



The University of Cincinnati Division of Student Affairs | Fraternity & Sorority Life Expansion/Extension Plan

The University of Cincinnati began as the Cincinnati College and Medical College of Ohio in 1819. Today, UC is a public research university with an enrollment of over 42,000 students and over 300 programs of study. U.S. News has ranked UC in the Top Tier of America's Best Colleges. The Chronicle of Higher Education calls UC a "research heavyweight". Forbes and Delta Sky magazines have named UC one of the world's most beautiful campuses.

Throughout the university's long history, it has been home to over 60 national and local social fraternities and sororities. The first fraternity was founded in 1840. More than 50,000 fraternity/sorority alumni have graduated from UC, with nearly 25,000 living alumni. Many national fraternities and sororities have previously been active on campus, but are now dormant.

Fraternity & Sorority Life at the University of Cincinnati is an ever-evolving community, and seeks ways in which we are able to attract positive examples of fraternalism to our campus. However, our community also wants to ensure that all fraternities/sororities—new and old—are sustainable and on strong footing to succeed over the long-term.

As members of the University of Cincinnati community, we are charged to live by the Bearcat Bond:

As a member of the **University of Cincinnati**, I will uphold the principles for a **Just Community** and the values of **respect, responsibility, and inclusiveness**. I will promote the highest levels of personal and academic **honesty** and aspire continuously to better **myself, the Bearcat community, and the world**.

General Requirements for Interested Fraternities or Sororities

National fraternities/sororities interested in expansion/extension at the University of Cincinnati should first contact the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life before conducting any recruitment activity on campus. It should not be assumed that a fraternity/sorority can "show up" on campus and have a "green light" to start a chapter. The University of Cincinnati recognizes both the legal right of a fraternity/sorority to exist, as well as the university's responsibility to ensure the success of the entire fraternity/sorority community.

Nationally affiliated fraternities/sororities are expected to affiliate with their respective peer-affiliated governing council on campus. Potential fraternities and sororities affiliated with governing councils (IFC, CPH, NPHC, MGC, NAPA, NALFO) must be approved for membership by their respective council. The University of Cincinnati will not recognize your chapter if you are not approved by and affiliated with a governing council.

New fraternities and sororities must register as a university student organization with the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life and the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development. In order to receive all rights and responsibilities of a student organization on campus, you must follow the appropriate registration channels and adhere to all student organization policies and Fraternity & Sorority Community guidelines.

Criteria for registration includes:

- The organization "must fill a need for students not currently being met"
- Constitution and bylaws consistent with university rules and peer-affiliated governing council
- Members must be university students (full-time or part-time)
- At least 10 members (*exceptions may be granted on a case by case basis*)
- Must have a university advisor

Registered university student organizations get:

- Support of university staff
- Use of campus facilities for meetings and events, most often free of charge (outside of food/drink and other incidental costs)
- Promotion in university publications, websites, and social media
- Opportunity to participate in activities fairs, Homecoming, open houses, summer orientation, leadership programs, and more
- Mailbox and university mailing address
- Eligible for student organization awards and other recognitions
- Assistance with vehicle rental and other travel

Registered university student organizations agree to comply with university rules, including use of facilities, Student Code of Conduct (SCOC), sound financial management, and local, state, and federal laws.

Please Note:

- *The University of Cincinnati will not recognize local fraternities or sororities as members of the Fraternity & Sorority Life Community*
- *Expansion for a Fraternity/Sorority is not automatic. "Campus crashing," or forming a group of interested students without the approval of the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life or by the (Inter)National Office will not be tolerated*
- *Checklist referenced in Extension/Expansion Plan may vary based on Fraternity/Sorority Council affiliation, National Organization, and/or University standards. Additionally, the checklist may include specifics relevant to situation, circumstance, or history*

Open Expansion

The University of Cincinnati agrees with, and is an advocate for, open expansion (when applicable). The University of Cincinnati, Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life, and governing councils within our community will not deter expansion by withholding membership of a group from their respective councils (unless a group is woefully unprepared for successful expansion).

