

St. John's University
Staten Island Campus
Fraternity and Sorority Life Policies and Procedures

Relationship Statement Regarding Fraternity and Sorority Life at St. John's University:

Fraternity and sorority life was recognized on the original St. John's University campus in Brooklyn and later became an important element of the St. John's Staten Island community in 1971. Because of this commitment to fraternity and sorority life, the Office of Student Life at St. John's University seeks to maximize personal development by encouraging leadership development, personal growth, and experiential learning while fostering responsibility for self, community, and service. As an intricate part of St. John's University, the Office of Student Life encourages the integration of knowledge gained in both the curricular and co-curricular settings and teaches students to manage their lives in a diverse and changing world. Fraternity and Sorority life at St. John's is built upon the premise that these organizations enhance the educational mission of the University and provide an element of connectedness and social character to the campus.

St. John's University believes involvement in fraternities and sororities is one of many ways to enhance the quality of life for students by providing a range of opportunities for meaningful individual and group involvement, development, and growth. The University believes fraternities and sororities are committed to educating members and potential members about the ideas of scholarship, community service, leadership, brother and sisterhood, interfraternalism, personal integrity, and social development.

In efforts to continually enhance the University environment, the Office of Student Life with campus and student leadership has developed minimum standards for participation in and within the fraternity and sorority community. **The following standards are set forth to enhance both individual and group participation within the fraternity and sorority community:**

*First year students must have a GPA of 2.5 or equivalent from St. John's University, high school, or another accredited institution to join a fraternity or sorority at St. John's University.

*A Fraternity and Sorority Community Standards Review Board will be instituted to promote student accountability of University and fraternity and sorority life policies and procedures. This board will be composed of students, faculty, and administrators. The board will be in effect on or before October 17, 2006.

*The recruitment period to join a fraternity or sorority will consist of 4 nights (Meet the Greeks, Philanthropic, Theme night, and Preference night). This structure will allow both the potential new members and existing members to mutually select individuals who best exemplify their values and standards. At the end of each recruitment period, the recruitment chairs of each organization will meet with the Director of Campus Life to assess and examine the results of the recruitment process and to make recommendations if necessary.

*Upon accepting a formal invitation to join a fraternity or a sorority, each potential new member will meet with the Director of Campus Life to discuss eligibility and to sign a Grade Release Form and an Anti-Hazing Agreement. If, for any reason, a student discontinues affiliation with a fraternity or sorority, an exit interview will occur with the Director of Campus Life. The president of the organization must submit in writing the name of the potential new member who disaffiliates within 24 hours.

*An orientation to educate potential new members about the policies at St. John's University, the Staten Island Fraternity and Sorority community, and the Laws of New York State will occur within one month of becoming affiliated with a fraternity or sorority. Failure to complete the educational session will prohibit further involvement with fraternity or sorority life and interested individuals will not be considered until the following semester.

*When a potential new member of a fraternity or sorority becomes initiated, the president must submit in writing the name of the initiate to officially update the organization's roster. This notification must be no later than 24 hours after the potential new member becomes initiated.

*Two philanthropic events will be held each semester where half of the fraternity and sorority community will be present. In addition, each organization will host or collaborate on a philanthropic event or charitable cause to contribute to the betterment of the community. Philanthropic endeavors will be tracked through the Office of Student Life and will be assessed yearly.

*Each year, the Office of Student Life will work alongside the fraternity and sorority governing council to provide educational workshops and leadership programs such as academic success, alcohol and other drug education, living fraternal values, anti-hazing education, and character development. Two programs will be held each semester to address student needs.

*The Director of Campus Life will work alongside each organization to assess membership requirements, recruitment practices, and scholastic achievements while examining the retention of members until graduation.

*Each fraternity and sorority is encouraged to seek a faculty, administrator, or staff member to serve as a Moderator to the organization. Before beginning the spring 2007 semester, each group must have a Moderator in place to provide guidance and support to the organization.

*At the end of each year, the fraternity and sorority community will hold an awards ceremony to recognize good practices such as retention, scholastic achievement, philanthropic endeavors, and new member education. The Order of Omega, a fraternity and sorority honorary organization that promotes leadership, scholarship, and involvement, will assist in these endeavors. In addition, Gamma Sigma Alpha will be instituted at St. John's University to recognize scholastic achievement within the fraternity and sorority community and to work alongside campus leadership to promote the betterment of fraternity and sorority life at St. John's University on the Staten Island campus.

*In order for the fraternity and sorority community to expand, the fraternity or sorority must have an affiliation with a national organization. No new initiatives from local fraternities or

sororities will be considered to become a recognized fraternity or sorority at St. John's University. In addition, once a current local fraternity or sorority loses recognition from the University, it will have to establish relations with a national organization to be recognized.

*Consistent with the University's mission as a Catholic, Vincentian, and metropolitan institution of higher education, the University abides by all applicable federal, state and local laws which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, sex (including sexual harassment), sexual orientation, marital status, citizenship status, disability, genetic predisposition or carrier status, or status in the uniformed services of the United States (including veteran status) in any educational or employment program, policy, or practice of St. John's University, New York.

*Acts of hazing will not be tolerated by any fraternity or sorority affiliated with St. John's University and are criminal acts subject to arrest and felony prosecution in the state of New York. For more information on the University Anti-Hazing Policy, please reference the website at www.Stjohns.edu.

The Office of Student Life recognizes the benefits of association with fraternities and sororities and places great importance of upholding all policies and procedures set forth by St. John's University and the State of New York. If at any time, a member of the St. John's University community feels the behavior of a fraternity or sorority member or organization is unacceptable or inappropriate, you are urged to contact Chad Sandifer, Director of Campus Life, at extension 4443 or Anilsa Nunez, Assistant Dean of Student Life, at extension 4444 so the matter is promptly reviewed and addressed.

*Please note, these policies and procedures are subject to change and do not replace any standing policies in regard to fraternity and sorority life at St. John's University. In addition, all policies set forth in the Student Code of Conduct will be adhered to as stated in chapter six of the Student Handbook (<http://www.stjohns.edu/campus/handbook/chapter6/chapter6.sju>)