



Division of Student Affairs

Center for Student Involvement & Leadership
Fraternity and Sorority Life

Policy on Recognition for Sororities and Fraternities

SALISBURY UNIVERSITY POLICY ON RECOGNITION OF SORORITIES AND FRATERNITIES

Sororities and fraternities have a historical association with Salisbury University. When managed responsibly by inter/national headquarters, graduates, alumni, local chapters, and officers they offer students valuable social and learning experience. It is the policy of the University, therefore, to offer eligible sororities and fraternities an opportunity to fulfill this purpose by extending them certain privileges, services, and resources. This policy on Recognition of Sororities and Fraternities explains how sororities and fraternities become recognized within the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and thereby eligible to receive support from the University.

This policy supplements the [Center for Student Involvement and Leadership Registration Guidelines](#) and establishes special requirements for social sororities and fraternities. This policy is limited to social sororities and fraternities and does not apply to other student organizations, groups, clubs, or honor societies even if their names include Greek letters. The University reserves the right to discontinue or modify these privileges and services, to specially limit eligibility, and to offer them on a selective basis.

SECTION I: BENEFITS OF RECOGNITION

Sororities and fraternities that have been granted recognition by Salisbury University Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) are eligible to receive the following University privileges, resources, and services:

- A. Eligibility to hold membership in the Interfraternity Council, Multicultural Greek Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council or Panhellenic Association
- B. Direct advising, coaching and chapter support from FSL full-time and graduate student staff
- C. Chapter wellness training and education on topics such as risk management, hazing prevention, diversity and inclusion and sexual assault/violence prevention

SECTION II: RECOGNITION REQUIREMENTS

Recognition is granted by FSL upon demonstrating that the sorority or fraternity is responsibly managed, fiscally reliable, a responsible steward of university property, a constructive member of the campus community and its members willing to observe the rules and laws of the community. In keeping with the expectation that sororities and fraternities be responsibly managed and participate as constructive members of the community, as a rule, recognition will be granted to the sorority or fraternity chapter under the following conditions:

- A. Is a registered student organization with the University's Center for Student Involvement and Leadership (CSIL)
- B. Has a minimum of one (1) currently enrolled Salisbury University, undergraduate student members
- C. Is in good standing with its International or National Headquarters
- D. Holds at least a \$1,000,000 insurance policy submitted annually to the FSL Office
- E. Is accepted by and considered an active participant in one of the four sorority and fraternity governing councils: the Interfraternity Council, the Multicultural Greek Council, the National Pan-Hellenic Council, or the Panhellenic Association
- F. Has reasonably complied with Salisbury University Chapter Expectations (new sororities and fraternities must demonstrate a capacity to meet these requirements)
- G. Minimum new member class GPA of 2.5
- H. Adheres to all University policies and regulations, including but not limited to:
 - a. Code of Student Organization Standards
 - b. Code of Community Standards
 - c. Disability and Accessibility Policy
 - d. Hazing Policy
- B. Intake/New Member Education Policy, including:
 - a. Students must have 12 or more credits and a 2.5 cumulative grade point average or higher to be offered an invitation to join
 - b. New Member Education/Intake Programs can last no more than six weeks from the date of the bid acceptance program or ceremony, or from approval of potential interest names by the FSL office
- C. Non-Discrimination Policy
- D. Sexual Misconduct Policy

SECTION III: RECOGNITION PROCESS

A new sorority or fraternity will be considered for recognition upon application to FSL. The organization will provide information as described in the *Expansion and Reactivation Policy document*. FSL will provide a determination on the Letter of Intent to grant recognition. The decision will be considered final upon approval by the Vice President of Student Affairs, or an appointee of the Vice President of Student Affairs.

For chapters recognized the previous year, submitting a Chapter Development Plan Reflection will be considered an application for continued recognition. Recognition is not automatically renewed and will be granted for one academic year. Once recognized, a chapter is expected to meet the requirements of recognition continually. Probationary Recognition may be granted with conditions designed to assist the sorority or fraternity to comply with university requirements.

SECTION IV: RECOGNITION STATUS

At the conclusion of each academic year, Salisbury University Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life Staff will holistically assess each chapter's progress and performance in meeting all recognition requirements as outlined in Section II of this Policy on Recognition.

