



Policy of Recognition: Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life

Recognition is the formal process by which Sacred Heart University ("University" or "SHU") determines whether a social fraternity or sorority may avail itself of certain privileges within the gift of the University. It applies to all social fraternities and sororities recognized under the Department of Student Life and the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life. Once recognized, a fraternity or sorority may enroll only full-time, undergraduate members from the student body, in accordance with Trustee legislation. A chapter may identify its charter with Sacred Heart University and be eligible for the benefits described herein and the privileges accorded to other recognized student organizations.

Recognition serves only the limited purposes described herein and is not intended in any way to alter the legal relationship between Sacred Heart University and the fraternity or sorority. Each fraternity or sorority is, and remains, an independent legal entity responsible for its own actions and for meeting its own legal duties and obligations. It is understood that Sacred Heart University does not, by this action, assume any legal responsibility for the supervision or control of fraternity or sorority activities, but reserves the right to withdraw the privileges conferred by this Policy and to take such other actions as may be lawful and appropriate. Recognition pursuant to this policy does not constitute an endorsement by Sacred Heart University of a particular fraternal organization or its activities.

Eligibility of Recognition

Fraternal organizations eligible for recognition under this policy shall have the following characteristics:

1. Chapters shall be legal entities separate from Sacred Heart University.
2. They shall be entitled to be subjectively selective in their membership within the limits of the University's non-discrimination policy.
3. Single sex fraternal organizations shall be entitled to single sex membership consistent with regulations promulgated pursuant to Title IX of the U.S. Education Act Amendments of 1972 and such other laws or regulations as may apply.

Conferral of Recognition

Recognition may be conferred, modified or withdrawn by the President or his designee consistent with the provisions of this policy.

Levels of Recognition

A fraternity or sorority may initially be granted either Full Recognition or Provisional Recognition.

- 1. Full Recognition**

Full Recognition signifies that the fraternity or sorority is eligible for the Benefits of Full Recognition, as described below.

- 2. Provisional Recognition**

Provisional Recognition constitutes a conditional recognition for a specified period, not longer than one calendar year, during which the chapter will be eligible for the Benefits of Full Recognition under this policy. Provisional Recognition may be granted at the President's or his designee's discretion during the period of initial implementation of this Policy, establishment of a new sorority or fraternity chapter or the re-establishment of a formerly active Sacred Heart University chapter, provided that the group signs a statement of intent to comply with the Criteria for Full Recognition at the end of the provisional period. Provisional Recognition expires at the end of the specified period, unless renewed or extended by the President or his designee.

The Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards, in partnership with the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life, may recommend a change in an organization's standing within the scope of its recognition. Below are general guidelines for changes in an organization's recognition standing. The Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards, in partnership with the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life, reserves the right to amend or supersede these general guidelines at any time. In those cases where a recommendation to the Senior Associate Dean of Students is made so that a chapter loses its official recognition, the decision to rescind recognition requires administrative review and approval by the Dean of Students or their designee and may be altered, deferred, or suspended. The national headquarters will be notified as soon as possible of any violations that are under review in a cooperative effort between the institution and the national organizations hosted at Sacred Heart University.

Warning Status

Warning Status describes a situation in which certain educational sanctions or conditions are levied against the chapter. Warning Status can be recommended or levied by any of the

following entities: the IFC Judicial Board (for IFC chapters only), the Panhellenic Judicial Board (for Panhellenic chapters only), the Assistant Director for Fraternity & Sorority Life, the Director for Fraternity & Sorority Life, the Director of Student Conduct & Community Standards, Senior Associate Dean of Students or the Dean of Students. A chapter may be placed on Warning Status with or without a disciplinary process. Violations of university policy or issues regarding behavior would warrant a disciplinary process. If a chapter fails to meet certain minimum recognition requirements there would be no disciplinary process and automatic Warning Status designated. If a chapter is placed on Warning Status three times within a five-year period, the fourth offense may result in a minimum sanction of Probationary Recognition.

