

Fraternity + Sorority Life Policies: General

The Fraternity & Sorority Life (FSL) community has policies that apply to organizations as well as individual members. These policies are in addition to university-wide policies covered in the [Student Organization Resource Guide](#) as well as the [Code of Student Conduct](#). Students who are members of a fraternity or sorority are subject to, and expected to be familiar with, all of these policies, including those that pertain specifically to the FSL community.

Violations of university policies or regulations by a Northeastern affiliated fraternity/sorority or their members may lead to disciplinary proceedings by the Center for Student Involvement, the fraternity/sorority's respective governing council, and/or the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

The FSL student governing policies can be viewed on the respective council's Engage profile.

[Northeastern's InterFraternity Council](#)

[Northeastern's Multicultural Greek Council](#)

[Northeastern's National PanHellenic Council](#)

[Northeastern's Panhellenic Council](#)

Relationship Statement and Recognition Policy

Introduction

Northeastern has a positive and long-standing history with its fraternities and sororities. Involvement in a fraternity/sorority can deepen students' educational experiences by offering members opportunities for civic engagement, service, leadership, and lifelong friendships. The Center for Student Involvement is focused on supporting and collaborating with students, alumni/ae, and when applicable, the volunteers and staff members from international/national fraternities and sororities. A shared-governance model designed to maintain and encourage a healthy fraternity & sorority community is foundational to FSL at Northeastern University.

Rights and Responsibilities of Recognized Fraternities & Sororities

All Northeastern student organizations are held to similar standards; however, the unique missions, needs, and positioning of fraternities & sororities require greater clarity related to the rights, responsibilities, and privileges of each organization.

Right to Shared Governance

Each fraternity/sorority has the right to exercise responsible organizational shared governance, to participate in the appropriate governing council, and to engage other campus stakeholders appropriately as partners of the FSL community. The shared-governance system includes the FSL governing councils, Advisory Boards, university staff and administrators, inter/national organizations, and other key stakeholders.

Responsibility to Maintain an Active Relationship with Northeastern University

Each fraternity/sorority is responsible for maintaining an active relationship with Northeastern University. This includes, but is not limited to, responding to university communication in a timely manner, meeting set deadlines, submitting necessary and required documents, as well as meeting with assigned CSI staff members.

Responsibility to Maintain Positive Social Environments and Activities

Each fraternity/sorority is responsible for advancing respectful, caring, and safe social environments that promote experiential learning, community, and accountability.

Right to Assistance and Advice

Each fraternity/sorority has the right to assistance and advice from their respective alumni/ae and alumni/ae advisors, faculty advisors, as well as from their assigned FSL Liaison within the Center for Student Involvement.

Responsibility to Maintain Healthy and Safe Environments

Each fraternity/sorority is responsible for creating, promoting, and maintaining healthy and safe environments through its operations that comply with the relevant standards and policies of the university, the relevant governing council, inter/national organization (if applicable) and appropriate government(s).

Fraternity & Sorority Recognition

The following policies and guidelines set forth formal processes in which a new or returning fraternity or sorority may seek to obtain recognition by Northeastern University. Recognition under this policy means that a fraternity/sorority has been given permission by the university to function on campus, to enroll members from the undergraduate body through recruitment activities, and/or to identify its organization as affiliated with the university. Similar to all registered student organizations, Northeastern University aims to provide privileges, benefits and resources to its fraternities/sororities that will help them flourish and contribute to the university's mission. Individuals or groups without recognition are prohibited from exercising these benefits.

Single sex fraternities/sororities are permitted to operate with single sex membership consistent with regulations promulgated pursuant to Title IX of the U.S. Education Amendments of 1972, the Internal Revenue Service (26 USC 501(c)), and such other laws or regulations as may apply.

A healthy fraternity & sorority community requires ongoing support and collaboration between and among all the stakeholders—the university, the FSL governing councils, affiliated national and international organizations, local chapters, their individual student members, and the local alumni/ae advisory boards—but recognition under this policy is not intended in any way to alter the legal relationship between the university and the individual FSL chapters or their affiliated inter/national organizations.