True open expansion generally follows one of three paths:

1. The inter/national organization identifies a campus it believes fits their values and growth plan. The organization will express interest to the campus. The campus will then work with the organization to determine a schedule/plan that is mutually beneficial while still allowing all interested groups a chance to succeed on the campus.
2. A campus realizes the need for new inter/national organization and reaches out to respective inter/national headquarters to communicate the opportunity. Those that are interested will initiate the same process as outlined in the previous scenario. This may involve an expansion calendar to facilitate an organized and fair process for all of the interested organizations.
3. Students on campus come together to create an interest group that seeks recognition from an inter/national fraternity/sorority not currently represented on campus. Interest groups will be guided by the same policy as a group of students seeking to form a new organization on campus.

Procedures for formal expansion requested by a Fraternity/Sorority Governing Council

1. Determine need for expansion
2. The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life will communicate with applicable organizations that may express interest in establishing a chapter at The University of Cincinnati. Consideration should be given to fraternities or sororities who previously had a chapter at The University of Cincinnati.
3. Interested organizations must submit the information requested in the Expansion Profile (see below)

4. The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life must then review information and select 2-3 groups from the groups that applied to make an on-campus presentation to the Governing Council and the Fraternity & Sorority Life Community.
5. The fraternities or sororities making an on-campus presentation will meet prior to the presentations with The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life to discuss expectations, policies and procedures, etc.
6. Following the presentations, evaluations will be collected for review and a decision will be made on whether or not to invite an organization to campus.
7. If a (Inter) National fraternity/sorority is invited to start a colony or a group of interested students at The University of Cincinnati, the FSL Team will provide a checklist of expectations to the selected group.
8. The University of Cincinnati will begin the expansion process for only one fraternity and/or sorority per council, per semester. There may be multiple chartering/interested groups on campus at any one time.

Procedures for Recognition by a group of interested students

(Defined as a group of students expressing an interest in becoming affiliated with a Fraternity/Sorority)

1. Prior to initiating contact with potential new student members, the group must gain approval from the Fraternity & Sorority Life (FSL) Team.
2. Schedule a meeting with the FSL Team to discuss expectations, policies, procedures, etc.
3. Upon approval from the FSL Team, the group of interested students will submit the information requested in Section II to the FSL Team for review.
4. The (Inter) National Fraternity/Sorority, along with the group of interested students, will be invited to make an on-campus presentation to the Governing Council and the Fraternity/Sorority Community.
5. Following the presentations, evaluations will be collected for review.
6. A decision will be made to invite or not invite the (Inter) National fraternity/sorority to start an interest group/colony at The University of Cincinnati. The FSL Team will provide a checklist of expectations to the chosen group.
7. The University of Cincinnati will begin the expansion process for only one fraternity and/or sorority per council, per semester. There may be multiple chartering/interested groups on campus at any one time.

Procedures for an inter/national organization interested in joining our community

1. Contact the FSL Team to discuss possible expansion/colonization.
 - a. Answer any questions that may arise from either parties.
 - b. Determine a potential timeline moving forward.
2. Submit information requested in the Expansion Profile. This should be provided to the university and governing council before any on-the-ground expansion occurs.
3. Schedule Conference call(s) and in-person meeting(s) with the FSL staff and the governing council to discuss the organization's expansion plan, as well as provide an opportunity for the university and other interested parties (IFC Expansion Committee) to share their vision for community growth and expansion. (For instance, if a handful of organizations recently expanded, the university may express that perhaps waiting a while is in the best interest for both the organization and the community and so on.)
4. Present to the governing council at a regular council meeting. This is not intended to be a "thumbs up" or "thumbs down" vote to allow or disallow an organization's expansion. Rather, it's an opportunity for the organization to share its expansion plan, share who they are and why they want to join UC's fraternity community, and ask for the support of the council and its member organizations (for things like referrals, best practices on our campus, etc.).
5. Execute organization's expansion plan, colonize, affiliate with the governing council as a colony member, and register as a university student organization

Organizations that close, retain their charter, then re-organize should do so in communication with the university, governing council, and re-organization should follow this outline for expansion.

