STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES

Purpose

The purpose of this manual is to guide you to a better understanding of what the Greek System at The University of West Alabama is all about. Included in this manual you will find a statement of purpose for the IFC, NPHC and Panhellenic, a list of fraternities and sororities that are currently active on our campus, policies and procedures that are mandatory for all Greeks, and much more.

UWA Greek Standards

The University of West Alabama Greek standards have been created to help standardize the programs and policies of UWA. These standards are in place to challenge and aid our Greek community to reach the high standards for which we strive to achieve.

Academic Performance

Greek organizations are required to maintain a semester grade point average at or above a 2.25. The Office of Student Life will review each chapter’s academic performance at the end of each semester.

1. All chapters that perform below a 2.25 will be placed on disciplinary probation for one semester. The chapter will receive a letter from the Director of Student Life.
2. Failure to reach a 2.25 grade point average for two consecutive semesters (summer not included) will be placed on disciplinary probation until the chapter reaches a 2.25 semester GPA.
3. The Office of Student Life will compile an academic performance report to include all Greeks with under a 2.25 G.P.A.

Greek Involvement

Greek organizations are required to fulfill the following:

1. Must complete all aspects of the Homer Award. All of these are explained in the Homer Award packet.
2. Must attend Greek Banquet
3. Must attend Greek Games
4. Must attend any other events that are set up by the University for our Greek System, or that are mandated by the Greek Council. These events will be advertised several weeks before the event.
Recognition of Social Fraternities and Sororities

The recognition of fraternities and sororities is, at all times, at the discretion of The University of West Alabama, the Office of Student Life, individual councils, and Greek Council. Generally, to be recognized, a fraternity or sorority must be an affiliated, registered student organization with the Office of Student Life, and be in good standing with the University as well as one of the three Greek governing councils.

Receiving Recognition

The University may recognize fraternities and sororities if they obtain:

• A letter from the national office to the University requesting an interest meeting.

• A vote by either the IFC, NPHC, or Panhellenic Council and the Greek Council to consider another Greek organization.

• If approval is given by the two councils, the administration must also give approval.

• Approval from the administration would allow the organization to colonize for a period of one year before consideration for chartering would be given.

• During the colonization period, the colony’s grades and activities would be monitored by the Office of Student Life.

• If after one year the colony has the numbers and the grades, then chartering would be a consideration

Maintaining Recognition

Should it be determined that a chapter is not in good standing, their recognition may be revoked or they may be put on probationary recognition for a period of time that the University designates in its sole discretion.

Loss of Recognition/Probationary Recognition

A chapter’s recognition can be revoked or the chapter can be put on probationary recognition status for various reasons including, but not limited to, the following:

• If membership numbers fall below (5) five active members in “good standing” for more than two consecutive semesters.

• If a chapter is found not to be actively participating in one of the three Greek governing councils, unless exempted from such participation by the Office of Student Life.
• If a chapter fails to update and maintain the required documentation requested by the Office of Student Life.

• If a chapter is found to be in violation of the Code of Student Conduct or any University, local, or national policies or laws related to risk management, discrimination, hazing, Title IX, sexual misconduct, drugs or alcohol.

At the end of the probationary recognition period, the Greek Council, in consultation with the Director of Student Life, will make a decision to either revoke all recognition or grant full recognition.

**Chapter Expectations**

Chapters recognized by The University of West Alabama are expected to adhere to the following:

• Follow the values of their inter/national and/or local organization(s)

• Act as a positive reflection of the UWA Community

• Upon election of officers, each chapter will submit a copy of new officers to the Office of Student Life by email within 48 hours of the election.

• Any time a member is added or removed from your organization, you must submit their name and student number to the Office of Student Life within 48 hours of the new status.

• Have one (1) active faculty/staff advisor, who will be your official University advisor.

• Adhere to the UWA Code of Student Conduct.

• Chapters will arrange meetings between their council advisors and any national visitors and/or consultants that come to UWA to work with the chapter.

• Adhere to relevant University policies, rules, and regulations.

• Ensure that all required paperwork and/or documentation is correct, signed and submitted by the requested deadline to The Office of Student Life.

• Register annually with the Office of Student Life and maintain Full Recognition with the Student Government Association.

• Have at least eight (8) members at the time of expansion/re-organization/re-chartering/re-activation and sustain a membership of no less than (5) five active members in “good standing” with the University and the inter/national organizations, if applicable.
• Maintain an affiliation with a recognized Greek governing/coordinating council.

• Provide notice and details to the Director of Student Life within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving notice of any investigation, sanction, probation, discipline, or misconduct related issue involving the chapter or any of its members and the inter/national organization.

**Advisor Expectations**

Advisors are expected to adhere to the following:

• Be knowledgeable of chapter policies and current academic standing.

• Be familiar with The Code of Student Conduct, the mission of The University of West Alabama, and relevant University policies, rules, and regulations applicable to the chapter.

• Serve as a mentor to the members of the organization.

