

University of Memphis Fraternity/Sorority Affairs Expansion Policy

University of Memphis Fraternity/Sorority Affairs seeks to create and sustain an environment that encourages student success through the expansion and growth of fraternity/sorority chapters. Through this policy, inter/national organizations and current students are guided through a process that ensures student requests are met and lays a foundation for strong and successful fraternity/sorority chapters.

I. General Expansion Expectations

In order to ensure the continued success of the University of Memphis fraternity/sorority community, the following are expectations for all interest groups and colonizations:

1. The University does not recognize interest groups that are not affiliated with an inter/national organization.
2. Groups that prohibit or discriminate in membership based on race, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation will not be permitted to colonize.
3. All fraternity/sorority chapters must be registered through the Office of Student Leadership and Involvement as a Registered Student Organization, and hold membership in one of the registered governing councils (Interfraternity Council-IFC; National Pan-Hellenic Council-NPHC; Panhellenic Council-PAN) in order to receive privileges of a campus fraternity/sorority.
4. Most colonizations will require a Letter of Intent.
 - a. The Letter of Intent is submitted by any interested inter/national organization or student group, and should include information pertinent to educating the community on the inter/national organization, including:
 - ii. Overview of the organization's history, mission, and values;
 - iii. Summary of the Colonization Plan, including: outline of the colonization timeline, inter/national and local support structures, and contact information; and
 - iv. Statement of agreement with the policies of the University regarding Registered Student Organizations and the governing council's constitution and bylaws.

II. Expansion Processes

There are several routes for an expansion for inter/national fraternities and sororities:

1. **Open Invitation to Colonize:** In the event that a governing council wishes to seek expansion opportunities, a formal invitation shall be sent to inter/national organizations requesting Letters of Intent. This invitation will first be approved by the governing council and/or the Vice President of Student Affairs.
2. **Student Interest Group Colonization:** A group of enrolled students may choose to form a chapter that is affiliated with an inter/national organization and may seek membership in a governing council as a result of that affiliation. The group of interested students shall submit a Letter of Intent to the governing council that includes a Letter of Endorsement from the inter/national organization.
3. **Inter/National Fraternity or Sorority Colonization:** An inter/national fraternity or sorority can petition to join a governing council through a Letter of Intent sent to the President of said council. This includes re-colonization of a previously chartered fraternity/sorority chapter.

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III. Procedures of Open Invitations to Colonize

The process for open invitation will differ based on the governing council:

1. Interfraternity Council Procedures

- a. In coordination with the Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff, the Interfraternity Council will create an Expansion Committee consisting of relevant members of the council. This should include chapter presidents, chapter advisors, recruitment chairmen, and IFC Executive Board officers.
- b. The Expansion Committee will provide written notification of the University's desire to expand to the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) for assistance in contacting inter/national organizations currently not represented on campus. This notification will include a due date for any Letter of Intent an organization wishes to submit.
- c. Interested inter/national organizations will then be invited to submit their Letter of Intent to the IFC President.
- d. The Expansion Committee will review any submitted proposals. If multiple organizations submit Letters of Intent, the IFC President will coordinate with the Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff, the inter/national organizations, and the NIC to establish an agreeable timeline for expansion.

2. Panhellenic Council Procedures

Panhellenic Council colonizations and recolonizations will follow the expectations of the National Panhellenic Conference's Manual of Information procedures on extension.

3. National Pan-Hellenic Council Procedures

- a. All NPHC organizations have been chartered at the University of Memphis, Memphis campus. There will not be any opportunities to charter any new NPHC organizations that have not already been chartered; therefore, any expansion with NPHC will only happen as a re-colonization of that chapter through the national organization.
- b. To charter an NPHC organization at the University of Memphis, Lambuth campus, Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff will communicate with interested students, inter/national organizations, and the National Pan-Hellenic Council to determine the best way to support such initiatives.

4. Non-PAN/IFC/NPHC Affiliated Council Procedures

In the event that the University sees interest in expanding to organizations not currently housed in any of the current governing councils, Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff will communicate with interested students, inter/national organizations, and national umbrella groups including National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations (NALFO), National Asian Pacific Islander Panhellenic Association (NAPA), National Multicultural Greek Council (NMCG) to determine the best way to support such initiatives.