Although this policy provides a mechanism for Northeastern University to recognize these organizations as affiliated with the university, and to bestow upon them certain privileges and benefits as student organizations, the individual chapters are separate legal entities with responsibility for fulfilling their own legal duties and obligations according to their affiliated inter/national organization (if applicable). Despite this legal separation, it is expected that recognized fraternities/sororities will comply with all applicable policies and procedures of Northeastern.

Fraternity & Sorority Expansion Procedures

Aligned with Northeastern University's shared-governance approach to Fraternity & Sorority Life, the university will continuously work to review and assess the effectiveness of each governing council's expansion policy while making sure it is equitable and meeting the evolving needs of the FSL community &

the university. While CSI will work to support the expansion processes outlined in the respective council's bylaws, there may be times in which CSI may recognize a fraternity/sorority without the initial approval of a governing council. In this instance, CSI will work with council and chapter leadership, as well as an inter/national organization affiliate, to determine a pathway of council recognition for the organization. Recognized fraternities/sororities without council recognition are still responsible for complying with university policies and expectations pertaining to FSL.

Members of previously recognized fraternities/sororities that have been temporarily removed from the institution for a specified period of time for disciplinary reasons (from the inter/national organization or the university) cannot apply for recognition as a new organization under the auspices of a different organization in an effort to return before the specified timeframe of the removal.

Required Documentation for Recognition

Following an organization's initial approval of expansion, the Center for Student Involvement will work with inter/national organization staff, as well as appointed organization volunteers, to draft an expansion timeline that meets the needs of the organization and the university. Prior to an organization's full recognition, CSI will require the following documents to be submitted:

1. List of alumni, volunteers, and/or staff associated with the organization's expansion (including contact information).
2. Certificate of Insurance verifying that university insurance requirements are met.
3. Copy of the inter/national organization's constitution & bylaws
4. Risk management & harm prevention policies
5. Roster of students who have been recruited or are currently a part of an intake process

Additionally, fraternities & sororities going through the recognition process are responsible for submitting all applicable university forms and reports. CSI staff will work with the organization to ensure that these forms are submitted prior to their respective deadlines.

During the organization's initial semester of expansion, the organization's recognition status will be classified as "Tentative." This allows the organization to reserve up to three (3) spaces for meetings and/or events. Following the initial semester of expansion, the organization is required to have submitted all forms listed above as well as the Registration Form via Engage. This form requires an updated member roster of the organization. At this time, regardless of chartering status and assuming all submitted documentation is satisfactory to the university, the organization will be recognized by Northeastern University.

Statement on Interest Groups

While Northeastern University supports the right for students to associate, the expansion of fraternities & sororities is a multifaceted process that is typically planned out years in advance. As such, the capacity to support multiple expansion projects at a time may fluctuate. Any students interested in creating a fraternity/sorority that is not currently recognized at Northeastern must follow the below steps:

1. Reach out to nucsi@northeastern.edu to set up a meeting with a FSL staff member to discuss already planned expansion opportunities.
2. Do research on the existing and expanding organizations.
3. Reflect on why you want to join a fraternity/sorority that does not currently exist at Northeastern.
4. If interested, reach out to the expanding organization to learn more about how you may be able to get involved. FSL staff can provide this contact information to you.

Expansion of Local Fraternities/Sororities

Fraternities or sororities that do not have an inter/national affiliate organization (i.e. local organizations) are not eligible to expand at Northeastern University, regardless of prior recognition by the university.

New Chapter Development

For coaching and development purposes, FSL staff will classify newly recognized or re-activated organizations as a “new chapter” to meet the unique needs of developing organizations. This classification is meant to be purely developmental; during this period the organization’s undergraduate president will be required to meet with their FSL liaison bi-weekly. This classification will remain in place for two years or until the organization has chartered with their inter/national affiliate, whichever is longer.

City-Wide Fraternity or Sorority Chapters

Northeastern serves as a host institution of city-wide fraternity and sorority chapters. A city-wide chapter is defined as a collegiate fraternity or sorority chapter consisting of members from two or more colleges and/or universities. The following paragraphs outline policies and procedures applicable to city-wide chapters regardless of whether Northeastern students are currently active members of the chapter.

