

Definition and Summary for Off-Campus Engagement and Fraternity and Sorority Life Groups

Fraternalities and sororities exist at the University of New Hampshire. These groups are recognized student organizations through the recognizing agent, the Office of Off-Campus Engagement & Fraternity and Sorority Life. They are expected to uphold all policies and procedures for recognized student organizations, except where explicitly stated otherwise. A fraternity/sorority is defined as a student organization whose mission, principles, and values are primarily social in nature. All members of the fraternity/sorority must be University of New Hampshire undergraduate degree-seeking students. A fraternity/sorority must be a member of the appropriate governing council at UNH. In addition, the group must:

- Be chartered (or in the process of being chartered) from a national organization and in good standing with that organization. Exceptions for charters with local organizations may be considered but typically not granted.
- Have a recruitment/intake/selection process that is selective in nature with an initiation practice as dictated by the national organization. The University of New Hampshire reserves the right to address, through the appropriate resolution process, behavior or incidents by individuals or organizations, which occur on or off-campus that violate policies, procedures, expectations or requirements, or that may endanger the health, safety, and welfare of others and/or adversely affect the University and/or the pursuit of its objectives. Each recognized fraternity and/or sorority upon acceptance onto this campus will receive a relationship agreement for operating on this campus and in the greater Durham community as conduits of the University, Councils, and community. In addition to the policy and guidelines of the Office of Off-Campus Engagement and Fraternity and Sorority Life, each recognized fraternity or sorority must adhere to their national organizations' policies and processes and uphold the standards of the appropriate governing council.

Expansion and Extension Policy

The Office of Off-Campus Engagement & Fraternity and Sorority Life supports the growth of the UNH Fraternity and Sorority community. Recognizing that collaboration, communication, and mutual respect between a fraternity/sorority and the University are vital to cultivating a values-based and inclusive fraternity and sorority community of excellence. The Office will recognize any Fraternity or Sorority willing to meet the following expansion standards in accordance with the Expectations of Excellence and Chapter Accreditation program. In order to be recognized by the Office, the following expectations must be met:

- The mission, principles, and values of the potential fraternity/sorority (PF/S) must be social in nature and the membership will be University of New Hampshire undergraduate degree-seeking students.
- The PF/S must be international or national in scope and show proof of comprehensive fraternal liability insurance coverage. This coverage must meet the following qualifications:

- \$1 million per occurrence
- \$2 million in aggregate
- Have no exemption for hazing or sexual assault
- Incorporate host liquor liability coverage
- List the University of New Hampshire as an additional insured, a certificate of which must be submitted to the Office of Off-Campus Engagement & Fraternity and Sorority Life every semester.
- The PF/S must have organized a local advisory board of at least three alumni, staff, faculty, or local community members to support its undergraduate membership. No undergraduate members may serve on this board. The contact information and expectations of the board must be submitted to the Office of Off-Campus Engagement & Fraternity and Sorority Life.
- The PF/S must have a membership development program.
- The PF/S must have and submit copies of its Inter/National Constitution, By-Laws, academic standards, and risk management policies on the topic of hazing, and alcohol and other drugs.
- The PF/S must have and submit a copy of its standards for chartering to become a full chapter of the organization.
- The PF/S must submit a plan of support of its prospective new group, interest group, or provisional chapter from inter/national staff or volunteers. This must be approved by the Office of Off-Campus Engagement & Fraternity and Sorority Life.
- The PF/S must be a member of/affiliated with a national umbrella organization such as NIC, NPC, NMGV, NALFO, NAPA, NPHC, etc.
 - Fraternities and sororities not holding membership in or affiliated with one of these umbrella organizations may be considered at the discretion of the Office.
- The PF/S must seek and receive recognition from its respective council (e.g., Interfraternity Council) within two council meetings after gaining recognition from the Office of Off-Campus Engagement & Fraternity and Sorority Life. Failure to achieve council recognition will nullify PF/S recognition.
- The PF/S has never had its recognition permanently revoked from the University of New Hampshire.
- If a PF/S has lost recognition from UNH for a duration longer than one full academic year, or had its charter withdrawn from its inter/national organization, it may not return to UNH until all prior undergraduate members graduate or four full academic years have passed, whichever duration is shorter.

If all aforementioned qualifications are met, students or organizations should contact the Office of Off-Campus Engagement & Fraternity and Sorority Life to discuss the process and state of the community, and provide, in full, all information requested below to unh.ocesfl@unh.edu for review:

- General information about the organization
- Clear information on how the organization would benefit the greater University of New Hampshire and fraternity/sorority communities through directly supporting and aligning with the University of New Hampshire Strategic Plan and, specifically, advancing the learning outcomes of the Department.

- All inter/national standards, policies, and member expectations
- Overview of initial recruitment/intake process including support provided for establishing chapters
- Chartering requirements
- New member education/membership education program
- Written agreement with all terms, policies, and procedures of the University of New Hampshire and the UNH Student Rights, Rules and Responsibilities

All student interest groups and/or inter/national organizations must adhere to and participate in any expansion/extension process as required by the respective fraternity or sorority governing council, or the Office of Off-Campus Engagement & Fraternity and Sorority Life. These requirements may be adjusted at any point to ensure that requested information aligns with University mission and vision, as well as fraternity and sorority community needs.

Membership, Education, and Initiation Policy

Fraternities and sororities, whether existing or newly established, may only extend invitations for membership, sometimes called 'bids', during the academic year when fall or spring semester classes are in session. OCE & FSL considers the start of the membership process to be the point when an individual is extended an invitation for membership by the organization. All new member activities, events or programs cannot exceed eight weeks, and must take place during the academic year when classes are in session. Additionally, chapters must initiate new members within the same semester that the invitation/bid was extended and accepted. Regardless of the start date, all membership education activities shall end no later than the day prior to the beginning of Reading Days.

Initiation is defined as *the ceremony in which individuals become members of the organization* (in some organizations, it may be defined as "cross-over"). Under no circumstances is the date of the initiation ceremony to remain a secret from new members. Individuals must be made aware of this date at least two weeks after the beginning of the educational process.

Exceptions are made for initiation in the next semester only where explicitly stated in the inter/national governing documents or with a letter from the inter/national organization. Even in these cases, the entire new member education process must be completed in the semester membership is offered and accepted.

An outline of all activities conducted by the organization for educational purposes and those that include any new member involvement must be turned into OCE & FSL prior to recruitment each semester should the chapter be taking new membership. This outline must include, but is not limited to:

- All educational sessions
- Ritual or ceremony dates
- Library Hours/Study dates

- Initiation date
- Community service projects
- Big brother/sister activities
- Activities in which members will have an opportunity to meet and be involved with alumni

It is important for organizations to understand that OCE & FSL considers that if an activity is not listed in the outline, then it will not occur.

Recognition and Accreditation Policy

Being recognized at the University of New Hampshire is required to start off with the following criteria:

- organizations must have no less than 7 active members on the original roster to be recognized,
- an active member GPA average of a 2.9, and a new member GPA average of 2.7.
- Once recognized for the first time a Fraternity and/or Sorority Organization as defined above, chapters must continue to be re-recognized and meet all areas of excellence by following the Accreditation/Re-Recognition Program.
- Chapters will be shared learning outcomes and program requirements each year that members and chapters must strive for.

This program not only re-recognizes and keeps chapters in good standing, but it also provides the office and council opportunities to help properly coach and award organizations throughout the year. It is a tool to indicate their development and values as a part of the UNH Community.