

Student Services Manual (SSM)

SSM 1301–01: Social Fraternities and Sororities—University Recognition

Effective: 3/13/1989

Revised: 3/1/2024

Purpose

To describe the relationship between the member chapters of the ASU social fraternities and sororities and the university

Sources

Educational Outreach and Student Services

University policy

Policy

The university recognizes and supports the member chapters of the social fraternity/sorority community as an integral part of the ASU educational program and its commitment to student development. Recognition is offered and supported based upon the special and historically significant relationship between Greek-letter social organizations and the university. Social fraternity/sorority chapters enhance the quality of student life while contributing significantly to the educational, social, and personal growth of their members.

The university recognizes the authority of the student governing councils (the Interfraternity Council, the National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations, Inc., the National Pan-Hellenic Council, the Multicultural Greek Council, and the Panhellenic Council) to regulate all matters of social fraternity/sorority interest, subject to university policy. University recognition requires student organization registration and membership in the appropriate governing council, as well as compliance with board and university policies and procedures. Failure to comply with governing council or university policy may result in sanctions, including revocation of registration (closure of chapter).

The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life will review each organization’s recognition status for compliance on a semester basis. Failure to comply with minimum expectations may result in revocation of recognition (closure of chapter), as outlined in this policy.

Social fraternities and sororities are expected to recognize and to embrace the educational purposes of the university and the individual educational goals of their members. Activities of social fraternities and sororities should not interfere with academic responsibilities. Organizations are encouraged to assist members in their academic pursuits and to endorse a set of academic standards and expectations. In addition to supporting the educational goals of their members, social fraternities and sororities should promote programs that develop social and leadership skills in both individuals and groups.

The United States Department of Education has established guidelines and criteria that are necessary for an organization to be classified as a social fraternity or sorority. In keeping with these criteria, Arizona State University classifies social fraternities and sororities as organizations that:

- do not limit membership to persons pursuing or having interest in a particular field of study, profession, or academic discipline

- do not serve as honorary societies for academic, leadership, or any other endeavors
- do not permit members to hold membership in other social fraternities or sororities.

In addition, these organizations must also:

- have recognition as a colony or chapter in good standing with an inter/national social fraternity or sorority
- have tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code (§86.14 of *Title IX of the U.S. Education Act Amendments of 1972*).

Membership in the Social Fraternity/Sorority Community

The social fraternity/sorority community at ASU is composed of private, voluntary-association student organizations that are registered as ASU student organizations, affiliated with an inter/national fraternity or sorority, and are members in good standing of one of the five governing councils.

Minimum Expectations Regarding Social Fraternity/Sorority Recognition

The following is a summary of minimum expectations of social fraternities/sororities to receive full recognition. These may be amended from time to time at the discretion of the university.

1. Each social fraternity and sorority must register each academic year as a student organization and must comply with registration requirements during the year. Each social fraternity/sorority must have a minimum of three (3) members to maintain good standing.
2. Social fraternity, sorority, and council executive officers must be registered as students at Arizona State University; must be in good academic and disciplinary standing with the university and their organization; and must belong to a social fraternity/sorority registered with and recognized by the university and with the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life.
3. Each social fraternity/sorority must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws in addition to the *Student Code of Conduct* and other rules adopted by the Arizona Board of Regents and the university.
4. Each social fraternity/sorority will provide the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life with the following information:
 - a. current contact information for each of its chapter officers and advisors by September 15 and February 15 each year and within 48 hours following any change in leadership. This roster must contain explicit information for the person (or persons) responsible for the new member education process, including any committee or group established to oversee the new member education process.
 - b. active-member roster by September 15 and February 15 each year and within 48 hours following any change in member's status with the undergraduate chapter
 - c. new member roster within 48 hours of a new member's affiliation with the undergraduate chapter
 - d. a copy of the chapter's governing documents, including the chapter constitution and bylaws, with approval documentation from the chapter's inter/national organization, by September 15 of each year
 - e. a copy of the chapter's new member education program including the date of initiation, not to exceed twelve (12) weeks, as approved by the chapter's inter/national organization by September 15 and February 15 of each year
 - f. new member education meetings must take place on ASU's campus, and information on the date(s), time(s), and location of the meetings must be provided prior to the commencement of new member education each term
 - g. proof of chapter general liability insurance of at least \$1,000,000, listing Arizona State University as the certificate holder. Insurance must cover all chapter officers, functions, and activities. Proof must be submitted by September 15 and/or upon renewal each year. Each social fraternity/sorority shall renew liability insurance prior to the expiration date each year and notify the university immediately of any change in or loss of coverage.

