

STANDARDS FOR ESTABLISHING A FRATERNITY OR SORORITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

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The standards outlined below apply only to single-sex fraternities and sororities that are seeking affiliation under one of the 4 Greek Governing Councils at the University of Virginia (Inter-Fraternity Council, Inter-Sorority Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Multicultural Greek Council). Establishing or reactivating a fraternity or sorority at the University will occur in concert with the respective governing council and will occur in 3 phases:

PHASE 1: ESTABLISHMENT

Any group of students that desires to establish itself as a fraternity or sorority must first contact the Office of the Dean of Students/Fraternity & Sorority Life (ODOS/FSL). During this initial meeting, ODOS/FSL will outline the process for establishing a fraternity or sorority at the University and will facilitate contact between the student group and the appropriate Greek Governing Council (IFC, ISC, MGC, or NPHC). During this time period, no commitment to a national fraternity or sorority shall be made; rather this period is for learning the process for establishing or reactivating a fraternity or sorority.

After meeting with ODOS/FSL and representatives from the appropriate Greek Governing Council, the student group will submit the following to both ODOS/FSL and the president of the Greek Governing Council:

- 1) A copy of the group's constitution.
- 2) A list of members including student names, computing IDs, and year of study.
- 3) A statement that the student group does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, citizenship, sexual orientation, or age when determining its membership.
- 4) An organizational statement that will conform to a template provided by the Office of the Dean of Students/Fraternity & Sorority Life.
- 5) A statement of the student group's goals and vision for establishing a fraternity or sorority at the University.

The Governing Council, in consultation with the Office of the Dean of Students/Fraternity & Sorority Life, will review the portfolio materials and will take one of two actions:

- a) Endorse the student group to continue the process of establishing a fraternity or sorority. The Office of the Dean of Students will issue a provisional Fraternal Organization Agreement (FOA) for the group to act as a fraternity or sorority at the University. The student group then progresses to the Provisional Period.
- b) Deny further establishment. The Governing Council will supply the student group with an explanation as to why the Council reached such a decision. The student group can request that the decision be reviewed by the Office of the Dean of Students/Fraternity & Sorority Life.

If a(n) Inter/National Fraternity or Sorority seeks to establish a chapter at the University without the prior formation of a group of interested students, the Inter/National Organization is expected to initiate contact with the Office of the Dean of Students/Fraternity & Sorority Life and the respective Governing Council. The Inter/National Organization will be expected to submit a portfolio for review and consideration by ODOS/FSL and the Governing Council. If approved by ODOS/FSL and the Governing Council, all parties will work to establish a timeline and expectations for the establishment of a new fraternity or sorority.

PHASE 2: PROVISIONAL PHASE

The Provisional Phase will last a minimum of four months and will not exceed three semesters.

The following are expectations of the student group during the Provisional Phase:

- a) The student group will follow the guidelines and procedures outlined by the respective Governing Council.
- b) The student group will maintain a regular meeting with a representative from the Office of the Dean of Students/Fraternity & Sorority Life to discuss the group's progress, goals, and timeline for establishing a fraternity or sorority. During these meetings, ODOS/FSL will provide support, resources, and information as it relates to the student group, the University, and the Fraternal Organization Agreement process.
- c) If seeking affiliation with a National (or International) Organization, the student group may initiate contact with the organization to begin a process for colonization or expansion. If a commitment to affiliate with a National Organization is made, the student group will be required to:
 - a. Submit a letter of support from the National Organization to both the ODOS/FSL and the Governing Council
 - b. Submit a copy of all relevant standards and procedures that that National Organization will expect of the student group. This includes, but is not limited to, membership criteria, academic requirements, policy information and chartering standards.

At the conclusion of the Provisional Phase, the student group will submit a portfolio for review by the Governing Council and the Office of the Dean of Students/Fraternity & Sorority Life. The portfolio will include/address the following:

- Proof of advisory support
- Proof of relationship with a National Organization (see C, a and b)
- Timeline for gaining a charter/national recognition
- A copy of the group's constitution.
- A list of members including student names, computing IDs, and year of study
- A plan to educate members on the policies and procedures of the Governing Council
- A plan for membership growth
- A plan for new member education
- Documentation of financial viability
- Any additional requirements as outlined by the Office of the Dean of Students/Fraternity & Sorority Life and/or the Governing Council

If a local fraternity or sorority with an active FOA seeks to affiliate with a Inter/national organization, the local fraternity/sorority will be required to meet the minimum expectations outlined in the Provisional Phase. The successful completion of this process is contingent upon the chapter's compliance with all national organization requirements. It is also contingent on the approval of the respective Governing Council.

PHASE 3: FULL MEMBERSHIP

Following the provisional period and provided that the student group has meet any additional criteria outlined by the Governing Council, the student group may apply for full membership in the respective Governing Council. Once approved by the Governing Council, the Office of the Dean of Students/Fraternity & Sorority Life will re-issue a Fraternal Organization Agreement.