

# Sorority & Fraternity Policy

## I. Statement on Sorority & Fraternity Policy

Loyola Marymount University (LMU) requires compliance with all recognition criteria, chapter responsibilities and membership requirements listed in the Sorority & Fraternity Life Policy, inter/national organization policies and University policies. Failure to comply will constitute a violation of this policy and may result in disciplinary action and/or interim responsive measures.

Sorority & Fraternity Life oversees and advises recognized Sorority & Fraternity Life chapters. When LMU and/or LMU Students are involved, the LMU [Student Conduct Code](#) and all other LMU policies supersede and preempt any and all inconsistent or contrary regulations, policies and/or decisions made by recognized Sorority & Fraternity Life chapters and/or their inter/national organizations and affiliates.

## II. Philosophy

Sororities and fraternities have been an influential and important component of the undergraduate Student experience at LMU since the first fraternity chartered on campus in 1926. LMU has developed criteria for the recognition of Sorority & Fraternity Life chapters. The relationship between these recognized organizations and the University is based on trust, collaboration, cooperation and the resulting mutual benefits to the University and the Sorority & Fraternity Community. Sorority & Fraternity Life chapters foster participation in the cultural, academic, social, service, philanthropic and spiritual life of LMU. The individual and group performance of members of Sorority & Fraternity Life chapters should always uphold those values stated in the chapters' constitutions and/or by-laws.

By virtue of the University's recognition of each organization's stated principles and ideals, the University expects Sorority & Fraternity Life chapters to implement their goals in a manner that is compatible with the goals and mission of the LMU Community.

Consistent therewith, the University will hold each organization to the standards and policies set forth by their respective inter/national organizations in areas including, but not limited to, academics, programming, risk management, and new member education.

## III. Aspirational Statement

Sorority & Fraternity Life chapters at LMU are seen as a value-add to our vibrant campus community. Guided by ASPIRE – the framework for Fraternal Excellence at

LMU – chapters create membership experiences where the organization and members are Accountable, Holistic, Engaged, Connected and Innovative.

- A.** An Accountable Chapter will infuse their ritual and the LMU values by holding the organization and members accountable to stated standards.
- B.** A Holistic Chapter will live the LMU mission by providing a holistic membership development experience targeting wellness and personal growth, beginning as a potential new member through graduation.
- C.** An Engaged Chapter will foster an environment where members engage in a diverse array of global experiences, leadership opportunities, mentorship, civic engagement and service.

**D.** A Connected Chapter will cultivate connections with on and off campus partners to enrich the communities of which they are a part and transform the members' ability to work within and across diverse landscapes.

**E.** An Innovative Chapter will commit to transcending the national narrative of Sororities and Fraternities through innovative approaches to the fraternal experience.

## IV. Recognition Criteria

LMU requires all recognized sororities and fraternities to comply with the following recognition criteria:

- A.** Maintain proper tax-identification number under the Internal Revenue Code as a not-for-profit, social sorority or fraternity. Organizations that have this IRS designation are legally entitled to single-sex membership based on Section 86.14 of the regulations announced under Title IX of the U.S. Education Act Amendments of 1972;
- B.** Submit and maintain a current certificate of insurance from 30 days before the current policies expire documenting comprehensive insurance coverage, naming LMU as an additional insured with limits approved by the University and including host liquor liability, hazing liability, transportation and sexual misconduct coverages;
- C.** Annually renew with Student Leadership & Development and maintain an active on-campus advisor at all times;
- D.** Complete the Chapter Accreditation process annually;

**E.** Submit requested chapter operation forms and reports by designated deadlines, including, but not limited to:

1. Chapter Membership Agreement Form
  - a. Signed each academic year by each individual member by September 1.
  - b. New members shall sign within seven (7) days of receiving and accepting an invitation to membership.
2. Chapter Standards Report
  - a. Provide aggregate activity reports on the first of each month during the academic year.
3. Membership Roster
  - a. Update on the first of each month during the academic year with all changes in membership status.
4. New Member Plan
  - a. Submit a full schedule of activities for all new member intake education processes and anticipated initiation dates for approval to the Sorority & Fraternity Life office by December 1 for the spring semester and by May 1 for the fall semester.
5. Officer Contact Information
  - a. Provide and update bi-annually not later than January 1 and June 1.
6. Chapter Semester Calendar
  - a. Submit a calendar of events including, but not limited to, meetings, philanthropic events, social events, chapter programming and anticipated service opportunities by December 1 for the spring semester and by May 1 for the fall semester.
7. ASPIRE Accreditation
  - a. Adhere to the Standards of Recognition as outlined in the ASPIRE Framework for Fraternal Excellence and submit the ASPIRE Annual Report no later than January 1.
8. Inter/National Risk Management Policy
  - a. Submit risk management policy not later than the first day of classes each academic year.

