**Fraternity & Sorority Life Policies**

TAMU-C Office of Student Engagement Fraternity & Sorority Life

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**Table of Contents**

Overview 3

Organizations 3

Mission 4

Recognition 4

Governing Councils 4

Recruitment/Membership Intake Process 5

Criteria for Eligibility 5

General Recruitment/Intake Requirements 5

Academics Policy 7

Chapter Rehabilitation Plan for Chapters on Academic Inactive Status 9

Participation in Intramurals 10

Chapter Programming 10

Chapter Membership Requirement 10

New Member Education Event 11

Anti-hazing Policy Statement 12

Chapter Events with Alcohol 13

Social Probation Guidelines 13

Greek Standards of Excellence 14

**Overview**

The Office of Student Engagement, in collaboration with the Dean for Campus Life & Student Development, has formulated the following policies for the Fraternity & Sorority Life community and organizations at Texas A&M University-Commerce. Please note that these policies, and any accompanying sanctions, do not supersede those contained within the Student Guidebook for Texas A&M University-Commerce, or those established by the Dean for Campus Life & Student Development. These policies are subject to change and/or will be updated as deemed appropriate and supersede any policies/requirements from any inter/national organization.

**TAMUC Fraternity & Sorority Life Organizations**

Texas A&M University-Commerce is proud to be the home to twenty-two active fraternities and sororities, including twelve men’s fraternities and ten women’s sororities. The fraternities and sororities promote a community focused on leadership, scholarship, brotherhood/sisterhood, and service, as a vital part to the Texas A&M University - Commerce community

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **College Panhellenic Council (CPC)** | **Interfraternity Council (IFC)** | **Multicultural Greek Council (MGC)** | **National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)** |
| Alpha Phi | Alpha Gamma Rho | Kappa Delta Chi Sorority, Inc. | Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. |
| Chi Omega | Delta Tau Delta | Omega Delta Phi Fraternity, Inc. | Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. |
| Gamma Phi Beta | Kappa Sigma | Phi Iota Alpha Fraternity, Inc. | Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. |
| Sigma Alpha | Pi Kappa Alpha | Sigma Lambda Alpha Sorority, Inc. | Omega Psi Phi, Fraternity, Inc. |
|  | Sigma Chi |  | Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. |
|  |  |  | Phi Beta Sigma, Fraternity, Inc. |
|  |  |  | Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. |
|  |  |  | Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. |
|  |  |  | Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. |

**Fraternity and Sorority Life Mission**

The mission of the Office of Student Engagement is to provide high-quality student development programming that contributes to the academic mission of the university by facilitating opportunities for scholarly success, community service, campus leadership, and fraternal friendships in a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment.

**Recognition**

To be a recognized by the Office of Student Engagement, an organization must be recognized by both the appropriate governing council and registered as a student organization through the Rayburn Student Center (RSC). New organizations must follow the governing council specific expansion/extension procedures, in addition to the FSL expansion policy, in order to be considered for recognition. All recognized fraternities and sororities are eligible to utilize university facilities and services, and must follow all policies for recognized student organizations as outlined by the RSC.

For more details on expansion, please see the TAMU-C FSL Expansion Policy.

**Governing Councils**

* **College Panhellenic Council (CPC)** coordinates and oversees activities of recognized sororities that belong to the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC). The College Panhellenic Council will abide by all policies and expectations of the NPC.
* **Interfraternity Council (IFC)** coordinates and oversees activities of the recognized fraternities within the North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) and other nationally recognized fraternities.
* **Multicultural Greek Council (MGC)** coordinates and oversees the activities of the culturally-based fraternities and sororities.
* **National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc.** **(NPHC)** coordinates and oversees activities of the recognized fraternities and sororities that belong to the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC).

**Recruitment/Membership Intake Process**

**Criteria for Eligibility**

* Only full-time (12 credit hours minimum) undergraduate students enrolled at Texas A&M University-Commerce are eligible for membership within a fraternity or sorority on campus.
  + If the (Inter) National Headquarters allows graduate students to become initiated members through the Undergraduate Chapter, notice of that exception must be provided to the Office of Student Engagement ***prior*** to selection of that member for the Recruitment/Membership Intake process.
  + Individual degree programs that vary in number of hours to be considered full-time will be verified with the TAMU-C Registrar.
* Students must have a cumulative 2.5 GPA in order to participate in any recruitment/intake process.
  + 2.5 cumulative college GPA with 12 completed college hours
  + 2.5 cumulative high school GPA with 11 or less college hours.
    - True freshmen interested in joining an IFC Fraternity must have a 2.7 cumulative high school GPA.
  + Individual fraternities/sororities may have additional/higher stipulations for potential new members/aspirants to adhere to (i.e. GPA requirement, hour requirement, community service requirement, etc.)
* Students seeking to join Multicultural Greek Council (MGC) or National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) chapters are required to attend MGC 101 or NPHC 101 within the past academic year prior to pursuing membership in a MGC or NPHC organization.
* Students participating in Interfraternity Council (IFC) or College Panhellenic Council (CPC) Primary Recruitment are required to attend the mandatory orientation prior to participating in recruitment.
* Students interested in participating in IFC or CPC Primary Recruitment must register on ICS prior to participating in the recruitment process.
  + Students interested in participating in IFC or CPC Primary Recruitment must also pay the registration fee on ICS prior to participating in recruitment.

