

Columbus State University

Fraternity and Sorority Life Expansion Policy

Columbus State University offers eighteen social Greek-letter organizations spanning across three governing councils. CSU is committed to the development of fair processes, policies, and guidelines for colonization and re-colonization of chapters of inter/national sororities and fraternities. Inter/national social fraternities seeking to establish a colony or re-colonize at Columbus State University should read these policies and guidelines thoroughly and adhere to all procedures outlined herein. The institution is committed to provide clear, consistent, and timely communication with all parties interested in establishing a colony on campus.

Fraternity and Sorority Life will work collaboratively with the member organizations from the governing councils and additional university partners to implement the policies and procedures outlined herein. Inter/national social fraternities that prohibit or discriminate in membership based on race, color, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability will not be permitted to colonize.

Priority consideration will be given to inter/national social fraternities that effectively demonstrate a commitment to addressing issues of concern, including but not limited to diversity & inclusion, hazing, alcohol/drug use and abuse, mental health, and sexual assault/violence through chapter programming and services.

Section A

1. Columbus State University reserves the right to accept, approve, or reject any social fraternity/sorority seeking recognition and/or colonization at CSU.
2. The Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life will determine and authorize all actions related to colonization, re-colonization, or expansion in collaboration with the governing councils and university partners.
3. The standards outlined below apply only to single-sex social fraternities and sororities that are seeking affiliation under one of the Fraternity & Sorority Governing Councils at Columbus State University.
4. Greek Organizations must be affiliated with an inter/national organization that is a member of the following organizations, but are not limited to: National Panhellenic Conference (CPC Sororities), National Pan-Hellenic Council (“Divine Nine” Fraternities and Sororities), National Association of Latino Fraternal Organization of North America (NALFO), National APIA Panhellenic Association (NAPA), National Multicultural Fraternity & Sorority Council (NMGC) or North American Inter-Fraternity Conference (IFC). Only fraternal organizations that have been establish nationally or regionally for a minimum of three (3) years and are affiliated with inter/national organizations may apply and expand at Columbus State University
5. When determining if there is need for a new organization to be added to the any governing council, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will examine the following criteria:

- a. Number of active chapters/colonies
 - b. Number of new and active members in each chapter/colony
 - c. Average chapter size
 - d. Campus enrollment
 - e. Results of previous expansion initiatives
 - f. Resources and support available by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life to assist new organizations
 - g. Readiness of the Governing Council which the new colony will be housed under
6. As a result, the Office of the Fraternity and Sorority Life will make the decision as to when the community is open for expansion; however, the governing council affected will be a part of the decision making process as to which organization is ultimately selected.

Section B

1. When the need for a new organization(s) has been determined, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will establish an Expansion Review Board
 - a. The Expansion Review Board will be comprised of the Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, Director of Student Life and Development, Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life, one faculty member; president of the governing council, four members of the governing council - *must be a chapter president, chapter delegate, and/or member of the council executive board*), an elected officer from each of the other governing councils: College Panhellenic Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Interfraternity Council; and additional critical stakeholders if necessary
2. The Expansion Review Board will be responsible for reviewing all applications submitted by inter/national organizations
3. The Expansion Review Board will determined the timeframe of the expansion process

Section C Interested students/Interested Organizations

1. Colonization procedures and information about Columbus State University will be shared with all interested organizations. Such information will include: statistics related to enrollment, membership, recruitment, and scholarship, housing opportunities, department structure and programs, council structure and programs, and general information regarding the institution.
2. A group of interested students can be formed as a step to establishing a fraternity/sorority on campus.
3. The interested students/headquarters must contact the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life for direction and guidance before proceeding in attempting to establish a fraternity/sorority.

4. The ERB will communicate with the interested students/headquarters and discuss a timeline for the expansion process.
5. The interested students/interested organizations must oblige by the following rules if they wish to be considered for voting:
 - a. The interested students/interested organizations cannot hold any informational or recruitment events.
 - b. The interested students/interested organizations cannot operate as a fraternity/sorority or wear letters on campus.
 - c. The interested students/interested organizations cannot hold social events or mixers with other existing groups.
 - d. The interested students/interested organizations cannot register themselves as the fraternity/sorority for on campus events like Cougarthon, Day of Service, etc.
 - e. The interested students/interested organizations cannot undergo any new member education process.
6. Each interested organization must submit a proposal that responds to the information requested below:
 - a. Inter/National Organization Information
 - i. National organization's name
 - ii. Name, title, and contact information of inter/national office staff responsible for supporting colonization process
 - iii. Organization structure
 1. Staffing structure
 2. Budget and finance information
 - iv. Number of chapters/colonies and locations
 - v. Names and locations of chapters near Columbus State University within 100 miles
 - vi. National website
 - vii. Mission/goal statement of the organization
 - viii. Inter/national convention, leadership programs, regional meetings, trainings, calendar and expectations of the chapter for participation in such events.
 - ix. Information on scholarship, service, and philanthropy programs/projects
 - x. Copies of organization constitution, bylaws, and other rules and policies of the organization
 - xi. Organizational statement on risk management, including hazing, alcohol, sexual assault, mental health, etc.
 - xii. Copies of literature and publications of the organization
 - xiii. Requirements for membership
 - xiv. Inter/national policies and procedures regarding housing of collegiate chapters
 - xv. Copy of organization insurance policy with minimum coverage of \$1,000,000
 - xvi. For organizations seeking to return to campus – reason for leaving campus, when, and what measures are in place to ensure a more ideal outcome

