

**East Tennessee State University
Fraternity and Sorority Life Expansion Policy**

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of the expansion policy for East Tennessee State University's (ETSU's) Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (OFSL) is to further the advancement of all fraternities and sororities on campus at ETSU and to provide a safe, welcoming environment for all groups, while supporting the further leadership development, student development, and engagement of our students so that they can have transformative experiences which teach them to think critically, value diversity, contribute meaningfully, embrace wellness, and reach globally.

2. Pathways to Expansion

There are three different pathways to fraternity and sorority expansion.

2.1 The first pathway is through the formation of students into an interest group on campus who reach out and communicate with the OFSL. The interest group must consist of a minimum of 25 members (or consist of the average number of members of the governing council with which the organization seeks to affiliate).

2.2. The second pathway is through petition from an (inter)national organization to come to campus (this happens most often in the case of North American Interfraternity Conference [NIC], National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations [NALFO], National Multicultural Greek Council [NMGC], National Pan-Hellenic Council [NPHC], Fraternity Leadership Association [FLA], and National Asian-Pacific-Islander-American Panhellenic Association [NAPA] organizations).

2.3 The third pathway is through vote of the appropriate governing council (currently the Panhellenic Council [NPC], Interfraternity Council [IFC], or National Pan-Hellenic Council [NPHC]) to engage in expansion (as is most often the case in NPC extension).

3. Requirements of new organizations to register at ETSU

3.1 New organizations seeking to come to campus must be (inter)national as opposed to local in nature. (Inter)national fraternities and sororities exist on multiple campuses, have an (inter)national headquarters and (inter)national alumni board of directors, belong to the NIC, NPC, NPHC, NALFO, NAPA, FLA, or NMGC, and carry \$1,000,000 in general liability insurance.

4. Procedures for interest groups

4.1 Interest groups must meet all the requirements outlined in the *Student Organization Handbook: Straight to the SORC*.

- 4.2 Interest groups must follow all procedures for becoming members of the appropriate governing council as outlined in the bylaws and governing documents (e.g. *Manual of Information* for NPC membership) of the council with which they seek to affiliate.
- 4.3 If no governing council exists for the organization, a new governing council shall be formed and a second organization from that council shall be brought to campus in the same semester as the interest group already established.
- 4.4 Interest groups will coordinate all expansion efforts with the OFSL.
- 4.5 Once appropriate approval has been gained from the appropriate governing council, expansion will proceed toward full membership as outlined in the governing documents of each governing council and in this document.

5. Procedures for Petition from (inter)national Organizations

- 5.1 Organizations contacting the OFSL will be handled in the following manner based on each organization's history, traditions, and governing council.
 - 5.1.1. (Inter)national organizations contacting the OFSL who are members of the NIC, FLA, or NPHC will be handled in order of their approach to campus. The IFC or NPHC (as appropriate) will evaluate and determine a schedule for expansion in conjunction with the OFSL and each national headquarters.
 - 5.1.2. NPC organizations will be referred to the appropriate authority as outlined in the *Manual of Information*. The appropriate authority at ETSU is the NPC.
 - 5.1.3. Organizations from another governing council will be evaluated to insure that they meet the requirements of Section 3.1 listed above and will proceed with establishment on campus. A new governing council shall be formed and a second organization from that council shall be brought to campus in the same semester.
- 5.2 Prior to clearance from the OFSL to proceed with expansion, each organization approaching campus will be evaluated to insure that no pre-existing sanctions from the university prevent them from coming to campus.

6. Procedure for Expansion/Extension Extending from undergraduate governing councils.

- 6.1. From time to time the appropriate governing body will establish the need for new organizations on campus as they feel the need arises. When that happens, each Council at ETSU will handle the process of expansion as described:
 - 6.1.1. NPC organizations will vote on extension as outlined in the *Manual of Information*.

- 6.1.2. IFC and NPHC will vote on expansion when the need arises as determined by each governing council.
 - 6.1.2.1. When either the IFC or NPHC vote to conduct expansion, the IFC or NPHC president will appoint a committee of students which will include a representative from the Division of Student Affairs who shall serve in an advisory capacity.
 - 6.1.2.1.1. The IFC or NPHC Expansion Committee will solicit information from appropriate (inter)national Headquarters and determine, through an equitable process of evaluation, which organization to invite to campus.
 - 6.1.2.1.1.1. The equitable process of evaluation should be written into the policies of the IFC and NPHC bylaws.
 - 6.1.2.1.1.2. If the policies are not written into the NPHC and IFC bylaws, the process shall be as follows:
 - 6.1.2.1.1.2.1. The committee will meet and evaluate the mission and vision of the University and of the Division of Student Life. As well as the documents and policies of the FSL office. The OFSL shall provide materials and support to the committee, but shall not have representation on the committee.
 - 6.1.2.1.1.2.2. Information will be solicited from all NIC, FLA, or NPHC organizations as appropriate for the Council.
 - 6.1.2.1.1.2.3. Each Organization shall have 40 days to respond to the petition for solicitation of information.
 - 6.1.2.1.1.2.4. The Council shall choose two to three organizations whose mission and values, in their estimation, best coincide with the policy documents of the University.
 - 6.1.2.1.1.2.5. The selected organizations shall present to the committee, and the committee will deliver its recommended report on each organization to the IFC or NPHC as appropriate.
 - 6.1.2.1.1.2.5.1. If the IFC or NPHC desire, than a *committee of the whole* may be formed for the purposes of the final presentations.
- 6.1.2.1.2. The full IFC or NPHC will hear the report of the expansion committee and will conduct the full vote to allow expansion to go forward.