Note: Organizations that cannot verify insurance may have activities limited or suspended.

and

- h. completed chapter information form (including information regarding the number of community service hours completed, philanthropic dollars raised, campus involvement and leadership positions held, and any other relevant chapter information) by December 1 and April 1 each year.
5. Each social fraternity/sorority will have at least one chapter advisor, as approved by the chapter's inter/national organization.
6. Each social fraternity/sorority president will meet with a designated staff member from the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life at least once each month.
7. Each social fraternity/sorority will follow all governing council and university recruitment policies and procedures.
8. Each social fraternity/sorority shall follow risk management policies established by the university and by the chapter's inter/national organization. Each social fraternity/sorority will participate in risk management and new member education training, as provided by the university. Each social fraternity/sorority shall minimize the risk of harm to people and property while accepting accountability for actions of the chapter.
9. Each social fraternity/sorority must notify the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life within 24 hours in the case of any critical incident.
10. Each social fraternity/sorority must notify the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life within 24 hours of receiving any information alleging hazing providing the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life with complete details of the information received and the fraternity/sorority must cooperate fully in any University investigation of alleged hazing.
11. Each social fraternity/sorority must notify the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life within 24 hours of receiving any information from its inter/national social fraternity or sorority that the inter/national has received any complaint about the social fraternity/sorority, is going to conduct a risk management review, investigation, or otherwise review the operations of the social fraternity/sorority, or is taking any action in regards to the status of the social fraternity/sorority.
12. Each social fraternity/sorority must notify the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life within 24 hours of any contact by any law enforcement agency providing the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life with complete details of the law enforcement contact.
13. Each social fraternity/sorority will maintain good financial standing with the university.

Benefits of Full Recognition for Social Fraternities/Sororities

Full recognition will afford a social fraternity/sorority the following privileges and benefits:

1. Identification as a recognized fraternity/sorority at Arizona State University and use of the university's name along with, but not in place of, identification of the sponsoring body.
2. Access to and use of university facilities, equipment, and services for official functions, subject to university policies and procedures.
3. Access to information about the academic achievement of fraternity/sorority members, subject to university policy regarding authorized release of student information.
4. Verification of fraternity/sorority members' ASU enrollment, subject to university policy regarding authorized release of student information.
5. Ability to promote and advertise in university and student publications, on ASU websites, and on university property, the social fraternity/sorority chapter and events and the social fraternity/sorority sponsors, subject to applicable university policies.

6. Permission to sponsor programs and activities consistent with the broader aims of the university and with the purposes of their organization.
7. Regular meetings with professional staff of the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life to include, but not limited to:
 - a. individual meetings with social fraternity/sorority presidents, advisors, or other officers, as needed
and
 - b. discussion about fraternity/sorority issues or concerns
8. Participation in the educational, cultural, social, awards and honors, athletic and other programs and activities sponsored by the university that are provided for social fraternities and sororities.
9. Ability to enter into license agreements with the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life and Office of University Housing for a social fraternity/sorority facility.
10. The right to recruit and select members subject to university policies as provided for in §86.14, Title IX, U.S. Education Act of 1972.
11. The right to self-governance, through the established policies and procedures of the governing councils and within the parameter of university policies.

and
12. Other privileges that may derive from membership in one of its governing councils.

Probation and Revocation of Recognition

Recognition and support will not be provided to unregistered, unrecognized, or sub-rosa organizations.

Cross-References

For more information about university policy regarding social fraternities and sororities, see:

1. [SSM 104-01](#), “*Student Code of Conduct and Student Disciplinary Procedures*”
2. [SSM 104-03](#), “*Hazing Prevention*”
3. [SSM 106-03](#), “*Alcohol and Other Drugs on Campus.*”
4. and
5. [SSM 1302-01](#), “*Student Organization Registration.*”