## **V. Chapter Responsibilities and Expectations**

To maintain good standing, Sorority & Fraternity Life chapters must:

- A.** Be knowledgeable of and adhere to all applicable local, state and federal laws, University codes, policies and regulations, including, but not limited to, the:
1. [Anti-Hazing Policy](#);
  2. [Alcohol and Drug Policies](#);
  3. [Community Relations Policy](#);
  4. [Good Samaritan and Self-Reporting Policy](#);
  5. [Off-Campus Events with Transportation Policy](#);
  6. [Student Conduct Code](#);
  7. [Student Sexual and Interpersonal Misconduct Policy](#);
  8. [Student Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy](#); and
  9. [Technology & Social Media Policy](#).
- B.** Be knowledgeable of and adhere to their sponsoring inter/national organization policies, including, but not limited to, organization specific risk management policy, alcohol and other drug policy, sexual and interpersonal misconduct policy, technology & social media policy, alcohol-free housing policy (if applicable), off campus event policy and anti-hazing policy;
- C.** Remain in good standing with their sponsoring inter/national organization and the University;
- D.** Maintain good standing within any applicable umbrella council at LMU;
- E.** Participate in required programs sponsored by the University, including but not limited to LMU Sorority & Fraternity Life (SFL) Educational Initiatives;
- F.** Maintain an active relationship with the Sorority and Fraternity Life Office, including but not limited to, attending consistent chapter leadership standing meetings with SFL staff, being responsive to SFL communication, submitting requested information in a timely manner, attending council and all president meetings and attending the bi-annual Presidents' Summit;
- G.** Maintain a chapter GPA equal to or above the respective All Male or All Female GPA each term;

**H.** Implement an appropriate internal conduct system within the chapter;

**I.** Prohibit opposite gender big brother/little sister, big sister/little brother or similar programs;

**J.** Sponsor a new member/intake education process no longer than six (6) weeks, excluding Spring Break. Complete any new member/intake education and initiation process at least 10 days before the first day of finals each semester;

**K.** Prohibit overnight off-campus events with alcohol regardless of the modes of transportation. Examples of such events are formals, camping trips, organization sponsored senior trips or member only events with guests; and

**L.** Submit member resignation/removal reporting form no later than 24 hours from the resignation or removal of any new or continuing member.

## **VI. Membership Requirements & Responsibilities**

**A.** All members of a Sorority & Fraternity Life chapters are required to:

1. Be currently enrolled Students of the University;
2. Earn a cumulative and term GPA of 2.00;
3. Remain in good academic standing with the University; and
4. Register their off-campus address through the University Address Verification Process by the end of business the first Friday of the both the Fall and Spring terms.

**B.** All chapter and council leaders within Sorority and Fraternity Life are required to:

1. Be currently enrolled Students of the University;
2. Maintain a minimum cumulative and term GPA of 2.50 or higher;
3. Remain in good academic and disciplinary standing with the University; and
4. Attend required leadership trainings sponsored by the University including, but not limited to, SFL Educational Initiatives and Gavel Club meetings.

**C.** In order to join a Sorority or Fraternity Life chapter, all new

members are required to:

1. Complete the applicable registration form;
2. Be currently enrolled Students of the University;
3. Be matriculated Students at Loyola Marymount University who have earned a minimum 2.50 cumulative GPA;
  - a. Transfer Students are eligible to participate in recruitment during their first term at LMU;
  - b. Fall first-time, first-year Students are not eligible to participate in Fall recruitment; and
  - c. Spring first-time, first-year Students are eligible to participate in Spring recruitment.
4. Attend required new member educational programming sponsored by the University.

## **VII. Privileges**

Recognized Sorority & Fraternity Life Chapters in good standing may:

- A.** In accordance with LMU's policies, respective umbrella council's recruitment rules, their inter/national organization and inter/national affiliates policies, recruit on campus and execute membership selection;
- B.** Receive all benefits afforded to Registered Student Organizations;
- C.** Participate as a unit in campus activities, programs and events;
- D.** Request Student activity fee funding through ASLMU;
- E.** Request education and leadership grants through the LMU Sorority & Fraternity Life Fund;
- F.** Request member dues grants through the LMU Sorority & Fraternity Life Fund;
- G.** Receive assistance from a University advisor who will assist them with chapter development and serve as a liaison among constituencies;
- H.** Participate in self-advocating activities through the respective umbrella council;
- I.** Participate in educational and developmental experiences;

**J.** Host one co-sponsored event with alcohol on or off campus per semester; and

**K.** Select a 'chapter sweetheart' so long as it is in line with their inter/national organization policies.

### **VIII. Council Membership**

The respective council(s) shall officially represent and govern all recognized Sorority & Fraternity Life chapters per their council Constitutions and/or Bylaws. The council(s) shall be composed of one voting representative from each recognized Sorority & Fraternity Life chapter, as well as the executive officers.

