

Establishment of a Sorority or Fraternity at Cornell University

For a sorority or fraternity to operate as an active organization within the Cornell University community, it must be recognized by the University and be affiliated with one of the three independent governing councils: the Interfraternity Council (IFC), the Multicultural Greek and Fraternal Council (MGFC), or the Panhellenic Council (PHC). These three organizations work collaboratively with the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life (OSFL), which is part of the Division of Student and Campus Life (SCL) at Cornell.

Organizations seeking University Recognition must first receive permission in writing from the OSFL to begin the expansion process before proceeding to the council. A chapter from which the University has withdrawn University Recognition is prohibited from starting a chapter again until the entire time of the suspension has lapsed. The fraternity or sorority may seek permission from OSFL to return to campus no earlier than one year before the end of the suspension. The OSFL will work with the respective council on approving the chapters that have previous existing return agreements through the approval process.

University Expectations for Expansion – New Organizations

1. Expansion Application Process
 - a. Organizations will be notified if the council is open for expansion after expressing interest.
 - b. All new organizations with no history at Cornell must submit their applications to the University. Applications will only be accepted if the council is open for expansion.
 - c. In partnership with the councils, the University will determine how many chapters would be successful coming back in the same year. This decision will happen in partnership, when appropriate, with the inter/national organization staff.
 - d. We recognize the National Panhellenic Conference operates an expansion process that requires the Council to first vote to open for expansion. We will follow all rules in the current Manual of Information regarding Panhellenic extension.
2. Inter/national organization support
 - a. IFC and PHC chapters interested in expansion at Cornell must commit to having inter/national staff present, in Ithaca, for a minimum of one year while the chapter is getting started.
 - b. MGFC chapters must submit a regional support plan that is approved by the OSFL.
3. Facilities
 - a. Whether university-owned or privately owned, chapters that have facilities must be in good standing for one full year after expansion prior to moving into the chapter facility.
4. Application Content Expectations
 - a. Name of organization, evidence of alumni/ae support, along with the name and contact information of prospective chapter advisors.

- b. Expected number of founding members (membership goal).
- c. Information about the inter/national organization's strength and presence on other college campuses.
- d. Information about recent new chapter efforts this group has completed.
- e. An inter/national Anti-Hazing Policy or statement.
- f. An inter/national inclusion statement or anti-discrimination statement/policy prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex (including sexual harassment, sexual violence, sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking), race, color, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, military status, or veteran status.
- g. A written constitution and bylaws for the proposed organization which demonstrates alignment of organization's values and mission with those of Cornell University.
- h. A brief statement of the organization's history, including the number of chapters and growth rates, inter/national philanthropy or community service initiatives, scholarship achievement programs, leadership development, educational programming (diversity, time management, substance abuse, sexual harassment/assault, etc.), commitment to campus community health, goals, and values.
- i. Identify chapters at neighboring colleges or universities.
- j. Note any previous chapter presence at Cornell; list times and reasons for absences. Include lessons learned or commitments moving forward if absences are conduct-related.
- k. A letter of endorsement from the charter-granting inter/national organization with the commitment of full-time staff (and or regional leadership for MGFC) in writing. This letter will include a detailed explanation of the resources to be devoted to the expansion process, including the name and contact information of the person(s) charged with leading the effort.
- l. The inter/national organization's plan to ensure effective chapter operations and officer training once new members have been initiated.
- m. A copy of the group's risk and social event management policy, including the organization's insurance certificate, must comply with Cornell's Recognition Policy requirements (insurance coverage).
- n. Acknowledge that Cornell is a deferred recruitment campus. No chapter will recruit first semester, first year, college students. Note: [Recruitment policy](#)
- o. A detailed outline of the chapter's new member orientation/education program or membership intake process implemented by its founding members, which must address the following areas:
 - a. Purpose of the program – why is a process necessary?
 - b. Goals of the program – what are the desired outcomes of the program?
 - c. A detailed calendar of activities, day by day; a description of the activities and what desired outcome(s) they intend to achieve; and, how the activities and expected outcomes align with the organization's values and mission and those of the University.
 - d. Length of the program (**must be no longer than four weeks**)
 - e. Responsibilities of new members and chapter members, and officers

- f. Demonstrated knowledge/understanding of university anti-hazing policies
 - g. Financial obligations for new members and continuing membership
 - h. Demonstrate how this information will be shared up-front with potential members and all members going forward.
5. Council Approval
 - a. The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will share all application materials with the council.
 - b. The Council will determine if the fraternity or sorority meets the criteria to begin expansion on campus.

University Expectations for Expansion – Returning Chapters

In addition to the requirements in numbers 1-4 above, if applying following prior withdrawal of University recognition, due to conduct hearing outcome, please include the following in your expansion application:

1. Chapter Success Plan addressing the specific issues that led to the separation, initial expansion plan, and long-term running of the organization. This plan must also include the chapter education and risk management plan.
2. A plan for alumni and inter/national organization support before, during, and after re-establishment. (One-year, full-time in Ithaca).

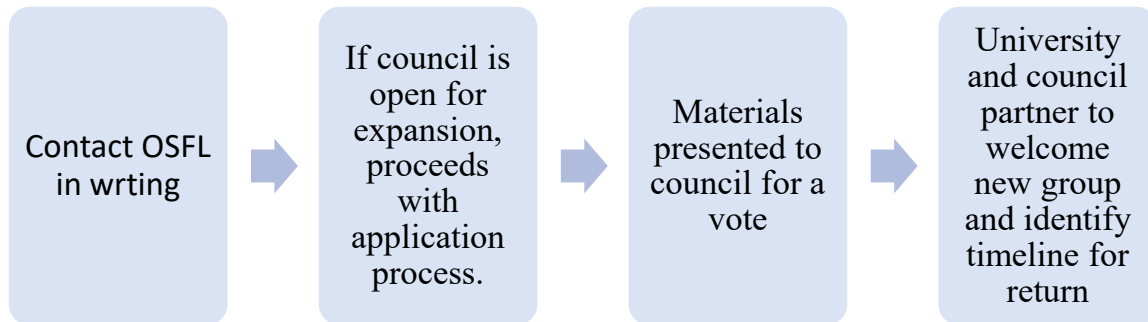
Expectations for all new chapters:

1. All new fraternities and sororities will begin as provisionally recognized for one academic year. Provisional recognition is defined in the [Recognition Policy](#).
2. Returning chapters may be returning on probationary status per previous chapter sanctions. The probationary status will be noted in the chapter recognition revocation communication. If there is no probationary status noted, a returning chapter will begin with provisional recognition.

Please note: The Cornell Sorority & Fraternity Community recognizes the harm the term colonization represents and requires inter/national organizations to use different language to reflect new chapters.

Appendix A

Group with no History at Cornell



Group with History at Cornell