Probationary Recognition

Probationary Recognition describes the University's withdrawal of certain University services/benefits and/or its applying certain sanctions against the chapter as determined by The Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards or the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life. Probationary Recognition signifies that the chapter has failed to abide by University standards, codes or guidelines, by state, local, or federal laws and statutes, and/or has failed to comply with the procedures and criteria outlined in this recognition policy. Official notification of Probationary Recognition will be shared in writing with the chapter, alumni or area advisor and national organization. To be restored to full recognition, the chapter must fulfill certain expectations as detailed by The Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards or the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life or the appropriate designee. If a chapter is placed on Probationary Status three times within a five-year period, the fourth offense may result in Suspension or Loss of Recognition.

Suspension/Loss of Recognition (time specific)

Should a chapter fail to meet the recognition criteria or the expectations set forth by the appropriate designee for its period of probationary or provisional recognition; or when there has been a history of multiple disciplinary actions, behavior problems, and/or non compliance with policies; or for any other significant reason that has been deemed to be seriously detrimental: to the safety and well-being of Sacred Heart students, the mission and goals of the University and its relationship to the community, and/or the integrity of SHU's fraternity and sorority system, recognition of the organization can be rescinded with a recommendation made to the Associate Dean of Students. Official notification of Suspension or Loss of Recognition will be shared in writing with the chapter, alumni(ea) corporation and national organization.

Criteria for Full Recognition

Each fraternity or sorority seeking Full Recognition must demonstrate, upon application to the President or his designee, pursuant to procedures established by that office, compliance with the following criteria on an annual or as otherwise stated basis:

1. Articulation of common goals and standards by the University and chapter.
2. Registration as a student organization.
3. Maintenance of certain materials on file in the appropriate University office:
 - a. Annual Statement of Purpose - Principles (updated);
 - b. Annual Bylaws and Constitution (confidential - updated); If ritual-related information is included then a redacted version will be accepted.
 - c. Annual Statement of Compliance with the University non-discrimination policies and entitlement of single sex membership and certification of membership selection based upon a principle of inclusion rather than exclusion;
 - d. Current information on the size of the chapter, membership statistics and names of officers each semester;
 - e. Report of activities each semester
 - f. Annual financial report (confidential);
 - g. An annual letter of chapter standing from the organization's National Headquarters outlining the current status and imperatives to change status
 - h. An annual copy of the national organization's charter that explains the organization's affiliation with SHU.
 - i. Annual copy of risk management policies, handbooks and resources provided to the chapter by the national organization
4. Collective responsibility for the behavior of the members as stated in the Code of Student Conduct and Community Standards.
5. Individual or group behavior in violation of the University Code of Student Conduct & Community Standards may negatively impact the recognition status of the chapter.
6. Operation within the guidelines of the appropriate council, which is to include either the North-American Inter-Fraternity Conference (NIC), the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) or the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC).

NIC (North American Inter-Fraternity Conference): Consisting of 64 member fraternal organizations, a body that advocates for the needs of its member fraternities through enrichment of the fraternity experience; advancement and growth of the fraternity community; and enhancement of the educational mission of the host institutions. For more information, go to [North American Inter-Fraternity Conference](#)

NPC (National Panhellenic Conference): An umbrella organization for 26 inter/national women's fraternities and sororities that exists to promote the values of and to serve as an advocate for its member groups in collaboration with those members, campuses and communities. For more information, go to [National Panhellenic Conference](#)

NPHC (National Pan-Hellenic Council): Composed of nine historically African-American International Greek-lettered sororities and fraternities whose purpose is to promote interaction through forums, meetings and other mediums for the exchange of information and engages in cooperative programming and initiatives through various activities and functions. For more information, go to [National Pan-Hellenic Council](#)