Chartering Procedure

1. Follow all inter/national organization policies, requirements, and expectations for the chartering process
2. Organizations selected to expand or reorganize must also meet the following criteria:
 - a. Representatives must attend all Governing Council meetings and all members are strongly encouraged to participate in every facet of the Fraternity/Sorority community (Fraternity & Sorority Week, community service, etc.).
 - b. Secure the support of a faculty/staff advisor.
 - c. The chapter advisor should attend all meetings of the group and scheduled meetings for advisors by FSL.
 - d. The group must abide by all Governing Council, National and University policies, regulations, and guidelines.
3. All fraternities and sororities will be expected to maintain Minimum Standards for student organizations at The University of Cincinnati.
4. If a fraternity or sorority does not receive its charter within two (2) years of colonization on campus, their status as a colony and viable organization at The University of Cincinnati will be reviewed by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life. If found not to be sustainable, the colony may be required to disband.

NPC Extension

The National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) of 26 national women's fraternities (sororities) represents over 4 million women at 650+ campuses in the United States and Canada, **has a very structured extension process for new sororities**. Extension is outlined in detail in the NPC Manual of Information. The University of Cincinnati Panhellenic Council (CPH) follows this extension process for new sororities.

Information required for expansion (Expansion Profile)

The university expects the following information to be provided by all groups that plan to expand to campus:

1. Letter of interest from (Inter) National Fraternity & Sorority-Letter fraternity/sorority headquarters
2. Logistical Information
 - a. Name of fraternity or sorority
 - b. Founding date
 - c. History at The University of Cincinnati (if applicable)
 - d. Current number of undergraduate chapters
 - e. Current number of undergraduate members
 - f. Average chapter size
 - g. Number of chapters closed in the last five years and reasons for closing
 - h. Membership costs: new member, initiation fees, insurance, regular dues, housing fees (if applicable), etc.
3. The University of Cincinnati History and Alumni Information
 - a. Total number of alumni in the surrounding area
 - b. Statement of interest and support of the alumni in establishing a chapter
 - c. A list of specific alumni who are interested in working with the chapter in an advisory capacity
 - d. Nearest alumni club/organization/graduate chapter
 - e. If a group is returning to campus, describe the following:
 - i. Reasons why the chapter became inactive on campus, and when
 - ii. How the issue(s) involved have been addressed
 - iii. How the group has cleared any debts or circumstances still incomplete from when previously on campus (if applicable)
4. Inter/National Headquarters Values, Policies and Publications

- a. A description of the organizational values and founding principles
 - b. A description or diagram of the governance structure at the chapter and the inter/national levels
 - c. Constitution (Inter/National and local if applicable)
 - d. Minimal expectations of colony for existence and chartering
 - e. Alcohol and substance abuse policy and program
 - f. Scholarship policies and programs
 - g. Inter/National magazine/publications
 - h. Risk Management
5. Chapter Development
- a. Please provide the following for three specific time periods: during colonization, the first two years after chartering, and in five to ten years:
 - i. Membership goals (numbers, GPA)
 - ii. Community interaction, service projects, and or philanthropies
 - iii. Campus involvement
 - iv. Programming initiatives (educational/cultural/faculty)
 - v. Chapter and Alumni board finances
 - vi. Fundraising efforts
 - vii. Impact on Fraternity & Sorority and The University of Cincinnati communities
6. Membership Development
- a. Hazing policy
 - b. Membership discrimination policy
 - c. Membership education policy and program (New Member Education Program)
 - d. Recruitment/Membership intake policy and program
 - e. Leadership training or conferences
7. Information on Inter/National strength
- a. Total number of chapters nationwide and distribution area
 - b. Total number of chapters and colonies in Ohio and bordering states
 - i. Total number of colonizations during the past five (5) years
 - ii. Where, number chartered, number not chartered
 - c. Total number of initiated members
 - d. Total number of colonizations anticipated in the next calendar year and where
 - e. The number of chapters closed and/or suspended during the last three (3) academic years, including where, when and why
 - f. Average size of chapters on campuses similar to The University of Cincinnati
 - g. Leadership development and officer transition programs
8. Additional Information
- a. A copy of the organization's insurance certificate (minimum \$1,000,000 coverage)
 - b. Letter of intent from the Inter/National Headquarters Expansion Chairperson
 - c. A list of all interested students (if applicable*) including Name, Class Status, GPA, and Campus-Wide ID#