

State University of New York at Geneseo
Office of Fraternal Life
POLICY ON RECOGNITION OF FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

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 letters.

II. Recognition:

To be eligible to receive consideration for College privileges, services, and resources, as outlined in SUNY Geneseo and Greek Organizations Statement of Relationship: Rights and Responsibilities, fraternal organizations must hold “recognized” status. Recognition is granted at the discretion of the Vice President for Student and Campus Life or designee upon demonstrating that the organization is responsibly managed, fiscally reliable, a responsible steward of College and community property, and a constructive member of the College community that reflects the College’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 Fraternal Life or Continuing Registration Form with the Department of Student Life;
- b. Has a minimum of four (4) currently enrolled SUNY Geneseo undergraduate members, in the case of continuing recognition. Exceptions may be recommended to the Vice President for Student and Campus Life by the Office of Fraternal Life, on a case-by-case basis; and,
- c. Has a minimum group GPA of 2.25 in the case of continuing recognition; and,
- d. Is in good standing with its inter/national headquarters. Local fraternal organizations recognized by the College prior to June 1, 2012 are exempted from this requirement. All new fraternal organizations seeking recognition on or after June 1, 2012 must have inter/national status. Exceptions may be recommended to the Vice President for Student and Campus Life by the Office of Fraternal Life, on a case-by-case basis, for proposed organizations for which no inter/national organization of that type exists and who can demonstrate that they are working towards becoming an inter/nationally chartered organization; and,
- e. Have membership (provisional membership in the case of a new organization) in one of the College recognized fraternal governing councils, unless exempted from this requirement at the discretion of the Office of Fraternal Life, on a case-by-case basis, if a suitable governing structure for the proposed organization does not exist; and,
- f. Has reasonably complied with the Student Code of Conduct, Student Organization Handbook, and SUNY Geneseo and Greek Organizations Statement of Relationship: Rights and Responsibilities. New fraternal organizations must demonstrate a capacity to uphold these policies.
- g. New organizations seeking recognition must also:

- a. Demonstrate the existence of sufficient, active alumni support in the greater Rochester area.
- b. Have an alumni advisor/advisory board and selected a faculty/staff advisor.
- c. Demonstrate that the inter/national headquarters and/or inter/national officers have a proven track record of successful partnerships with the institutions they have chartered at.
- d. Adhere to the standards of the North American Interfraternity Conference, National Panhellenic Conference, National Pan Hellenic Council, National Multicultural Greek Council, National APIA Panhellenic Association, National Association for Latino Fraternal Organizations, National Interfraternity Music Council, or Professional Fraternity Association.
- e. Demonstrate that the inter/national organization provides sufficient educational training in the areas of chapter management, new member education, risk management/reduction, and leadership.

II. Application for Expansion and Term:

A fraternal organization will be considered for yearly recognition upon submitting a completed Application for Expansion to the Office of Fraternal Life. The application and supporting documentation for new organizations will be reviewed by the Office of Fraternal Life and a recommendation made to the Director of Student Life and Vice President for Student and Campus Life to accept or reject the application. Recognition of new fraternities and sororities will be granted only if they complete the recognition requirements as outlined in Section II above, agree to charter in a timeframe established by the College, there is demonstrated student interest, and College fiscal and human resources to support the additional organization. Recognition is granted for a term of one academic year.

III. Expiration and Renewal of Recognition:

Once recognized, a chapter is expected to remain in compliance with the terms of recognition. Each fall, the Continuing Registration Form must be submitted to be eligible to receive College privileges and resources. Failure to submit this form or to uphold the requirements of recognition will result in the suspension or termination of recognition and a loss of all College privileges.

IV. Revocation of Recognition:

Recognition may be suspended on an interim basis by the Vice President for Student and Campus Life, or designee, for a pattern or incident of misconduct, criminal activity, or fiscal default (as documented via the Student Conduct Board) 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 judgment of the Vice President for Student and Campus Life, or designee, poses an unacceptable risk of harm to persons or property, including liability or financial loss to the College or community.

In accordance with the College's Conduct Procedures For Recognized Student Groups, 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 one year for each incident cited.

V. Privileges, Resources, and Services:

Fraternal organizations with recognized status are eligible to receive College privileges, resources, and services as outlined in the Student Organization Handbook and SUNY Geneseo and Greek Organizations Statement of Relationship: Rights and Responsibilities.