**General Recruitment/Intake Requirements**

* All recruitment/intake events must take place on campus or at an approved location (by the Office of Student Engagement)
* **No alcoholic beverages or illegal substances of any kind may be served or made available to anyone; member, prospective member or guest, in a chapter house and/or at any chapter functions during the recruitment/intake period.**
* MGC and NPHC organizations facilitating Membership Intake Process (MIP) must complete the New Membership Intake/Recruitment packet prior to beginning the intake process.
* Recruitment/intake must occur during fall or spring semester. Summer recruitment/intake is prohibited.
* Each semester, the Friday of the last week of classes, is the deadline to extend a bid to a new member.
* IFC and CPC organizations may not extend bids prior to the first-class day of each long semester, during school breaks (winter and summer) or prior to the beginning of Formal Recruitment process.

**TAMUC Office of Student Engagement**

**Fraternity & Sorority Life**

**Academics Policy**

* In order to be considered in good academic standing by the Office of Student Engagement at Texas A&M University-Commerce, chapters must maintain a chapter cumulative GPA of 2.5 and term GPA of 2.0 or higher.
* If any chapter fails to maintain a chapter cumulative GPA of 2.5 and term GPA of 2.0 or higher, the chapter will be placed on academic probation for the following semester.
* ***Academic probation includes all of the following:***
  + Chapter president and academic chair must schedule monthly meetings with the Fraternity & Sorority Life Staff and faculty/staff advisor to determine the course of action that is planned to ensure the return to “academic good standing” status.
  + Chapter must host an academic workshop(s) by approved presenters to all members of the chapter (approved by council advisor)
    - At minimum everyone not meeting the GPA requirement must attend.
    - Chapter president must submit documentation of workshop attendance to council advisor.
  + Social Probation
    - This includes but is not limited to formals, mixers, date parties, and parties of any nature.
    - Participation in Greek League Intramurals.
    - Participation in step shows, stroll-offs, showcases or events similar in nature.
  + During this time, the chapter may only hold educational and community service-based/philanthropic programs and events.
  + If, by the end of the semester of probation, the chapter meets the GPA requirement, the academic probation status will be lifted.
  + If, by the end of the semester of academic probation, the chapter fails to achieve the requirement, the chapter will then be placed on ***“inactive status”*** by the Office of Student Engagement until the grade point average meets the requirement.
    - Inactive status requires the suspension of all chapter functions including but not limited to council, social, philanthropic, service activities and FSL department events such as Greek Week and Greek Awards and MIP.
    - Chapters on inactive status must comply with the following rehabilitation plan. This plan is intended to create stability within the chapter and take a “hands-on” approach in guiding the chapter though creating, implementing and maintaining a proper academic/scholarship program.

**Chapter and Council Officers GPA Requirement**

* All council and chapter officers of fraternities and sororities must be in good standing with the University, as defined in the Student Organization Handbook which includes maintaining a 2.0 cumulative GPA. Council officers whose semester GPA falls below 2.0 GPA shall be removed from office.

**TAMUC Office of Student Engagement**

**Fraternity & Sorority Life**

**Chapter Rehabilitation Plan for Chapters on**

**Academic Inactive Status**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Timeline** | **Strategy/Intervention** |
| **Month 1** |  |
| August/January | All chapter meeting with the Council Advisor on the status of chapter and semester information. Overview of chapter privileges, scholarship plan, deadlines, etc. |
|  | Chapter scholarship plan review/new member process review |
|  | All chapter academic session (as needed) |
|  | Meeting with Council Advisor (weekly) to discuss progress of the chapter (President and VP) (as needed) |
| **Month 2** |  |
| February/September | All chapter academic sessions (two) |
|  | Meeting with Council Advisor (weekly) to discuss progress of the chapter (President and VP) |
|  | One Brotherhood/Sisterhood Event |
| **Month 3** |  |
| March/October | All chapter academic sessions (two) |
|  | Meeting with Council Advisor (weekly) to discuss progress of the chapter (President and VP) |
|  | Mid-Semester check-in with Council advisor to review progress |
|  | Chapter study room provided as a resource for midterms, tutors contacted as needed. President must provide location and times available to council advisor. |
| **Month 4** |  |
| April/ November | All chapter academic sessions (two) |
|  | One Brotherhood/Sisterhood Event |
|  | Meeting with Council Advisor (biweekly) to discuss progress of the chapter (President and VP) |
|  | All chapter semester Review with Council Advisor |
| **Month 5** |  |
| May/December | Chapter study room provided as a resource for finals, tutors contacted as needed. President must provide location and times available to council advisor. |

**Participation in Intramurals**

* Any participant of a Fraternity/Sorority intramural team must have his/her name listed on the official chapter roster before he/she may compete and earn points.
  + All rosters are verified through ICS.
* New members/Neophytes are not eligible to participate on his/her chapter team until his/her name appears on the official membership roster.
* Participants must be in good academic standing.
* Alumni and inactive members are not eligible to participate as members of intramural teams.
* Any conflicts in the above policies may be overruled by the Director of Student Engagement.

