



**EXPANSION POLICY FOR
GREEK-LETTER ORGANIZATIONS**

INTRODUCTION

Towson University supports its students' right to assemble and form groups based on a shared mission. To that end, the area of Campus Life creates opportunities for learning, involvement, and development. Further, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (OFSL) provide resources and support to any group of students interested in forming a recognized student organization.

Separate recognition guidelines have been developed for Greek-letter organizations due to their complex and unique nature. The *Expansion Policy for Greek-letter Organizations* allows Towson University to carefully manage the growth of its Greek system and help to ensure a healthy, safe, thriving fraternity/sorority community.

Towson University recognizes that the expansion of Greek-letter organizations involves several parties: the inter/national fraternity or sorority, Governing Council, the University, and in some cases, a student interest group and/or Parent Governing Council. The expansion process, whenever possible, will take into consideration the interests of all parties. It should be noted, however, that the University reserves the right to deny recognition to any group that expresses interest.

1. The University's expansion policy/procedure for national fraternities and sororities is administered by Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (OFSL) in conjunction with one of the four student governing bodies (the Inter-Fraternity Council [IFC], the National Pan-Hellenic Council [NPHC], the Panhellenic Association [PHA], or the Unified Greek Council [UGC]).
2. Students at Towson University cannot begin or start a chapter on their own and no "local" organizations may exist. All recognized social fraternal organizations must be affiliated with an inter/national office.
3. Before any expansion or re-activation may occur, a letter of intent to expand or to re-activate must be written to Matt Lenno, Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life by the interested Inter/national fraternal organization. This letter cannot be written by a student or graduate/alumni chapter. This letter must be sent to the OFSL, c/o Matt Lenno, Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life, 8000 York Road, 232C University Union, Towson, Maryland 21252. In addition to this letter, the national fraternity/sorority must have at least \$1 million of social liability insurance coverage with [Towson University named on it] as an additional insured for the chapter to be recognized.
4. All recognized fraternities and sororities must participate in the Chapter Assessment Program (CAP). Failure to do so will result in a loss of recognition. If the chapter fails to meet or exceed a "Bronze" status in the program during their probationary period the chapter's recognition will be immediately terminated for no less than one year.

5. The supporting inter/national organization must re-apply, after a year, if this situation occurs.
6. After a request is received, the OFSL will then respond via certified letter to the interested organization.
7. Next, the interested organization must plan and schedule a presentation for the University and the council it will be under the auspices of.
8. If a chapter is a chapter that falls under the auspices of the National Panhellenic Conference all rules regarding extension will be followed according to the extension policies outlined in the NPC manual for extension. No deviation will occur. Please go to www.npcwomen.org and click on "extension Information". If extension has been voted on and occurs, the sorority that has been chosen must have at least \$1 million of social liability insurance coverage with Towson University named on it as an additional insured for the chapter to be recognized.
9. For all other chapters under the auspices of the other three councils (IFC, NPHC, and UGC) expansion or re-activation may occur in conjunction with an already established interest group or an expansion without an interest group by a inter/national organization.
10. In order to assure success in the recognition process, each council may only expand by one new (as opposed to returning) chapter a year, because of University and Council resources, if approved by the council.
11. If the inter/national organization satisfies the criteria outlined above, the appropriate council will schedule meetings to begin the process of expansion, extension, or re-activation.
12. Once a presentation date is agreed upon, the inter/national organization must send a request for their technological needs to the Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life. This request must be received no later than ten (10) business days prior to the presentation date. The sponsoring inter/national fraternity/sorority is expected to pay for any expenses, in full, within thirty (30) days of the presentation.

NOTE: The participants in each presentation will be determined by the student-based interest group, the OFSL and/or inter/national fraternity or sorority

13. If the outcome of a presentation to a governing body results in denial of expansion, extension, or re-activation to Towson University the inter/national office may submit a letter of appeal to the Associate Vice President for Campus Life. This letter must be received within ten (10) business days of the notification of denial.
14. If a letter of appeal is denied, the group will not be recognized by Towson University.

POST-EXPANSION GUIDELINES

All newly recognized Greek-letter organizations will assume probationary Fraternity & Sorority Life membership status for two (2) full academic semesters. The following guidelines must be followed during the probationary period:

- The local president must meet with the Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life twice a month
- Groups must adhere to all Fraternity & Sorority Life policies and procedures, including but not limited to the Relationship Statement for Greek-letter Organizations at Towson University, and participation in the Chapter Assessment Program
- Groups must have a faculty/staff advisor and alumni advisor
- Groups must comply with all governing laws, policies, and requirements of their Governing Council
- Groups must adhere to the Towson University Code of Conduct and all federal, state, and local laws
- Groups must have more than 5 members to gain recognized status at Towson University
- Groups must score a “Bronze” level or better in the Chapter Assessment Program each semester during their probationary period. (Not counting the semester the national office will be recruiting. That semester will be a semester of education about the program) If the group does not meet or exceed a “Bronze” level in the CAP, immediate termination of recognition will occur.

After the probationary period expires, a group becomes eligible for full Fraternity & Sorority Life recognition.

POST-PROBATIONARY PERIOD PROCEDURES

The following guidelines must be followed once the probationary period has expired:

- The Governing Council of the probationary group will forward a letter or email of recommendation to the Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life to express support for, or rejection of, the granting of full Greek Life membership to the group. This letter or email will include specific reasoning for either position

NOTE: Full Greek Life membership status shall not be confused with the classes of membership outlined in the constitution and bylaws of any Governing Council. “Full Greek Life membership status” simply means that the group will no longer be on probationary status.

- The staff of Fraternity and Sorority Life in conjunction with the Associate Vice President of Campus Life and the Office of Student Conduct and Civility Education

will determine if it will or will not recommend that the newly recognized group be granted full Greek Life membership

NOTE: If a newly recognized group is not granted full membership at the expiration of four (4) academic semesters, said group must meet with the Director for Fraternity and Sorority Life and the Associate Vice President for Campus Life to determine if Greek Life recognition will or will not be revoked.