

The University of Texas at Dallas Fraternity & Sorority Life Expansion Policies & Procedures

The University of Texas at Dallas, consistent with the guidelines of the Association of Fraternity/Sororities Advisors, is committed to developing fair processes, policies, and procedures for the establishment of new chapters of inter/national fraternities and sororities on this campus. Inter/National fraternities and sororities who seek to establish a new chapter at UT Dallas should read these guidelines and procedures carefully and follow the guidelines herein. The University will endeavor to provide clear, consistent, and timely communication with all parties interested in building a new relationship with the University of Texas at Dallas.

National social fraternities and sororities may establish recognized chapters at the University of Texas at Dallas only through a formal invitation extended by the University. The invitation is contingent upon petitioners meeting the criteria outlined in this document. The University of Texas at Dallas reserves the right, at any time and at its sole discretion, to alter, amend, change, modify, delete, revise, or restate the terms of this expansion process and may do so without providing advance notice to any then existing council or organization, any applying organization, or any other councils or organizations.

The following policy establishes the guidelines and procedures for establishing new chapters of social fraternities/ sororities at the University of Texas at Dallas. This policy is divided into five sections:

- Section I defines what the University considers a “national” social fraternity or sorority.
- Section II outlines the information that a national fraternity or sorority, group of UT Dallas students, or Greek Council representatives must submit to for any expansion request.
- Section III describes the procedure for establishing a new organization at UT Dallas.
- Section IV outlines accountability measures for new organizations.
- Section V outlines benefits afforded a new organization/chapter at the University of Texas at Dallas.
- Section VI outlines the UT Dallas Re-establishment policy.

Section I

- A. The definition of a “National” fraternity or sorority is deemed in the following terms: The organization has a headquarters or office space and professional staff; has non-profit status with the IRS, has a Board of Directors and governance papers; has proof of organizational (non-profit) liability insurance, and has regional and national meetings or conventions. In addition, these organizations limit membership to currently enrolled, degree-seeking students from the University of Texas at Dallas. The interpretation of these points can be amended & decided upon by the Associate VP for Student Affairs & Dean of Students.
- B. Additionally, the United States Department of Education has established guidelines and criteria necessary for an organization to be classified as a social fraternity or sorority (which includes a provision allowing an organization to operate as a single-sex organization). In keeping with that criteria, UT Dallas classifies social fraternities and sororities as organizations that:
- C. Do not limit membership to persons pursuing or having interests in a specific field of study, profession, or academic discipline;
- D. Do not serve as honorary societies for academic, leadership, or another endeavor; and
- E. Do not permit members to hold membership in other social sororities and fraternities.

Section II

- A. Any national fraternity or sorority, group of UT Dallas students representing a national fraternity or sorority (*pending confirmation*), or Greek council representatives wishing to establish a new chapter at the University of Texas at Dallas should file a letter/email of intent with the Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life within the first month of an academic term. The Director shall notify the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students and the Expansion Committee (*See Appendix I*), which would coordinate the expansion request of that national organization along with the governing student council. The letter of intent shall be considered a request to establish a new organization at UT Dallas. Notices of intent to expand at UT Dallas will only be accepted during the first month of the Fall and Spring academic term (Aug-Sep. & Jan-Feb.)
- B. The national fraternity or sorority wishing to establish a new organization must follow the universities' expansion policy/procedures as well as consult any/all expansion or extension guidelines from one of the four governing councils/umbrella organizations (College Panhellenic Council, Interfraternity Council, Multicultural Greek Council, and National Pan-Hellenic Council).
1. National Pan-Hellenic Council is the campus governing body of those fraternities and sororities who are members of the National Pan-Hellenic Council.
 2. Interfraternity Council is the campus governing body of those fraternities who are current members of the North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC), or historically NIC centric/new men's organizations that agree to meet the IFC Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), which are rooted in the NIC Standards.
 3. College Panhellenic Council is the campus governing body of women's organizations that have membership in the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) and follow the NPC method for extension.
 4. Multicultural Greek Council is the campus governing body of those fraternities and sororities whose national offices do not belong to those national umbrella associations or councils listed above; are members of the National Asian Pacific Islander American Panhellenic Association (NAPA), the National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations (NALFO), and The National Multicultural Greek Council (NMGC); or have membership in another national fraternal association that is not currently listed but has a vested cultural and fraternal heritage.
- C. The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life at the University of Texas at Dallas is committed to working collaboratively with all national umbrella associations for our social fraternities and sororities regarding responsible growth. We acknowledge each association's independent stance, policies, and procedures regarding expansion and look to adopt best practices when applicable as needed.
- D. National Fraternity/Sorority Offices shall provide the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and all relevant University officials with the following information:
1. Proof of "National" Fraternity/Sorority status. *See Section I* Number of alumni in the area (50-mile radius of Richardson, TX 75080).
 2. Letter of confirmation of support for a chapter by area alumni/Alumni Association.
 3. Written request and support for a chapter by the national office.
 4. The number of organization's collegiate chapters nationwide.
 5. The number of organization's chapters in the State of Texas.
 6. A copy of the national constitution and by-laws and all other rules, regulations, policies, etc., about newly established groups.
 7. A copy of the organization's non-discrimination-policy
 8. A listing of the organization's average chapter size nationwide.
 9. A copy of the organization's member health and safety policies & resources

