

# **University of California, Irvine Sorority & Fraternity Life Policies & Recognition Guidelines**



## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Sorority & Fraternity Life at UC Irvine works with students to create an inclusive environment that challenges members to develop into leaders who uphold the values, oaths, and commitments of their collegiate fraternal organization at UC Irvine. Sorority & Fraternity Life values on going relationships with alumni, volunteers, campus administrators, and the surrounding community in order to create meaningful and purposeful undergraduate experiences that fosters a commitment to service and lifetime membership.

*Revised* November 9, 2019

## **PURPOSE OF GUIDELINES document**

The purpose of the Sorority & Fraternity Life Policies & Recognition Guidelines is to have a set of criteria and expectations that fraternities and sororities at the University of California, Irvine are expected to follow to be a recognized Sorority & Fraternity Life organization.

## **RECOGNITION**

UC Irvine may officially recognize and assist sororities and fraternities, and other similar organizations, herein referred to as "SFL Organizations," whose purposes and practices are, and remain, consistent with those of the University, and with University policy in respect to fraternities are in accord with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, of the United States Civil Rights Act.

The official recognition of sororities and fraternities at UC Irvine may be conferred by the Sorority & Fraternity Life professional staff through the Student Life & Leadership (SLL). The Office of Campus Organizations & Volunteer Programs (COVP) office serves as the office of record for all recognized fraternities and sororities.

Recognized SFL organizations will have access to campus organization resources, SFL programs, and professional SFL professional staff that will provide advice and counsel to chapters and its membership. Campus organization resources will include publicizing on campus; use of facilities and services; appropriate use of the University name with actions, programs, and activities following prior approval; advice related to University policy, procedures, and regulations related to programming, campus policy and judicial affairs; participation in University sponsored programs and activities in the same manner as other registered organizations; organizational mailbox; eligibility to apply to funding; ASUCI financial account; recruitment of students per provisions of Title IX, U.S. Education Act of 1972, and other resources as applicable.

The Sorority & Fraternity Life Policies & Recognition Guidelines will be reviewed annually by students, SFL professional staff, and other campus stakeholders.

Recognized SFL organizations can be found at: <https://campusgroups.uci.edu> or at [www.sororityfraternity.uci.edu](http://www.sororityfraternity.uci.edu).

## **TITLE IX**

SFL organizations are single-sex organizations. While SFL organizations may not discriminate on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, national origin, race, religion, or sexual orientation, University Policy and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 do permit their selection of members on the basis of gender.

## **GOOD STANDING**

Good standing for a sorority or fraternity shall be defined as meeting the minimum expectations outlined in the "Expectations" section of this document and not be under sanctions imposed by the Office of Academic Integrity & Student Conduct, sanctions imposed by the Sorority & Fraternity Life office, sanctions imposed by inter/national organizations, sanctions imposed by the governing council.

All recognized Sororities & Fraternities Life organizations in good standing are expected to abide by all state, local, and federal laws, to understand and follow rules and regulations dictated in the [UC Irvine Code of Student Conduct](#), [Principles of Community](#), [Principles Against Intolerance](#), varying [appendices](#) like [Anti-Hazing Compliance](#) or [Guidelines for Reporting and Responding to Reports of Sex Offenses and UC Policy on Sexual](#)

[Harassment and Sexual Violence](#) and the agreement between the chapter and the Sorority & Fraternity Life office. Chapters are responsible for the actions of individual members within their organization and overall organizational behavior. Chapter members and organizations are expected to adhere to varying institutional regulations, sanctions, or probationary status set forth by Office of Academic Integrity & Student Conduct, the Sorority & Fraternity Life office, inter/national organizations, and the councils under which a particular chapter is governed.

## **EXPECTATIONS**

Recognized Sororities & Fraternities at University of California Irvine in good standing are expected to establish, maintain, enforce chapter bylaws/constitution and ensure that all members have a working understanding of chapter policies. Chapters are expected to have an internal judicial system to enforce the chapter bylaws/constitution.

### **GENERAL**

Recognized SFL organizations are expected to:

- Annually register as a Registered Campus Organization with the Office of Campus Organizations & Volunteer Programs (COVP).
- Maintain membership in one of the established governing councils, as applicable: Interfraternity Council (IFC); Multicultural Greek Council (MGC); National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) and Panhellenic Association (PHA). At a minimum, maintaining membership is participating in council-wide events and attending weekly council meetings.
- Have a working relationship
  - Schedule and attend quarterly one on one meeting
  - Educational sessions related to new member education on AOD, anti-hazing, etc.
  - with SFL where chapter/council presidents meet quarterly with the SFL professional staff.
- Attend other varying SFL educational programs (e.g. President Council; New Member Education program; Tri Council sponsored Wellness Week and Anteater Leadership Summit).
- Adhere to all anti-hazing policies. SFL organizations should not support, tolerate, nor participate in any form of hazing as described in UC Irvine Code of Student Conduct.
- Create and/or implement recruitment plans that are consistent with policies set forth by University, inter/national headquarters, and governing council. Alcohol should not be involved in any recruitment or new member programs, formally or informally.
- Update risk management policy of your organization.
- Submit contact information for chapter officers and alumni advisors. Updates of this information should follow chapter/council elections and/or occur no later than week 10 on quarterly basis to SFL and through the CampusGroups platform.
- Submit updates to their roster no later than week 5 on a quarterly basis.
- Conduct its business in lawful and ethical manner and conducting fiscal affairs in accordance as designated by its constitution/bylaws.
- Provide copies of information pertaining to their organization as requested by SFL professional staff members.

- Comply with Title IX policies.

