

Greek Community Standards

Summary

Columbus State University have fraternities and sororities that provides students with an environment that fosters personal and professional growth and follows various standards related to academics and social events.

Purpose

This document presents the standards and rules for fraternities and sororities and the judicial processes for upholding them.

Policy

Preamble

Mission and Purpose of the Office of Greek Life: *The Office of Greek Life provides students with an environment that fosters personal and professional growth. Through leadership opportunities, excellence in scholarship, and philanthropic involvement, students are able to build their resumes and make important connections that will better prepare them for life after CSU. In addition, Greek Life can offer students a higher level of engagement in their University and the Columbus community.*

The Greek students at Columbus State University represent top leaders, scholars, mentors, community members, and athletes at the University. Therefore, certain standards are expected to be maintained. It is in accordance with the mission and purpose of the Office of Greek Life that we have high expectations for members of the Greek Community at Columbus State University. We expect that all members of the community follow these standards to the best of their ability. Chapters falling below these standards will not be considered for Annual Greek Life Awards. Additionally, failure to comply with certain standards outlined may result in judicial process.

Greek Life Staff 2015-2016

The Greek Life Staff will consist of a graduate advisor and a student assistant.

I. Academics

- a. Potential New Member Standard
 - i. The Office of Greek Life (OGL) has an expectation that, upon inviting a Potential

New Member to join an existing organization, the individual will sign a Grade Release Form and have their grades verified by the Office of Greek Life. Individuals who do not have a GPA of 2.5 or greater will be denied membership into any CSU Greek Organization.

b. Chapter Standards

i. Each chapter, in order to remain in good standing with the OGL, must maintain a chapter GPA of at least 2.5 every semester.

ii. Each chapter falling below a 2.5 will be subject to the following sanction:

1. First offense- Written warning administered by the Advisor for Greek Life.

i. Once given the warning, a chapter must submit an academic improvement plan

2. Second consecutive offense- Loss of social privileges for one full academic semester. Loss of voting privileges within council meetings. A written letter of offense from the Advisor for Greek Life sent to National and/or Regional Office.

i. If a chapter is placed on social probation, they may write an academic plan and present it to the Advisor for Greek Life. If this academic plan is approved by the Advisor for Greek Life, grades will be reassessed at Midterms.

ii. Midterms assessments of grades require signatures and current grades from all active members' professors. It is the chapter's responsibility to get these forms (found on the Greek Life CSUinvolve page) printed and distributed to chapter members in a timely manner.

3. Third consecutive offense-Receipt of Inactive Status for all University purposes for a full academic semester. A written letter of offense from the Advisor for Greek Life sent to National and/or Regional Office.

c. Individual Member Standards

i. Chapters are expected to hold reasonable standards for all active members of their organizations, and to hold members accountable for their academic success.

II. Involvement

a. The OGL expects that each member in the Greek community is involved in **AT LEAST TWO** organizations, other than the chapter of which the member is a part.

i. The OGL WILL recognize a **full time job (more than 20 hours/week)** as **ONE** of the expected two organizations.

- ii. Council executive positions will also count as ONE of the expected two organizations.
- iii. Each chapter president is expected to provide a full list of members and organizations to the OGL by the last Friday in February of each academic year.
 - 1. Presidents failing to submit their list will eliminate their chapter from the running for both Most Involved Chapter, and Greek Chapter of the Year awards.
 - b. All members of each chapter should register with their organization on CSUinvolve, and should make their roster status “visible” with that organization.
 - c. The OGL expects each member of the CSU Greek Community to be active contributors to Meet the Greeks and Greek Week each year.
 - i. If a chapter cannot commit to one of the expected events, they must contact the Advisor for Greek Life at least 30 days prior to the event.
 - d. The OGL also expects that Greek Life be well-represented at all leadership workshops, ROAR orientation sessions, conferences, and campus-wide events.

III. Social Events/ Social Risk Management

- a. All social events must be registered via CSUinvolve a minimum of 5 business days in advance of the event. The most updated event registration process, as well as the definition of a social event can be found in the RSO handbook.
 - i. If chapter leaders would like to receive training on how to register an event on CSUinvolve, they must contact sld@columbusstate.edu to set up a training session.
 - b. Events occurring in off-campus housing may NOT be referred to as an organization’s residence, (i.e. the “Sigma Chi house”) unless sanctioned as such by the city of Columbus.
 - c. Events not sanctioned by both the university and your organization’s national/regional office may not in any way indicate sponsorship or hosting by a Greek chapter (Ex: Party hosted by outside entity, with organization name on flyer).
 - d. If an event is hosted and/or attended by multiple members of an organization, but is not a “chapter event,” that organization should register the event to eliminate any ambiguity.
 - e. Promotional materials (flyers, posters, social media posts, etc.) for events should be in good taste, and should reflect positively on the chapter and the University.
 - f. Events involving alcohol must follow FIPG (Fraternal Information Programming

Group) standards (see-fipg.org)

IV. Recruitment and Intake

- a. Every organization is expected to remember that recruitment occurs 365 days a year, and must conduct themselves as such.
- b. Organizations must receive approval from the Greek Life Advisor/Graduate Advisor before any interest meeting. This can be done through email notification by organization president or advisor.
- c. Each prospective member must also be approved by the Greek Life Office, prior to receiving an invitation to begin the new member/pledging process.
 - i. If a prospective member officially signs up for recruitment, signs a “bid”, or completes an Information Release Form (found on the website), grades may be released to the chapter president and/or the advisor.
 - ii. If a prospective member does not do one of the above, the student’s full name or 909 should be given to the Greek Life Advisor/Graduate Advisor; The Greek Life Advisor/Graduate Advisor will then ensure that potential member meets the minimum standard of 2.5.