10. Information about any/all new member education/onboarding programs/policies.
11. Information about any/all member development programs.
12. List of other institutions where the organization recently established new within the last five years.
13. List of other institutions where the organization received any disciplinary sanctions within the last five years and the infraction(s) nature.
14. List of other institutions where the organization has any pending disciplinary sanction(s) or investigation(s).
15. List all lawsuits filed against the organization within the last five years and the status of these cases. Agree to supply additional information regarding any such lawsuit if requested by the University of Texas at Dallas.
16. Submit a plan of action or timeline for the establishment of a new organization. This will include support for the organization from the Organization's National Headquarters, length of time national/regional staff or volunteers will be on hand to establish the chapter, and the degree of support/resources and plan of consultations and supervision for establishing a new entity.
17. Proof of the organization's insurance coverage (A Certificate of Insurance is acceptable)
18. Financial support available to the new organization from the national organization and alumni, to include a statement concerning how, and if, the national organization will handle any outstanding liabilities or other legal responsibilities incurred by the new organization, in the event they are not successful in their attempt to establish a new organization.
19. Place of residence of the new members, pledges, associates, and national/regional representatives (if applicable – fraternity/sorority housing is not required.)
20. Any additional information requested by the University of Texas at Dallas.

- E. The national/regional office must submit a statement that shows it will agree to the following items:
1. Statement(s) from a local alumnus or alumni, willing to serve as organization advisor or advisory teams.
 2. Agree to have a faculty/staff advisor (employed faculty or staff member at the University of Texas at Dallas)
 3. Headquarters staff will meet with Fraternity & Sorority Life Staff before establishment.
 4. Agree to abide by all Fraternity and Sorority Life requirements, including participation in any chapter standards program.
 5. Agree that the chapter will maintain published chapter minimums for academic standards.
 6. Be free of organizational disciplinary sanctions (if re-establishing)
 7. Agree to abide by all requirements of student organizations by the Student Organizations Center
 8. Provide a schedule of organization activities for the first year of operation once the invitation to expand at UT Dallas has been extended.
 9. The organization must agree, in writing, to comply with all policies, codes, procedures, statements, and all accompanying rules of the University of Texas at Dallas and the laws of the State of Texas that currently exist or may exist in the future.