• Provide notice and details to the Office of Student Life within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving notice of any investigation, sanction, probation, discipline, or misconduct related issue involving the chapter or any of its members and the inter/national organization.

**Office of Student Life Paperwork**

The Office of Student Life expects ALL recognized social Greek organizations to submit requested paperwork and/or forms, including electronic forms, registrations and other submissions made via a UWA hosted websites or exchanged via email with standardized email attachments by the designated due date. Chapters failing to adhere to this directive are subject to monetary fines and/or loss of privileges. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Anticipated House Resident List
2. Registration of Social Events
3. FERPA Grade Release Form
4. Greek Roster (Rosters lock for the semester on November 1 and April 1)
5. New Officer Email
6. Hazing Policy Acknowledgement(s)

**Eligibility Requirements for Membership**

The University of West Alabama, Office of Student Life, and the UWA fraternity and sorority community are committed to being a welcoming and inclusive campus characterized by access and opportunity, which allows students and prospective students the opportunity to choose what they want their individual Greek experience to be and know that there are no barriers preventing this choice from happening.
The National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)

NPHC organizations participate in a delayed recruitment process called Membership Intake. Before an individual can join a NPHC organization, he or she must have accumulated 12 or more semester hours at the University, have at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA and attend NPHC Convocation in the academic year that the student participates in Intake. NPHC Convocation is an educational session that takes place in the fall and spring of the academic year. The purpose of Convocation is to provide a brief overview of membership in a NPHC fraternity and sorority. Alcohol should not be present at any event that involves the recruitment of potential new members.

New Member/Pledge/Membership Intake Education

Any new member program that a recognized fraternity or sorority conducts shall comply with all relevant University policies and council and/or inter/national organization constitutions, rules, policies, or by-laws. Further, the program should incorporate the following:

- Ensure that all new members are currently enrolled UWA students.
- All forms of hazing are prohibited. Each new member/membership intake class member must sign a Hazing Policy Acknowledgment stating that they have read and understand the University’s Hazing Policy.
- Chapters MUST initiate in the same semester of new member/membership intake activities, unless otherwise approved in advance by The Office of Student Life, and the respective local or inter/national office.
- Ensure that Chapters adhere to council policies pertaining to New Member Education/Membership Intake.

New Member Presentations

- New member presentations (probates) are defined as the public presentation of new initiates into an organization.
- The Office of Student Life must receive notification of all new member presentations at least ten (10) days prior to performance.
- New member presentations must be held on campus at Hughes Gymnasium.
- New member presentations must occur between the hours 5:00 pm and 10:00 pm but are not allowed to last more than one (1) hour.
- New member presentations are not to be scheduled on the day/time of a previously registered organization.
• All New Member Presentations must be clean and absent of any profanity. This includes, music, vulgar acts, chants, etc.

• No physical abuse will be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to: slapping, kicking, spitting, punching, caning, etc. Canes, staffs, sticks, bricks etc. may be used as a part of the performance, but may not be used as a weapon to harm another individual.

• No hazing may occur prior to, during, or after the presentation.

• Disruption by other attending organizations will not be tolerated. Groups or individuals who cause a disruption will be asked to leave the performance and may be referred to the Office of Student Life or the UWAPD.

**Purpose of IFC, NPHC AND PANHELLENIC**

The purpose of Interfraternity Council, National Pan-Hellenic and the Panhellenic Council is to promote The University of West Alabama and its spirit. Furthermore, it is the intention of this council to foster better relations among the fraternity and sorority members and to insure cooperation between them and the University officials.

**Active Greek Organizations**

| Alpha Phi Alpha | Alpha Kappa Alpha |
| Delta Chi       | Alpha Sigma Alpha |
| Omega Psi Phi   | Alpha Sigma Tau   |
| Phi Beta Sigma  | Delta Sigma Theta |
| Sigma Pi        | Phi Mu            |
| Tau Kappa Epsilon | Sigma Gamma Rho |
|                 | Zeta Phi Beta     |

**State of Alabama Code Regarding Hazing**

Hazing is defined as follows:

(1) Any willful action taken or situation created, whether on or off any school, college, university, or other education premises, which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of any student, or

(2) Any willful act on or off any school, college, university, or other educational premises by any person alone or acting with others in striking, beating, bruising, or maiming: or seriously offering, threatening, or attempting to strike, beat, bruise, or maim, or to do or seriously offer, threaten, or attempt to do physical violence to any
student of any such educational institution or any assault upon any such students made for the purpose of committing any of the acts, or producing any of the results to such student as defined in this section.

(3) The term hazing as defined in this section does not include customary athletic events or similar contests or competitions, and is limited to those actions taken and situations created in connection with initiation into or affiliation with any organization. The term hazing does not include corporal punishment administered by officials or employees of public schools when in accordance with policies adopted by local boards of educations.

(4) No person shall engage in what is commonly known and recognized as hazing, or encourage, aid, or assist any other person thus offending.