7. Active participation in council-sponsored programs.
8. Compliance with generally accepted standards of neighborliness, including exterior neatness of the premises, the avoidance of unreasonable noise levels and compliance with related federal, state and local laws.
9. Compliance with all inter/national headquarters policies and procedures.
10. Membership shall be comprised of only Sacred Heart University full-time, undergraduate students and is subject to all provisions of this recognition policy.
11. Compliance with the terms of all contractual agreements with the University.
12. Compliance with all University policies, rules and regulations.
13. Cooperation in University investigations concerning compliance with any University policy, rule or regulation.
14. Maintain commercial general liability insurance with a minimum amount of \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 in the aggregate and Umbrella or excess liability insurance with a minimum amount of \$2,000,000 per occurrence and in the aggregate. Such liability insurance shall include Sacred Heart University, its officers, employees and agents, as an additional named insured and shall be written with an insurance carrier acceptable to the University. A certificate of such insurance shall be forwarded to the University Risk Manager and the Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life as evidence of such coverage, and the University must receive notice of any change, cancellation, or renewal of the policy. The insurance shall be considered primary over any and all collectable insurance that the University may have available.
15. Shall refrain from using, furnishing, or having alcohol and other drugs present during the recruitment, education, initiation, or intake of new members.
16. Will not implement or tolerate hazing, as defined by the University's Code of Student Conduct and Connecticut state law, in any form, at any time.
17. Shall comply with the recruitment and initiation deadlines determined by the University each semester.

Local Organizations

Sacred Heart University will recognize only one local organization; Omega Phi Kappa, Inc. Because this organization was founded at and will exist solely at Sacred Heart, the chapter is to function at the leadership of the elected undergraduate officers. Graduated members or any creation of an advisory board beyond the undergraduate level is to serve solely in an advisory capacity to assist current undergraduate Sacred Heart members. The scope of such an advisory board is to include but not limited to: leadership development, recruitment training and diversity, equity and inclusion education. Only Sacred Heart University will have the ability to issue disciplinary action upon the Alpha Chapter of Omega Phi Kappa, Inc. if such action is required. If the advisory board feels disciplinary action against the undergraduate chapter is warranted, they are to submit in writing to the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life a description of the alleged violation(s). Omega Phi Kappa, Inc. is expected to adhere to the list of criteria stated above in 3a - 3i and adhere to all state, local and University policies in order to remain in good standing and keep full recognition.

Local chapters will be required to have a full-time, Sacred Heart University faculty or staff advisor outside of the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life. The advisor will serve as a resource in maintaining compliance with all University policies, serve as additional support for programming, academic success and goal setting and provide general guidance and mentorship to all undergraduate Sacred Heart chapter members.

National Organizations

Sacred Heart University recognizes 13 national chapters--nine sororities and four fraternities. The University acknowledges it acts as a "franchisee" of the national organization and will act as a 50-50 partner with the national organization as long as the charter of each organization is current and in good standing. All chapters are expected to adhere to the list of criteria stated above in 3a - 3i and adhere to all state, local and University policies in order to remain in good standing and keep full recognition.

In partnership with the University's Panhellenic Council and/or Inter-Fraternity Council, Sacred Heart University can consider extension of their fraternity & sorority community whenever they deem appropriate.

Scope of Authority

1. The undergraduate Chapter President, or their designee, will be the primary point of contact for the organization and the University and Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life to include but not be limited to:
 - a. All materials submitted on time (i.e. rosters, new member education plan, etc.);

- b. Contact for any information or allegation within the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards.
- 2. A chapter or graduate advisor is an alumni/alumnae member of the organization, though not necessarily from the SHU chapter, who is appointed by the National Headquarters, who supports the organization on a local level in the Bridgeport, Fairfield or surrounding area.
 - a. The chapter or graduate advisor will:
 - i. Be in the local Bridgeport, Fairfield or surrounding area and will be easily accessible to the organization;
 - ii. Be the primary contact for the organization outside of the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life;
 - iii. Serve as a liaison to the organization's National Headquarters;
 - iv. Be formally recognized through the organization's National Headquarters.

City-Wide Chapter/Organization

An organization is considered a city-wide chapter/organization when membership is drawn from more than just SHU students. Sacred Heart University does not permit its students to participate in city-wide chapters.