Fraternity and Sorority Life Policies

Social fraternities and sororities exist at the University of New Hampshire. These groups are solely recognized student organizations through the Office of Off-Campus Engagement & Fraternity and Sorority Life and are expected to uphold all policies and procedures for recognized student organizations except where explicitly stated otherwise. The University of New Hampshire reserves the right to address, through the Student Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities or Student Organization Conduct processes, 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. In addition to the policy and guidelines of the Office of Off-Campus Engagement each recognized FSL group must adhere to their national organization policies and processes and uphold the standards of the Interfraternity & Panhellenic governing councils.

Risk Management Policy

To review our social policy for events with alcohol, please click here. To review our hazing policy, please click here. To request to host an event, please click here to follow proper guidelines.

Extension of Membership, Education Process, 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. 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. 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.
Recognition Requirements

The Expectations of Excellence and Chapter Accreditation is the process the Office of Off-Campus Engagement & Fraternity and Sorority Life uses to ensure that organizations meet the minimum expectations of the University and the Councils. The accreditation program provides chapters a tool to indicate their development and values as part of the UNH community. Please click here for our full program requirements for chapters.

At minimum, organizations must have no less than 7 active members, an active member GPA average of a 2.9, and a new member GPA average of 2.7.

For Chapter’s that fail to meet accreditation, please see below for next steps on the recognition process:

First Year Below Accreditation – No Conduct Violations/Disciplinary Probation

A chapter failing to meet accreditation for the first time must prepare a formal presentation for the Student Life team, identifying strategies to improve its standing in the coming calendar year. At least 25% of the chapter must attend this presentation. The organization will remain a recognized student organization but must schedule this presentation with the Office of Off-Campus Engagement & Fraternity and Sorority Life within one month of receiving their accreditation status. This is to ensure that after the presentation there is enough time to support the organization with its recommended strategies for improvement in the next cycle of the program. The chapter also must review this presentation at their next business meeting after receiving feedback from the Office.

Additionally, the Student Life team will provide each chapter falling below accreditation with an action plan to remedy its standing. This action plan will assist chapters with the Expectations of Excellence that they did not meet, or to submit additional materials that would allow for the chapter to document a level of operation at accreditation. Chapters failing to respond to the course of action deadlines will immediately put their UNH recognition in jeopardy. The Student Life team will identify resources available to the chapter to assist in the improvement of expectations below accreditation.

Second Consecutive Year Below Accreditation, Third Time Below Accreditation in Five Years, or First Year for a Chapter with Conduct Violations/Disciplinary Probation

If a chapter:
1) falls below accreditation for a second consecutive year
2) falls below accreditation three times in five years,
3) is on disciplinary probation or found responsible for a conduct violation that occurred during the calendar year and falls below accreditation for a first year

the Office of Off-Campus Engagement & Fraternity and Sorority Life will immediately file a report with the Office of Community Standards and the chapter in question will go through the Student Conduct process based on the violation. This hearing may result in the loss of recognition of the chapter. The council respectively may choose to act through their judicial board as well. If the chapter is not removed but given sanctions or educational outcomes the Office and councils will support that organization to reach their goals for the coming year.
Third Consecutive Year Below Accreditation or Second Consecutive Year for a Chapter with Conduct Violations/Disciplinary Probation

A chapter
a) falling below accreditation for a third consecutive year
b) falling below accreditation for a second consecutive year that is on disciplinary probation or found responsible for a conduct violation that occurred during the calendar year

Will automatically be referred to Community Standards to follow the proper Conduct process. If the organization is suspended because of this outcome, to return after failing to meet accreditation a group must comply with the UNH Fraternity and Sorority Life Minimum Standards for Expansion/Extension and work with the Office of Off-Campus Engagement & Fraternity and Sorority life with a timeline and plan that works for the respective council and community. A return agreement must be met with the fraternal organizations inter/national headquarters upon return to the University.

Expansion/Extension

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 that is willing to meet the following standards for expansion in accordance with the Expectations of Excellence and Chapter Accreditation program through the Office of Off-Campus Engagement & Fraternity and Sorority Life. Some general expectations will be adhered to:

- The mission, principles, and values of the PF/S [1] must be social in nature and the membership will be University of New Hampshire degree-seeking undergraduate students.
- The PF/S must gain full recognition from the Office of Off-Campus Engagement & Fraternity and Sorority Life.
- 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 members. 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.

[1] Potential Fraternity or Sorority
• 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 for its prospective new group, interest group, or provisional chapter from inter/national staff or volunteers. This plan 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, NMGC, 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 Coordinator/Director 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.ocefsl@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 directing 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 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, where applicable, 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.