IV. Procedures for Student Interest Group Colonization

The process for student interest group colonization will differ based on the governing council:

1. Interfraternity Council Procedures

- c. A group of men interested in starting a new fraternity must first gain approval from the IFC Executive Board and Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff prior to initiating contact with potential new student members.

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- d. The interest group must meet the expectations outlined through the University's Registered Student Organization policies before submitting a Letter of Intent to the IFC President.
 - i. This Letter of Intent must include a Letter of Endorsement from the inter/national organization.
 - e. Once submitted, the IFC will work with Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff, the interested men, the inter/national organization, and the NIC to set an agreeable timeline for expansion.
2. *Panhellenic Council Procedures*
Panhellenic Council colonizations and recolonizations will follow the expectations of the National Panhellenic Conference's Manual of Information procedures on extension.
3. *National-Panhellenic Council Procedures*
 - a. All NPHC organizations have been chartered at the University of Memphis, Memphis campus. There will not be any opportunities to charter any new NPHC organizations that have not already been chartered; therefore, any expansion with NPHC will only happen as a re-colonization of that chapter through the national organization.
 - b. To charter an NPHC organization at the University of Memphis, Lambuth campus, the following procedures will be followed:
 - i. A group of students interested in starting a new fraternity/sorority must first gain approval from the Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff prior to initiating contact with potential new student members.
 - ii. The interest group must meet the expectations outlined through the University's Registered Student Organization policies before submitting a Letter of Intent to the Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff.
 - iii. This Letter of Intent must include a Letter of Endorsement from the inter/national organization.
 - iv. Once submitted, Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff, in coordination with the inter/national organization, will work to establish the chapter as part of the campus NPHC.
4. *Non-PAN/IFC/NPHC Affiliated Council Procedures*
 - a. A group of students interested in starting a new fraternity/sorority must first gain approval from the Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff prior to initiating contact with potential new student members.
 - b. The interest group must meet the expectations outlined through the University's Registered Student Organization policies before submitting a Letter of Intent to the Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff.
 - i. This Letter of Intent must include a Letter of Endorsement from the inter/national organization.
 - c. Once submitted, Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff, in coordination with the inter/national organization, will make a recommendation to the group on best fit for governing council.
 - d. The interest group will then present to the governing council's general body. The council will vote to accept or deny membership based on majority vote. The council must give rationale for basis of decision. In the event of a denial, the council must also provide recommendations to the group for future application. The group may reapply the following semester.

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V. Procedures for Inter/National Fraternity or Sorority Colonization

The process for inter/national fraternity or sorority colonization will differ based on the governing council:

1. Interfraternity Council Procedures

- a. An inter/national fraternity may submit a Letter of Intent to the IFC President.
- b. Before contacting any potential new student members, the inter/national fraternity must gain approval from IFC and Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff.
- c. If this is a recolonization, the local volunteers and inter/national fraternity staff will meet with the Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff to establish expectations for the return of the organization. These expectations may include changes from previous tenure at the University; such as different local volunteers, additional support in educational programming, and recruitment/marketing efforts.

2. Panhellenic Council Procedures

Panhellenic Council colonizations and recolonizations will follow the expectations of the National Panhellenic Conference's Manual of Information procedures on extension.

3. National-Panhellenic Council Procedures

When a previously chartered organization is interested in returning to campus, the local alumni/ae chapter will initiate a meeting with Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff to outline expectations of their return. These expectations may include changes from previous tenure at the University; such as different local volunteers, additional support in educational programming, and recruitment/marketing efforts.

4. Non-PAN/IFC/NPHC Affiliated Procedures

- a. An inter/national organization may submit a Letter of Intent to the Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff.
- b. Before contacting any potential new student members, the inter/national fraternity must gain approval from Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff.

VI. Expectations of Colony Organizations

Once an inter/national organization has been invited to colonize at the University of Memphis, the organization must uphold the following:

- a. The colony must abide by all University and council rules and regulations.
- b. The colony must attend all council meetings, with non-voting status, and be encouraged to participate in all Fraternity/Sorority Affairs community activities
- c. The colony must maintain an active Alumni Advisory Board with at least 4 alumni/ae members
- d. The colony president must meet at least monthly with a FSA staff member.
- e. No interest group may be a colony for longer than a two year period. If two years passes before the colony is recognized as a charter chapter by the organization and/or the University, the colony will be disbanded.