- b. Alumni Information
 - i. Alumni interest in establishing a chapter (number of area alumni, number interested in assisting the colony/chapter, number of undergraduate, graduate, or faculty/staff members at Columbus State University)
 - ii. Training program(s) for chapter advisors, housing corporation members, and other volunteers assisting the colony/chapter

- c. Summary of Colonization Plan
 - i. Target membership of colony at CSU
 - ii. Financial assistance the inter/national office and area alumni are prepared to provide the colony/chapter
 - iii. New member education program/curriculum, including: goals, objectives, length of program, supervision of program
 - iv. Resources and materials available to colony/chapter from the inter/national organization
 - v. Inter/national on-site support and supervision for the new colony.
 - vi. Scholarship programming and requirements expected of the colony/chapter
 - vii. Explanation of national and colony/chapter dues
 - viii. Training and transition programming for new officers
 - ix. Membership qualifications, recruitment policies, and techniques
 - x. Expectations for colony/chapter philanthropy and community service programs
 - xi. Policies and procedures for accountability and disciplining of colonies/chapters
 - xii. Membership development programs expected of the colony/chapter, Including hazing, alcohol, drugs, sexual assault/ harassment, diversity and inclusion, leadership development, academic skills
 - xiii. Number of successful and unsuccessful colonization in the last five years and a brief explanation of unsuccessful colonization attempts
 - xiv. Contact information of the FSA for the last five expansions

- d. Individual members seeking to be part of a social Greek Letter organization housed under the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life, they must meet the following requirements:
 - i. Obtain a high school or College cumulative GPA of 2.5.
 - ii. Must be a fulltime student (12 cr. Hours) at Columbus State University.
 - iii. Not be simultaneously enrolled in High School and attending college.
 - iv. No student shall be asked to join any organization during ay school recess except during university sanctioned recruitment periods such school recess include summer, winter, fall breaks..
 - v. Any member who receives a bid and accepts must wait one academic year in order to seek membership in another fraternity/sorority.
 - vi. Members must follow any other policy in place according to their specific governing council.
 - vii. Must attend an Affiliation Education Program.

Section D

1. After receipt of proposals, the Expansion Review Board will review, select, and invite organizations to campus for visitation and formal presentations. Careful consideration will be given to organizations previously affiliated with Columbus State University
2. The expansion committee will communicate to the national organization that presentations include the information found in the proposal, see Section C. The presentations should be no longer than 60 minutes. Presentations should be given by the Headquarters Expansion Director, related national staff, or advisor(s)
3. Presentation will be made to the Expansion Review Board, the governing council the new organization will be housed under, members of the fraternity and sorority community, faculty, staff, students, and alumni
4. After the presentation is over, the respective governing council will cast a vote during their next General Body meeting to provide a recommendation. This is representation of the collective thoughts of the council member chapters regarding the organizations who should be invited to expand
5. The Expansion Review Board will analyze the evaluations provided from individuals who attend the presentations, the recommendation by the Council General Body, and any additional information provided by the organizations and develop recommendations to submit to the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Office of Fraternity and sorority Life
6. A two-thirds vote of the members of the Expansion Committee must support any recommendation
7. The Expansion Committee retains the option to recommend that:
 - a. No invitation should be extended to any organization;
 - b. An invitation to colonize should be extended to a specific organization or organizations;
 - c. Additional organizations should be invited to campus to visit and present;
 - d. And/or invitations to colonize should be extended to specific organizations in a stacked format.
8. Upon voting and acceptance by the appropriate governing council and with final approval by the Expansion Review Board, written correspondence is then sent to those national organizations participating in the presentations. An invitation and preferred timeline for colonization is sent to the organization that will be the first to colonize
9. Upon arrival to Columbus State University, the invited organization must petition to the governing council to achieve associate member status by a two-thirds vote

Section E Requirements for recognized colonies

1. Comply with all policies and expectations outlined in their respective governing council constitution and bylaws.
2. The colony president must meet, at least bi-weekly, with the fraternity and sorority Advisor. Additionally, it is strongly encouraged that the colony president meets with representatives from the governing council Executive Board on a monthly basis.
3. During the period of colonization, the colony will develop programming to support academic achievement, leadership development, risk reduction, diversity & inclusion, recruitment, officer/transition training, philanthropy, service, and other activities designed to build a strong and viable chapter. Records of these programs shall be submitted to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.
4. The colony must maintain an active alumni advisory committee with one member being designated as a chapter advisor and trained by the inter/national organization. The alumni advisory committee is strongly encouraged to maintain consistent communication with Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life .
5. The colony is strongly encouraged to participate in fraternity and sorority community activities.
6. The colony must have inter/national organization representatives visit at least once each semester during colonization. The purpose of these visits is to evaluate the progress of the colony and provide suggestions for improvement.
7. *Upon chartering with its inter/national organization, the associate member organization shall become a full member of their respective governing council with all rights, privileges, and responsibilities under their constitution & bylaws.*
8. The colony must charter within 24 months and must file an appeal with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life if they cannot complete the colonization process in the required timeline.
9. The colony must achieve accreditation and meet all minimum requirements from the Pillars of Excellence Accreditation Program.