Section III

- A. Interested inter/national fraternities and sororities shall provide all the information and materials listed in Section II items D and E; failure to provide said information could exclude such organization from consideration for expansion. Inter/national fraternities/sororities are encouraged to submit information only during the first month of each academic term (See UT Dallas Academic Calendar for term start dates). After submitting the listed information, the UT Dallas Expansion Committee (*Appendix 1*) will be convened to review the submitted material.
- B. The Expansion Committee will then vote (via a simple majority) to present the proposal for expansion to the corresponding governing Fraternity/Sorority Council. Following a vote in favor, a summary report will be created and presented to the respective governing council by members of the Expansion Committee, highlighting the reasons for expansion and the organization's required information. After review, the governing council will then be asked to hold a vote (simple majority to pass unless stated otherwise in council governing doctrine) on their interest in learning more about the organization via an in-person presentation from professional representatives from the National Organization (*See Appendix II for presentation details*).
- C. After the presentation(s), the Expansion Committee shall meet and discuss the merits of those organization(s) applying for expansion. The committee shall then submit a recommendation for expansion. At that time, the Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life shall review the submission along with all submitted material from applying organizations and provide their recommendation to the Associate VP for Student Affairs and Dean of Students. The Associate VP for Student Affairs and Dean of Students shall make a final determination of which organization(s) shall be extended an invitation to establish a new chapter at UT Dallas. Once the Associate VP for Student Affairs and Dean of Students has made their expansion decision, the University shall notify the applying organization.

Section IV

- A. At the end of two years from the date of University approval for expansion, any organization, which fails to be (i) a fully chartered chapter by its national organization; (ii) a chapter in good standing by its national organization; or (iii) has not been granted membership in their respective council, shall lose their status and recognition as a new organization at the University of Texas at Dallas. According to its own governing documents, each council will deliberate exceptions to this policy on a case-by-case basis.
- B. Any circumvention of this or any other processes outlined in this policy by the organization or student representatives immediately nullifies that organizations' expansion progression with UT Dallas. This includes but is not limited to affiliating with neighboring universities and attempting to register at UT Dallas, holding initiation ceremonies before approval for expansion, registering as a UT Dallas student organization while operating/advertising the organization as a fraternity/sorority without appropriate consent or communication with the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life.

Section V

- A. A formally constituted Greek Letter social fraternity or sorority at the University of Texas at Dallas will have:
 - 1. All privileges of a Student Organization as defined by the Student Organization Manual.
 - 2. Access to the Fraternity & Sorority Life Office Staff and other University personnel to assist the chapter with its growth, development, and compliance with these guidelines and standards.
 - 3. Support and guidance from the Fraternity & Sorority Life Office through participation in advising the respective Greek Councils, meeting with chapter leadership, and attending chapter and council events.

4. Timely access to information regarding the academic performance of the chapter's members.
5. Access to information concerning the academic performance of potential new members who may participate in the recruitment process.
6. Assistance from the Fraternity & Sorority Life Office in identifying a potential Faculty Advisor and members of the University's faculty to assist the chapter with its academic programs and initiatives.
7. Communication from Fraternity & Sorority Life Office regarding the chapter's compliance with these guidelines and standards and the chapter's efforts in furthering the quality of the undergraduate experience. This communication shall also be disseminated to the chapter leadership, Chapter Advisors, and the Inter/National Organization.
8. Access to new undergraduate students through information and participation in the new student orientation program.
9. Assistance and support in following the individual chapter's risk management policies and the University's expectations and requirements.
10. Support and guidance in planning and implementing a New Member Education Program.
11. On-going advising and educational programs/resources on topics of new member education, Fraternity & Sorority Life values, hazing prevention, recruitment, member well-being, mental health, program planning, bystander intervention, and other appropriate topics.

Section VI

Fraternity/Sorority Re-establishment Guidelines

A fraternity or sorority that wishes to re-establish a chapter at The University of Texas at Dallas may be considered for return by demonstrating its ability to satisfy and comply with the following guidelines. Requests for returns must be made to the Associate Vice-President of Student Affairs/ Dean of Students via the Fraternity & Sorority Life Office. Additionally, these guidelines can only be entertained after a group has served the duration of any suspension and met all requirements stipulated by the Office of Community Standards and Conduct. Any changes/adaptations of these guidelines can be requested to the Associate Vice-President of Student Affairs/ Dean of Students via the Fraternity & Sorority Life Office.