## **ACADEMIC**

The primary purpose of attending the University of California, Irvine is education and in light of this, the campus has established academic performance standards for all SFL organizations. Students involved in SFL organizations demonstrate this purpose and focus on education by exemplifying high levels of individual and collective academic achievement and dedication to helping each member reach their academic potential; members with study abroad programs and members with outside internships, family issues, or other concerns may be exempt on a per-person basis at the direction of chapter leadership per the bylaws of SFL organizations, under the advisement of inter/national organization.

### *Minimum Grade Point Average*

In order to continue the development of our chapters and the SFL community, minimum requirements are expected of initiated members and chapters as a whole:

- **Individuals:** members of sororities/fraternities are expected to maintain a per-quarter GPA above 2.0, the threshold for Academic Probation by the University. It is expected that chapter leadership will hold individual members accountable by respective standards and internal measures. SFL will adhere to higher standards as set forth by individual sororities and fraternities.
- **Chapters:** Chapters are expected as a whole to maintain a per-quarter GPA at or above 2.5. SFL organizations that are below a 2.5 can be placed on a probationary status where they will be strongly encouraged to engage and develop academic improvement plans to significantly improve the academic performance of its membership. Improvement plans should include but are not limited to SFL organizations planning academic programs using University academic resources (e.g. Learning and Academic Resource Center) and even limiting chapter social activities for the quarter.

## **EXPANSION**

Starting a new SFL organization at University of California, Irvine is a partnership between inter/national organizations and the University. Sorority & Fraternity Life prioritizes the creation and maintenance of a strong partnership between the interested organization and the SFL professional staff.

Interested organizations should contact SFL professional staff to share their interest in starting a new SFL organization at UC Irvine. After contact has been established, individuals will be asked to fill out the Expansion Interest Form and submit it to the SFL professional staff. Guidelines for Expansion will include a meeting between the interested organization to discuss their desire to start a recognized SFL organization.

Afterwards, the SFL professional staff will follow up with on-campus stakeholders and constituents to discuss the meeting (included but not limited to inter/national headquarters staff, regional representatives, etc.), viability of starting a chapter at the University, and expansion expectations. The SFL professional staff will provide feedback to interested organization about proceeding with the expansion process with such feedback based on the initial meeting, discussions with intern/national, regional, or local organization representatives, and review of the

requested information. Materials requested for expansion can included but is not limited to: policies of the interested organization, operating procedures, chartering requirements, expansion/extension plan; organizational constitution, anti-hazing policy and annual statement of compliance, and contact information for advisors.

The SFL professional staff will work with interested organizations to create a timeline for expansion. Registration as a Registered Campus Organization with the Dean of Students Office and affiliation with the Sorority & Fraternity Life office.

The Sorority & Fraternity Life office will notify the interested organization of their expansion status.

## **REINSTATEMENT**

SFL organizations that have been dismissed and have lost recognition may wish to petition for reinstatement. Such petitions must be submitted by headquarters staff and/or active alumni of the organization to Sorority & Fraternity Life for initial review. Petition consideration will occur when all active students affiliated with the organization that resulted in the revocation of charter/dismissal/loss of recognition have graduated.

The petition for reinstatement will include but is not limited to:

- Written request and support for a chapter by the National Office including structure and support, resources of support, tentative timeline of reinstatement process, and chapter reinstatement team including consultants, field representatives or alumni volunteers.
- Vision, purpose, and activities of SFL organization. These should be in alignment and compatible with the mission of the University and ultimately the Sorority & Fraternity Life office.
- Staff member to serve as advisor for the SFL organization.
- Year to Year Leadership Transition Plan to show plan for the organization.
- Revision of bylaw and constitution of SFL organization to assure challenges and concerns will not be repeated.
- Statement affirming alcohol and hazing policy consistent with the University's policy and UC Irvine Student Code of Conduct.

## **NON-COMPLIANCE & LOSS OF RECOGNITION**

Recognized SFL organizations that are non-complaint with the expectations outlined in the SFL Policies & Recognition Guidelines will have their recognition reviewed by the office.

The Office of Academic Integrity & Student Conduct (OASIC) will adjudicate recognized SFL organizations who violate the University of California Policies Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations, and Students as outlined in sections 10.00 - 170.00 and appendices. Recognized SFL organizations that violate governing council policies can also be adjudicated through the judicial process outlined in the applicable council's judicial procedures.

Recognized SFL organizations who fail to comply with sanctions imposed by the office, by campus, community stakeholders, intern/national organizations, risk losing their status as an officially recognized SFL organization.

Appropriate on and off campus partners will be notified about SFL organizations that lose their status as an officially recognized SFL organization.

SFL organizations can jeopardize their status by:

- Receiving a sanction of suspension or greater through the Office of Academic Integrity & Student Conduct. SFL organizations are also subjected to sanctions by on-campus partners when applicable (e.g. Arroyo Vista themed housing).
- Violating local, state, and national laws.
- The revocation of a chapter charter from their inter/national headquarters.
- Not registering as a campus organization with the Dean of Students Office.

SFL organizations that lose recognition are expected to cease all activities and abide by all terms and conditions formally communicated to the organization by the University pertaining to participation in SFL affairs and University sponsored events as a sorority/fraternity organization.

## **UNRECOGNIZED GROUPS**

Unrecognized sorority and fraternity groups have no affiliation with or supervision with Sorority & Fraternity Life office. Some groups were at one time recognized and affiliated with inter/national organizations, councils, and University of California Irvine campus. Student that operates outside of the scope of Sorority & Fraternity Life do so at their own risk. The University of California Irvine reserves the right to hold outside groups accountable through legal action if necessary in the event of inappropriate behavior within an unauthorized group or organization.