7. Requirements of New and Existing Fraternities and Sororities to register on campus

- 7.1. Meet the definition of an (inter)national fraternity or sorority as defined in section 3.1 of this document.
- 7.2. Meet the requirements set out in the *Student Organization Handbook: Straight to the SORC*.
- 7.3. Furnish a certificate of insurance that lists East Tennessee State University as an additional insured demonstrating \$1,000,000 of general liability coverage.
- 7.4. Have the appropriate number of members as outlined in section 2.1 of this document.
- 7.5. Be a participating and attending member of the NPHC, NPC, or IFC as appropriate. Or, if no governing body exists for the organization, be attending regular meetings with the OFSL staff.
- 7.6. Each fraternity or sorority seeking registration must be in good standing with its (inter)national organization.
- 7.7. Each Fraternity and Sorority chapter/colony must agree to the conditions of its governing documents.
- 7.8. Each fraternity seeking official University registration must place a copy of its (inter)national and local governing documents on file with the OFSL. Groups previously identified to the University by their (inter)national organizations as being strictly prohibited from filing their constitutive documents will provide them for review at the time of seeking Official Registration, and will make them available to the University upon request at any future time. The governing documents shall include (if they exist):
 - 7.8.1. (Inter)National Constitution and Bylaws.
 - 7.8.2. (Inter)National Standing Rules and Policies.
 - 7.8.3. Local chapter Bylaws, Operating Procedures, and Chapter Code of Conduct.
 - 7.8.4. Local Articles of Incorporation (if they exist).
 - 7.8.5. Copies of the above documents, when revised, are to be promptly filed.

- 7.9 Each fraternity and sorority shall establish, maintain, and comply with a well-defined code of conduct, and shall ensure that all of its members have a working understanding of the code of conduct. The fraternity or sorority shall have an internal judicial system to enforce this code. The University must receive an annual copy of this code of conduct if it is not clearly included in the organization's constitution/bylaws.
- 7.10 The chapter's facility (chapter house, residence, chapter room, lodge, or meeting area), if any, must be safe and provide a healthy living environment, including, but not limited to, adequate refuse collection, property upkeep and maintenance, and satisfaction of building, zoning, and safety codes as required by local fire, health, and governmental agencies. This provision includes, but is not limited to, the requirement that appropriate government agencies (e.g., Fire Department) are asked to perform regular inspections on an annual basis and certify that each facility complies with applicable laws and regulations under their respective jurisdictions.
- 7.10.1 Each fraternity and sorority must annually file a current certificate of liability insurance coverage with the OFSL that demonstrates that the chapter facility is covered by the insurance policy (this may be the same certificate as for general liability if applicable and appropriate).
- 7.10.2 It must be clearly understood that within the neighborhoods surrounding the University, there is no availability for future off-campus fraternity/sorority housing. The current housing off-campus is limited to the five organizations who are grandfathered into the community's older zoning laws.
- 7.10.2.1 New Organizations may have the potential to live in on-campus housing that is designated for FSL.
- 7.11 The University may periodically require fraternities and sororities to demonstrate that the provisions of this document have been met. However, the University assumes no responsibility or liability for enforcing compliance, which is the sole responsibility of each fraternity.

8 New Expansion, Length of Time as Colony

- 8.1. The maximum length of time that a colony may remain in the state of colony status is 24 months from the formation of initial covenant or agreement between the National Headquarters and the group either recruited or interested to affiliate. At the time of 24 months, should the organization not have been chartered, the men or women will have to apply for an extension with the OFSL and the SORC. If the extension is not granted, the group will lose registration. Additionally, even if the extension is granted, nothing in the policies of the OFSL will require a national organization to continue expansion. If the national organization wishes to close expansion/extension and abandon the process of colonization, the OFSL will no longer allow registration of the organization with the SORC.

Created 7/12/2016

Based on the policies for fraternity and sorority life created at Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Texas at Tyler, Louisiana State University, and the University of Maryland.