

Syracuse University

Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs

Policy for Recognition of Fraternal Organizations

The fraternities and sororities at Syracuse University have long been a vital part of the Syracuse University community promoting a collaborative and unified fraternity and sorority environment that values leadership, diversity, service, growth, and scholarship. The university has long supported and encouraged fraternity and sorority chapters in their efforts to improve both the Syracuse University and local surrounding communities. Membership in fraternities and sororities must be a safe and productive learning experience. This legacy should be preserved and nurtured by the best of those organizations and individuals who are supportive of the University's mission as well as its policies. All recognized fraternities and sororities have and should continue to work diligently with Fraternity and Sorority Affairs to maintain their good standing.

Our policies on recognized fraternal organizations are the following:

I. Definition:

Fraternal Organization is defined as any group, social, service, civic, or professional in nature, that:

- a. Utilizes Greek letters in its nomenclature, with the exception of honor societies; or
- b. Maintains single-sex membership; or
- c. Has organization norms consistent with fraternal organizations such as but not limited to:
 - ritual ceremony of initiation,
 - membership recruitment and selection,
 - big brother/big sister,
 - new member education/orientation/pledging,
 - wearing greek symbols/letters.

II. Recognition:

To be eligible to receive consideration for University privileges, services, and resources, as outlined in documents from the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs at Syracuse University, fraternal organizations must hold "recognized" status. Recognition is granted at the discretion of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs upon demonstrating that the organization is responsibly managed, fiscally reliable, a responsible steward of University and community property, and a constructive member of the University community that reflects the University's highest ideals. As a general rule, recognition will not be granted/extended unless the organization:

- a. Has filed an application for expansion with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs (FASA) or continuing registration form with FASA;

- b. Has a minimum of four (4) currently enrolled Syracuse University undergraduate members, in the case of continuing recognition. Exceptions may be recommended to the Director of FASA by FASA chapter advisor, on a case-by case basis; and,
- c. Has a minimum group Grade Point Average of 2.25 in the case of continuing recognition; and,
- d. Is in good standing with its inter/national headquarters; and,
- e. Have membership (provisional membership in the case of a new organization) in one of the recognized fraternal governing councils and,
- f. Has reasonably complied with the Code of Student Conduct, council governing policies and the like. New fraternal organization must demonstrate a capacity to uphold these policies.

III. Revocation of Recognition:

Recognition may be suspended on an interim basis by the Director of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs for a pattern or incident of misconduct, criminal activity, or fiscal default by:

- a. The undergraduate organization; or,
- b. an undergraduate officer or member of the organization when representing the organization; or,
- c. the housing or alumni corporation of the organization; or,
- d. a resident on premises owned, leased, or licensed by the organization; or,
- e. an invitee or guest of the organization, which in the judgement of the Director, or designee, poses an unacceptable risk of harm to persons or property, including liability or financial loss to the University or community.

In accordance with the Code of Student Conduct, due process will be afforded a fraternal organization whose recognition may be suspended or revoked. Absent extraordinary circumstances, a fraternal organization whose recognition has been revoked will not be eligible to reapply for recognition for a minimum of four (4) years. Evidence of a suspended or revoked chapter functioning as an "underground" unrecognized organization may extend this period by a year for each violation.

Unrecognized organizations are those that are not associated with the University. They do not receive support from the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. They are not permitted to use campus facilities, and their recruitment processes and new member activities are not monitored. Students are prohibited from organizing or affiliating with unrecognized fraternities and sororities. Individual students who are determined to be in violation of this policy may be placed on a University disciplinary status up to and including suspension or expulsion.