- A. The Three Pillars of the UT Dallas Fraternity & Sorority Life Community (Belonging, Opportunity, and Personal Development) must be an essential part of the planning that will go into any program for returning organizations. The alumni/national volunteers in charge of the return must show their understanding of the pillars and indicate how the pillars will be incorporated into the organization's operations, particularly during the first two years.
- B. The National Organization will be expected to conduct/assist in recruiting and selecting new members for the first year, as per their national standards or procedures. In succeeding years, approved alumni from the national organization will be expected to participate in the recruitment process.
- C. The National Organization must provide a detailed member orientation program for all new chapter members and alumni. This program should be separate from the nationally recognized new member education program. This member orientation program should address such issues as the meaning of membership in the organization, member standards for the re-established chapter, and individual accountability measures for member conduct.
- D. The National Organization will highlight a grouping of alumni located within reasonable (<50miles) proximity to UT Dallas. The National Organization must identify the alumni as mentioned earlier as fit for advisement on the day-to-day activities of the chapter, particularly during the first 18 months of its return. These alumni's specific duties and responsibilities must

be identified and presented to the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students and Fraternity and Sorority Life Office. Additionally, regular communication with UT Dallas Fraternity and Sorority Life staff outlining chapter progression will be required.

- E. If the organization's suspension was due to a violation of UT Dallas Code of Conduct policies/procedures, the organization must present a plan/program indicating how the organization will attempt to ensure that violations of that nature will not happen again. The program should also include resources for the UT Dallas chapter concerning finances, chapter operations, event management, etc. Plans should also be shared with chapter membership at member orientation (see point 3 for more information)
- F. If the organization's suspension was due to a violation of UT Dallas Code of Conduct policies/procedures, previous members of a suspended or inactive chapter should not be permitted to affiliate with a re-established chapter. While the decision regarding membership status belongs to the national organization, exceptions to this general prohibition are not encouraged. They must be formally presented to Associate Vice-President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students for consideration.

Appendix I

Expansion Committee Organization

The Expansion Committee shall deal with all matters about the expansion of UT Dallas' Greek community or replacing any group that is no longer active. The expansion committee will convene to discuss the expansion for at least one of the following reasons:

1. The need for a new chapter is recognized by an expansion committee member, Fraternity and Sorority Life staff, or a collection of FSL community members.
2. An individual or group of students contacts an expansion committee member or Fraternity and Sorority Life wanting to start a fraternity or sorority.
3. An (inter)national fraternity or sorority contacts an expansion committee or Fraternity and Sorority Life wanting to start a fraternity or sorority.
4. It is determined by the expansion committee after the stated timeframe for receiving expansion-related inquiries. The expansion committee will evaluate the need for expansion for different councils once a semester. Individual council's expansion teams can provide Fraternity and Sorority Life recommendations regarding the necessity of expansion for their respective council.
5. The Associate VP for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, having final determination on expansion rate and decisions, calls for the committee to convene.

Expansion Committee

The Expansion Committee shall be comprised of the following (11) individuals.

1. Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life (Chair)
2. Student Organization Center staff member (1)
3. Two UT Dallas staff members appointed by the Dean of students (2)
4. The Student Government President (or designee) (1)
5. One representative from Multicultural Greek Council (MGC), Interfraternity Council (IFC), College Panhellenic Council (CPC), and National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC). (4)
6. Student-At-Large member of Greek Community (1)
7. Alumni/Greek Chapter Advisor (1)
8. Associate VP of Student Affairs and Dean of Students (ex-officio)

Appendix II

Formal Presentation

The Expansion presentation allows an interested National Fraternity/Sorority to display the culture, standards, and characteristics that would show the relevance of that organization to the UT Dallas community. Professional staff or prominent alumni must coordinate all aspects of the presentation for the UT Dallas community with the Fraternity and Sorority Life Office. The presentation should be limited to 90 minutes, including time for questions from the gathered audience.

A. The formal presentation should outline the following:

1. Organization's mission, purpose, and desire for establishment
2. How the values of organization correlate with those of UT Dallas and the Fraternity and Sorority Life Mission
3. Establishment timeline that highlights organization activities
4. Cost, involvement, and co-curricular expectations for members
5. The relationship that can be built within the governing council, The University, and surrounding communities

This policy may be amended, altered, or modified by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life at any time if changes are in consultation with the UT Dallas Dean of Students

Revised July 2021