### **IX. Expansion Philosophy**

As a private institution, LMU chooses to intentionally and carefully manage the growth and expansion of Sorority & Fraternity Life chapters. LMU seeks organizations that promote ideals consistent with those of the University to educate and develop mature and responsible community members and that are willing to commit the financial and human resources necessary to assure achievement of those ideals. The University's overall objective is to recognize organizations that will positively contribute to the overall undergraduate experience and enhance the campus community.

The process to recognize additional sororities and fraternities at LMU will always be conducted by Sorority & Fraternity Life. The University's determination of readiness for expansion will be based on size and viability of the current Greek community, the availability of campus resources and personnel to support additional chapters, and the interest of unaffiliated Students at LMU, in addition to interest from any national organizations.

### **X. Expansion Process**

In accordance with the Expansion Philosophy, when the University determines that the campus can effectively support Sorority & Fraternity Life Chapter expansion, the process outlined below will be followed:

**A.** Potential organizations must demonstrate prior compliance with Section IV Recognition Criteria, Letters A and B and a willingness to comply with all LMU policies;

**B.** As appropriate, organizations with official letters of interest on file with Sorority & Fraternity Life will be notified that LMU is open for expansion. Additional organizations will be informed as needed;

**C.** Interested organizations may submit proposals;

**D.** Sorority & Fraternity Life will review proposals from any organizations meeting the criteria for recognition;

**E.** One or more prospective organizations may be selected to participate in a presentation process on campus;

**F.** Following the presentation process, the respective council and the expansion committee (if used) may submit their recommendations and/or endorsements to the Senior Vice President for Student Affairs;

**G.** An invitation for recognition may be granted at the discretion of the Senior Vice President for Student Affairs;

**H.** A plan shall be created for each expansion and expectations agreed upon by LMU and the inter/national organization; and

**I.** LMU prohibits Greek-lettered organizations from operating at LMU without having successfully completed the University expansion process resulting in an invitation for recognition at LMU.

### **XI. Dormant Status**

**A.** Any organization with zero members will no longer be considered an active chapter at Loyola Marymount University and be deemed a dormant chapter;

**B.** Should any organization deemed a dormant chapter wish to return to active status at LMU, this will be at the discretion of the University.

### **XII. Accountability**

LMU Sorority & Fraternity Life is committed to fostering an environment conducive to the pursuit of excellence for chapters and their members. Such an environment is based upon respect, trust, integrity and accountability. The University will hold LMU Students and Sorority & Fraternity Life chapters accountable for their actions and publish current chapter status and information on the SFL website.

**A.** Alleged violations of University policies, including the Sorority & Fraternity Life Policy, as well as issues related to the climate and culture of a chapter may be referred to one or both of the following:

1. Student Leadership & Development and/or Sorority & Fraternity Life for administrative review and response;

a. Student Leadership & Development and/or Sorority & Fraternity Life may institute interim responsive measures upon failure of a chapter to maintain an active relationship with the Sorority & Fraternity Life office, the

discovery or reporting of an alleged violation self reporting of a violation, or the discovery of climate and culture issues within a chapter.

b. Interim responsive measures may be imposed until compliance with applicable provisions is achieved and/or the resulting effects are appropriately mitigated.

c. Interim responsive measures may include, but are not limited to:

- i. Suspension of or modifications to chapter programs and activities;
- ii. Suspension of or modifications to new member recruitment; and
- iii. Other corrective actions including, but not limited to, participation in educational programs, conducting a membership review, attending required administrative meetings, providing requested information and completing required reports.

2. The Office of Student Conduct & Community Responsibility for adjudication by a Conduct Administrator(s) or the Sorority & Fraternity Life Hearing Board using the processes outlined in the Student Conduct Code.

Sanctions for organizational misconduct found through the conduct process may include revocation or denial of recognition, as well as other appropriate sanctions, pursuant to Section IV of the Student Conduct Code.

**B.** Inter/national organizations and chapter advisors may be notified of:

1. New or on-going Department of Public Safety investigations;
2. Any alleged violations or findings of responsibility by the Council(s), Office of Student Conduct & Community Responsibility, Student Leadership and Development and Sorority & Fraternity Life; and
3. Interim responsive measures instituted by Student Leadership & Development and/or Sorority & Fraternity Life.