(5) No person shall knowingly permit, encourage, aid, or assist any person in committing the offense of hazing, or willfully acquiesce in the commission of such offense, or fail to report promptly his knowledge or any reasonable information within his knowledge of the presence and practice of hazing in this state to the chief executive officer of the appropriate school, college, university, or other educational institution in this state. Any act of omission or commission shall be deemed hazing under the provisions of this section.

(6) Any person who shall commit the offense of hazing shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor as defined by Title 13A.

(7) Any person who participates in the hazing of another, or any organization associated with a school, college, university, or other educational institution in this state which knowingly permits hazing to be conducted by its members or by others subject to its direction or control, shall forfeit any entitlement to public funds, scholarships, or awards which are enjoyed by him or by it and shall be deprived of any sanction or approval granted by the school, college, university, or other educational institution.

Nothing is this section shall be construed as in any manner affecting or repealing any law of this state respecting homicide, or murder, manslaughter, assault with intent to murder, or aggravated assault. (Acts 1981, No. 81-824, p. 1466).
Disciplinary Procedures

When an organization is charged with violation of the foregoing conduct regulations, disposition shall be according to Constitutional requirements of due process and in keeping with the procedures outlined below.

Organizational Rights

Organizations accused of violating the regulations set forth in the conduct regulations foregoing will be afforded the following rights:
• A written copy of the charges.
• The right to an expeditious, fair, and impartial hearing.
• The right to know what the nature of the evidence is and names of witnesses scheduled to appear.
• The right to present evidence and/or witnesses in its behalf.
• The right to an advisor of choice.
• The right to remain silent and have no inference of guilt drawn from such silence.
• The right to submit an appeal.

Student Advisors

Organizations alleged to have violated a regulation could seek advice and counsel from an advisor. Advisors are knowledgeable concerning the operation of the judicial system. Advisors may aid the accused group in the following ways.

• Developing a fair and logical defense.
• Informing the accused organization of its rights.
• Informing the accused organization on hearing procedures.
• Being present at the hearing. Space will be made available for the advisor to sit with the accused organization’s representative.
• Advising the representative during the hearing on appropriate matters, i.e., questions to ask, objections to raise, etc. The Advisor may not conduct the defense or any other way actively participates in the hearing. Accused organizations seeking help from an Advisor should consult the Office of Student Life.

Disciplinary Measures

Disciplinary measures are administered through the Office of Student Life, and the Student Life Committee.
Reprimand

A reprimand is a reminder to the organization of the regulation in question. This reminder may be either in written or oral form.

Disciplinary Notice

This is a period of time, normally not less than ten days nor more than 30 days, which may include a stipulation of no more than (5) days restriction, during which an organization who is in violation of the university regulations is put on notice that the organization's behavior must improve during the trial period.

Social Probation

Social Probation status means that an organization has failed to live up to the standards listed in this handbook. An organization placed on disciplinary probation may be restricted in the following ways:

1. May not have social events.
2. May not have meetings except for regularly scheduled business meetings held in academic classroom buildings once a week.
3. The president of the organization must report biweekly to an individual to be designated by the Office of Student Life.

In addition to the foregoing, at the discretion of the Student Life Committee, the organization may also be restricted in the following ways:

1. May accept no new members.
2. May have no other functions or participate in any other projects other than those noted in this section.
3. Required to do special projects or work details.
4. Other requirements or restrictions appropriate to the offense. Organizations which have been placed on probation and which fail to meet the standards established above, or which commit other violations of university policies, are in grave danger of being dropped as officially recognized organizations.

Suspension

Any group which persistently displays misconduct, or which violates the provisions of their probation, may be denied recognition for a specified period of time.
This procedure may not be followed strictly, (i.e. for a flagrant violation of a regulation an organization may be suspended even though it has not been reprimanded or probated).

**Forfeiture**

A group may be permanently denied recognition. Under certain circumstances, other disciplinary measures may be used or varying degrees of these.

**Alcoholic Beverage Policy**

The laws of the State of Alabama limit the possession, use or purchase of alcoholic beverages to individuals twenty-one (21) years of age or older. In keeping with this law and the University’s continuing commitment to discourage the misuse and abuse of alcoholic beverages, the following restrictions shall apply to the use of alcoholic beverages on the University of West Alabama campus or at functions sponsored by officially recognized organizations of the University.

- No organization may serve or permit to be served any alcoholic beverages to any person regardless of age at any function of the organization or in any premises occupied by the organization.

- Alcohol may not be present at any public event.

- Competitions or games involving the use, consumption, or possession of alcoholic beverages of any type by any individuals are prohibited on the University of West Alabama campus and at any functions or events sponsored by officially recognized organizations of the University, regardless of the location of the function or event.

- For further information please refer to the web site [www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov/College Students/anatomy/Body nonflash.aspx](http://www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov/College Students/anatomy/Body nonflash.aspx)

**NOTE:** Officers of organization are reminded that offenses by the organization or by individual members, i.e. organization or members furnishing alcohol to minors may result in charges being brought against the officers.