Each chapter will receive a Recognition Letter before the academic year starts outlining their Recognition status. Chapters that have met all recognition requirements can fully participate in the community. Chapters that do not meet the recognition requirements will be placed on a probationary status which will include an individualized chapter support program and may include restrictions such as:

- A. required educational programs
- B. no social events for one semester or one academic year (on or off campus)
- C. cannot participate in community-wide programs such as Homecoming or FSL Fest on any level
- D. cannot participate in intramurals for one semester or one academic year
- E. cannot participate in some or all Step Shows/Yard Shows
- F. other conditions will be determined on a case-by-case basis

Maintaining Probationary Recognition status for two consecutive years is grounds for immediate removal. Chapters that do not achieve Recognized Status after two consecutive years of Probationary Recognition and wish to maintain recognition will be given the opportunity to demonstrate and prove why the chapter should continue to exist on campus through a Show Cause Hearing.

Show Cause Hearing: After two consecutive years of Probationary Recognition, or at the request of the coordinator, chapters will participate in a Show Cause Hearing. During the Show Cause Hearing, the chapter will be expected to address efforts and plans related to the unmet requirements or behavioral concerns listed in their recognition status letter and/or Show Cause Hearing notice. The chapter should also address any initiatives, programs, or goals that would allow FSL staff to have a clearer vision for the chapter's potential success if recognition is continued. Chapter members should collaborate with advisors and regional volunteers in developing the presentation. The presentation should be no longer than 30 minutes. The outcome of a Show Cause Hearing is either (1) a final year of probationary recognition or (2) revocation of recognition.

SECTION V: REVOCATION OF RECOGNITION

Recognition status may be changed or revoked at any time by FSL for a pattern or incident of misconduct, criminal activity, fiscal default, or neglect by:

- A. any officer or member of the sorority or fraternity when representing the organization
- B. a resident on premises owned, leased, or licensed by the sorority or fraternity
- C. an invitee or guest of the sorority or fraternity

which, in the judgment of the coordinator, poses an unacceptable risk of harm to persons or property, including liability or monetary loss to the University or community.

Circumstances and conduct that are cause for revocation, especially when occurring in connection with chapter activities, include but are not limited to:

- A. Hazing, infliction of bodily injury, sexual assault, setting fires and indecent behavior whether resulting in arrest, criminal prosecution, finding of guilt or conviction
- B. Alcohol violations, underage drinking, drug, or substance abuse
- C. Willful or negligent damage to public or private property, including University property; theft of public or private property, including University property. If housed in university facilities, failure to exercise appropriate care for the property
- D. Recurring social or academic probation or a violation of probation
- E. Recommendation of the Office of Student Accountability & Community Standards arising from violations of the Code of Student Organizational Standards or the Code of Community Standards
- F. Failure to pay University rents, fees, charges, or other obligations to the institution.
- G. Failure to exercise appropriate care, if applicable, in using and maintaining University facilities
- H. Withdrawal of the charter or other form of affiliation by the international or national organization
- I. Two consecutive years of probationary recognition

- J. Failure to maintain membership in good standing with one of the sorority or fraternity governing councils unless exempted by the FSL
- K. Failure to comply with Section II of this policy

The unqualified cooperation and assistance of the chapter, alumni, international and national organizations when informed by the University of the possibility of such behavior and the adequacy of their response will be evaluated when revocation is being considered. Normally, a sorority or fraternity whose recognition is revoked will not be eligible to reapply for recognition for at least four (4) years.

SECTION VI: APPEALS

Chapters wishing to appeal their recognition status, corresponding conditions or revocation of recognition may submit to the coordinator a written appeal within ten (10) business days of receipt of the notice. Appeals will be reviewed by the Recognition Appellate Board which is appointed by the Vice President of Student Affairs or their appointee and includes the following individuals:

- A. Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, or appointee (chairperson)
- B. Student Affairs staff member (not a FSL staff member)
- C. Faculty Member
- D. Chapter Advisor Representative
- E. One member (different from students on the Recognition Review Board) from the four (4) governing council executive boards (IFC, MGC, NPHC, and PHA)

The Board will consider the chapter's appeal, recognition compliance file, records of any policy infractions and any response to the appeal by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. Determinations of the Board regarding recognition status and corresponding conditions are considered final. Determinations of the Board regarding revocation of recognition will be final upon approval by the Vice President of Student Affairs.

SECTION VII: PERIODIC REVIEW

This Policy will be evaluated periodically.