Organizations may not recruit new members by bashing other organizations.

- d. Every organization is expected to follow all rules and regulations set by their council regarding recruitment/intake.

V. Collaboration and Greek Unity

- a. The OGL expects that each chapter attempt to collaborate with AT LEAST ONE chapter in a council, other than the one in which they are a member, for an event each semester.
- b. Every member of the Greek community is expected to maintain positive relationships with all other members of the Greek community and the CSU community. This means that we will treat one another with respect and will speak about every chapter in a positive manner.
- c. Every active chapter in CSU’s Greek system is expected to participate in Greek Week, unless the organization has already obtained approval from the Greek Life Advisor. Additionally, chapters should commit to a certain number of participants, and report this number to the OGL.
- d. NPC, NPHC, and IFC Executive Councils are each expected to host at least one event each semester.

e. All chapters are expected to provide the The Greek Life Office with recommendations for all Greek-formed committees (i.e. Greek Week Committee).

VI. Community Service/Philanthropy

a. Chapters completing over 15 hours of community service/member each semester will be considered for the Community Service Award at the Greek Awards Banquet.

b. Chapter members are expected to track their service hours through CSUinvolve. If hours are not tracked, the chapter will not be considered for the Community Service Award.

VII. Greek Center Reservations

a. All reservations must be made 7 days in advance for one room, and 14 days in advance for the entire Greek Center. Reservations are granted on a first come, first served basis.

b. Reservation requests must be made through emailing greeklifecsu@gmail.com.

c. Organizations reserving the Greek Center for events outside of business hours must check out a key-card for access to the Greek Center (Please see attached “Greek Center Key Card Agreement.”)

i. If an organization is reserving the Greek Center for ritual purposes, they are expected to indicate as such when making the reservation. This will ensure that the proper, private space is available.

d. If an organization needs to utilize the Greek Center media, they may check out the Greek Life laptop 24 hours prior to the event, or are expected to bring their own laptop. The Greek Life laptop may only be used for events inside the Greek Center, unless otherwise sanctioned by the Greek Advisor. Failure to return the Greek Life laptop in 24 hours could result in judicial action, and/or full repayment for the laptop.

e. If layout of a meeting room needs to be changed for an organization’s event/meeting, the organization may do so. **However, the room must be returned to the layout in which the organization found it prior to relinquishing the room. If an organization fails to do so:**

i. First offense will result in a verbal and/or written warning.

ii. Second offense will result in loss of reservation privileges for one month.

iii. Third offense will result in loss of reservation privileges for one semester.

iv. Fourth offense will result in loss of reservation privileges for one calendar year.

- f. If damage occurs to the Greek Center during a reservation time, the organization which has reserved it may be held financially responsible for the damage.
- g. No more than 3 non-CSU students may attend events in the Greek Center without prior approval from Greek Life Staff.
- h. Reservations for sole access to the Greek Center can only be made for Monday-Friday from 6pm-12am, and Saturday and Sunday. The center will remain open to the public until 5pm each business day.

VIII. Greek Judicial Process

- a. Any Greek member or non-Greek student may submit a charge or issue to be brought through the Greek Judicial process. Visit <https://columbusstate.collegiatelink.net/form/start/37006> to file the form on CSUinvolve.
- b. The Greek Life Advisor will review all complaints/charges/issues, and will determine whether it should be brought before the Greek Judicial Board, or should be handled directly.
- i. The Greek Judicial Board will serve as the official cross-council disciplinary board for the Greek Life office.
- ii. Issues that may be handled by the board may be, but are not limited to: social infractions, housing infractions, personal issues between Greeks, conduct issues, conduct issues in the Greek Center or in Davidson Student Center, and failing to follow Greek Standards.
- iii. The Greek Judicial Board will consist of: 1 NPC member, 1 NPHC member, 1 IFC member, and the Graduate Advisor for Greek Life.
- iv. Organizations/individuals brought before the Greek Judicial board will be notified of their infraction via Cougarnet email. Parties will have 5 business days to set up their hearing.
- v. Organizations have the right to appeal any decision within 10 days made by the Greek Judicial Board via official written notice of appeal. The Greek Life Advisor will serve as the appeal officer for any sanction. If another appeal is warranted, the appeal will be brought before the Assistant Director for Student Life.
- vi. Organizations and/or individuals are allowed to bring 1 advocate to any meeting with the Greek Judicial Board. This may be an advisor, alumni members, etc.

Considerations:

1. *The Community Standards are meant to serve as guide of **minimum** expectations for active chapters of the Columbus State University Greek community, and to prevent*

unfair or unjust treatment of any chapter.

2. *Council Bylaws and individual chapter bylaws will remain as the governing documents for all active chapters.*
3. *All rules, regulations, sanctions, or disciplinary actions outlined in this document are subject to the discretion of the Advisor for Greek Life.*
4. *Infractions of the CSU Student Handbook will be handled by the Office of the Dean of Students. If the infraction is Greek Life-related, the Greek Advisor may be called in as an advocate or resource.*

Related USG Policy

4.1.4 Fraternities and Sororities

Last Update

Fall 2015

Responsible Authority

Student Development Specialist, Fraternity & Sorority Life