Recognized city-wide chapters must fulfill all recognition requirements each semester to remain in good standing. This includes submission of the re-registration form. In addition, city-wide chapters in which the chapter president is not a student at Northeastern University must appoint a NU Liaison who will serve as the point of contact for the university. This individual will work with FSL staff to meet all necessary requirements of active fraternities & sororities. When possible, this individual should be a Northeastern student.

If a recognized city-wide chapter does not have at least one Northeastern student as an active member for more than 3 consecutive semesters, the organization will no longer be recognized at Northeastern University for the following semester. At that time, the organization will work with FSL staff and the relevant council to gain recognition as a Northeastern University student organization.

The ability to request program and event space is reserved to Northeastern students within recognized fraternities & sororities. A recognized city-wide chapter that does not currently have any Northeastern students should work with their FSL Liaison to reserve space for a program or event. In such cases, a Northeastern faculty or staff member must be present at the event.

Chapter Reactivation

Fraternity/sorority chapters (excluding city-wide chapters) that no longer have undergraduate members enrolled at Northeastern university will become inactive. FSL staff will work with the respective organization’s regional and national leadership to provide a pathway of re-activation for the organization within a window of 3 consecutive semesters following deactivation.

Chapters that are not reactivated within 3 consecutive semesters will no longer be recognized by the university. In this case, organizations seeking recognition must go through the outlined expansion procedure.

Initiation of Members

All chapters that are hosting a new member education (NME) or intake process must initiate any eligible individual within the same semester as the individual’s NME/intake process. On rare occasions, the necessity to initiate an individual within the following semester of the NME/intake process may arise. The chapter should seek approval from their FSL liaison when this occurs.

Acknowledgment of Membership in Fraternity & Sorority Life

As private membership organizations, fraternities/sororities have the ability to define “active” membership. Northeastern University supports this ability through its recognition process. Chapters are reminded to seek

guidance from their inter/national organization (if applicable) and should utilize their FSL Liaison as a resource in these conversations.

For the purpose of reporting, data collection, and education, the Center for Student Involvement acknowledges individuals meeting any of the following criteria as “active” within Fraternity & Sorority Life:

- Individuals enrolled in face-to-face or in person courses at the Boston campus who are affiliated with a Northeastern recognized chapter
- Individuals affiliated with a chapter who are participating in Co-Op, Study Abroad, Dialogues of Civilization, or any other Northeastern experience that removes them from the Boston campus.
- Any affiliated student who has a financial obligation to the inter/national organization and/or local chapter but has limited participation within the organization.

Individuals meeting any of the above criteria must be reported on the chapter’s roster. Community and chapter statistic reports will reflect this information.

Good Standing at Northeastern University

Each fraternity/sorority must be in compliance, and make every reasonable effort to ensure that each of their members are in compliance (as applicable), with the following:

- The Code of Student Conduct.
- All applicable policies outlined in the Student Organization Resource Guide.
- All applicable FSL related policies & procedures.
- All state, local, and inter/national laws, policies, and regulations.

Fraternities/sororities and their members are expected to know and understand these policies and regulations. Failure to comply with the above terms could lead to possible action, including but not limited to:

- CSI interim action
- City/Municipal action
- Governing Council action
- Referral to the Office of Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution (OSCCR)
- Inter/National Organization action (if applicable)
- Loss of eligibility for FSL and/or Student Life Awards

The following must be submitted to the Center for Student Involvement according to the stated timelines at the beginning of each semester:

- Re-Registration Form and current membership roster.
- New Member Education/Intake Guidelines Form (when applicable)
- New Member Registration Form
- Initiation Form
- A Current Certificate of Liability Insurance specifying the following:
 - \$1 Million General Liability Coverage per occurrence.

Participation is required at the following events:

- FSL Summit
- Student Organization Training Conference

Failure to comply with the above requirements could lead to possible disciplinary or other action and restriction of privileges, including restricting the recruitment and initiation of new members.