/national organizations wishing to establish a chapter at the University must do so in adherence to this policy and participate in the expansion/extension process as detailed in this document as well as the *Expansion Application Information Packet*. Additionally, parties interested in forming a chapter at the University may be required to meet certain eligibility requirements by the respective governing council in order to be considered for University recognition. A complete list of eligibility requirements and expansion steps can be found in the *Expansion Application Information Packet*.

I. Council Membership

All recognized fraternities and sororities must maintain membership in good standing with one of the following governing councils as determined by national organization affiliation, history, and purpose.

- **Intercultural Greek Council:** Organizations affiliated with the National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations (NALFO), National Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Panhellenic Association (NAPA), National Multicultural Greek Council (NMGC), and other inter/national cultural-based and identity-focused fraternal organizations, can be considered for UConn Intercultural Greek Council (IGC) membership.
- **Interfraternity Council:** Organizations affiliated with the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC), and other men's inter/national fraternities, can be considered for UConn Interfraternity Council (IFC) membership.
- **National Pan-Hellenic Council:** National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. (Divine Nine) fraternities and sororities may be eligible to reactivate their membership with the UConn National Pan-Hellenic Council. Other historically Black/African American fraternities and sororities, not affiliated with the NPHC, can be considered for membership in the IGC.
- **Panhellenic Council:** Organizations affiliated with the National Panhellenic Conference can only be considered for membership after fully participating in the NPC Extension Process. Other national sororities and women's fraternities may be considered for UConn Panhellenic Council associate membership if eligible.

J. Unauthorized Activity

Establishing a local chapter and/or attempting to operate a social fraternity/sorority at UConn without University recognition will not be tolerated and can jeopardize an organization's future recognition. While UConn students can form registered student organizations, the University reserves the right to recognize and affiliate with social fraternities/sororities at its discretion. Examples of actions/activities that could violate this policy include, but are not limited to:

- Organizational websites/social media that claim/imply affiliation with UConn when no such affiliation exists.
- Student groups organizing publicly, hosting events, participating, etc. under the name of a inter/national fraternity/sorority organization attempting to hold itself out as a recognized student organization at UConn when no such affiliation exists.
- Inter/national organizations engaging in any chapter organizing activities under the guise of UConn recognition including but not limited to recruiting, selecting, training, inducting, or initiating UConn students as members outside of permitted dates/times stipulated in the *Expansion Application Information Packet*.
- Students claiming membership or being perceived as a member of an organization (wearing organizational related paraphernalia, updating social media status/profile, etc.) that falsely claims/implies affiliation with UConn when no such affiliation exists.
- Any other behavior that would cause a reasonable person to believe that the group is formally affiliated with and/or recognized by UConn when no such affiliation exists.

K. Policy Violations

Inter/national organizations and chapters that violate this policy may be:

- Ineligible to apply for University recognition.
- Unable to host or coordinate any events at UConn that are affiliated in any way with the organization.
- Unable to participate as co-sponsor of a student event hosted at UConn.
- Unable to list UConn as a chapter/colony/auxiliary on any materials, including but not limited to websites, rosters, etc.
- If currently attempting to operate as a registered but non-recognized student organization, have their status as a registered student organization revoked.

UConn students who violate this policy may be barred from establishing a recognized social fraternity/sorority organization at UConn for the duration of their enrollment. However, these students will still be eligible to join pre-existing registered student organizations.