**Chapter Programming**

* Programming that is not closed to the individual chapter during the last week of classes is prohibited. This time is for organizational members to prepare for finals. For fall 2021, all events must be completed by Tuesday, November 23, 2021. For spring 2021, all events must be completed by Saturday, April 30, 2021.
* All Membership Intake and new member showcases must be completed by the deadline stated in the Membership Intake Packet.

**Chapter Membership Requirements**

Fraternities and Sororities are responsible for meeting the Student Organization membership policy, which is the standard for all student organizations at TAMUC.

* All organizations must have and maintain at least six active student members.
  + If at any time a chapter falls below the six member requirement, the chapter will be given the following semester to meet the requirement. The chapter will be required to meet with the council advisor to develop a plan for recruitment/intake.
  + Chapters that go two consecutive semesters with membership numbers below six may be suspended.
    - A meeting will be scheduled with the Chapter Advisor, leadership of the organization and Fraternity & Sorority Life staff to determine a plan for membership recruitment for the chapter.

**New Member Education Event**

All new members and neophytes must attend the FSL New Member Education Event. Members of IFC and CPC must attend the program immediately following the acceptance of a bid. MGC and NPHC neophytes must attend the program immediately following their presentation to the greater community. If a chapter fails to have at least 80% of their new members in attendance, the chapter will be placed on probation for the remainder of the semester.

The terms of this probation will be created with the council advisor, chapter advisor, and faculty/staff advisor.

**TAMUC Office of Student Engagement**

**Fraternity & Sorority Life**

**Anti-hazing Policy Statement**

Hazing a member or prospective member of a registered student organization is strictly prohibited, and is in violation of student conduct codes and state law. Individuals found to be involved in hazing practices are subject to individual student judicial sanction, and the student organization found to have members involved in hazing is subject to sanctions up to and including loss of organization recognition. Students must not agree to submit to hazing in order to obtain membership in a student organization.

“Hazing” means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are or include students at an educational institution.

1. Any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity;
2. Any type of physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
3. Any activity involving consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance which subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm, or which adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
4. Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects the student to extreme mental stress, shame or humiliation, or that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student, or discourages the student from entering or remaining registered in an educational institution, or that may reasonably be expected to cause a student to leave the organization or the institution rather than submit to acts described in this subsection;
5. Any activity that induces, causes or requires the student to perform a duty or task which involves a violation of the Penal Code. Sec. 4.52. Personal Hazing Offense.

More information on the Hazing Code can be found within the Student Guidebook on pages 52-53.

**Chapter Events with Alcohol**

* The possession, use, and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages during Chapter events, or in a situation sponsored or endorsed by the Chapter, is expected to be in compliance with any and all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations, the University, and the (Inter)National organization.
  + Possession of common containers (e.g. kegs, trash cans, etc.) is prohibited.

**Social Probation Guidelines**

Below are the parameters of what a chapter can and cannot do if placed on social probation by the Office of Student Engagement.

* CAN
  + Conduct educational programming
  + Conduct community service/philanthropy events
  + Conduct internal chapter Brotherhood/Sisterhood bonding activities
  + Attend/Participate in FSL-sponsored events
  + Conduct membership intake/recruitment activities
  + Mandated National organization program requirements
  + Apply for Greek Awards
* CANNOT
  + Conduct, host or be affiliated with events such as formals, mixers, date parties and parties of any nature.
  + Participate in Greek League Intramurals
  + Participate in step shows, stroll-offs, showcase or similar events in nature.
* MUST
  + Attend all Council meetings
  + Meet with the Director/Assistant Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life and submit a plan towards meeting the standards which put the Chapter/Colony on social probation status

**Greek Standards of Excellence**

Greek organizations provide a unique balance of opportunities in leadership, service and philanthropy, academics, and social activities. The Greek Standards of Excellence program was designed to encourage such opportunities for the overall improvement of individual chapters, and to advance the Greek community at TAMU-C. We believe that in order for these standards to have an impact, chapters must value the timeliness and quality of completion for each task.

Each semester, each organization is required to submit materials for the Greek Standards of Excellence process and will be evaluated and recognized based upon points received per task. Greek organizations will better be able to recognize areas in which they are excelling and areas in which they can continue to improve. Points will be awarded based on 5 categories: **Academic Excellence, Chapter Management, Leadership and Development and Compliance, Membership and Recruitment, and Service and Philanthropy.**

More information on the Greek Standards of Excellence can be found in the Greek Standards of Excellence Packet.