



University of Massachusetts Amherst

Standards Statement and Document Office of Fraternities and Sororities

That pursuant to the recommendation set forth in Doc. T78-092, effective the fall semester 1978, all full-time undergraduate students (enrolled for twelve semester credits or more) on the Amherst campus be required to live in on-campus residence halls during their freshman and sophomore years. Exemption from this requirement may be granted to the following: married students, veterans, students living in and commuting from the home of their parent(s) or guardian(s) while in attendance at the University, and resident members of fraternities and sororities at the Amherst campus.

Fraternity and sorority chapters that are recognized by the University of Massachusetts Amherst and occupy a residential facility must fulfill the following requirements in order to be considered "Approved Housing" (that is, a place where a student may fulfill the residency requirement). A fraternity or sorority facility must meet these standards (#1, #2, #5, and #6) throughout the year, including winter session and the summer. For further clarification of these requirements, contact the Office of Fraternities and Sororities.

Upon the recommendation of the Chancellors Task Force on Alcohol (2002-03), first year students are not allowed to move into a fraternity or sorority facility.

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GENERAL REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY

All chapters, with or without a facility, must fulfill the requirements of these general standards in order to maintain recognition by the University:

- Academic Standards
- Programmatic Standards
- Supervisory Standards
- Code of Student Conduct
- Chapter Annual Report
- Risk Management Policy

In addition to these standards, chapters with facilities must fulfill the requirements of these general standards:

- Health and Safety Code Compliance
- Neighborhood Standards

PROGRAMMATIC REQUIREMENTS:

Every chapter must design and promote a developmental program for the chapter membership. A chapter must sponsor at least one developmental program per month for the chapter membership (4 programs in the fall and 4 programs in the spring). Chapters are encouraged to offer an engaging developmental program for its membership that meets a number of needs and interests.

REQUIRED TOPICS: A chapter must have at least one developmental program that addresses the issues of:

- a) Alcohol and other substances use and abuse.
- b) Diversity and multiculturalism
- c) Leadership and/or organizational issues

Other programs may address a wide range of topics and issues. Chapters are encouraged to use the vast resources of the University, including peer education programs, the Fine Arts Series, and various offices within the Division of Student Affairs and Campus Life.

A Program Verification Report Form must be submitted to the Office of Fraternities and Sororities within 5 business days of the program date.

Academic Requirements: Chapters and members must maintain a 2.0 GPA to remain in good standing. When making evaluations of the chapter, the chapter's GPA will be compared to appropriate peer groups (all-men's average, all-women's average, fraternity average, sorority average, etc.)

1) HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE COMPLIANCE

The safety of the residents of the facility is critical. The condition of the physical structure, including the fire safety equipment and systems, must be consistently monitored.

- The facility must meet all health, building and fire codes enforced by the Town of Amherst and be in compliance at all times. A summary of these codes may be found at www.umass.edu/greek
- The chapter must conduct at least one fire drill per semester, facilitated either by the Town of Amherst Fire Department or the University's Office of Environmental Health and Safety. The drill must be completed within the first 30 days of each semester (fall and spring). Each chapter must submit a fire drill verification form to the Office of Fraternities and Sororities within five business days of completion of the drill.
- The University will revoke a facility's approved housing status if it fails to pass the inspections process for two consecutive inspections. Such a decision will be made in consultation with the Office of Fraternities and Sororities and the Inspections Services Office of the Town of Amherst.
 - a) If a facility fails once but is able to meet the code requirements and pass, the chapter/facility will be on probation for the remainder of the semester and the next semester. The expectation is that the facility will pass the next scheduled inspection as well as any inspections that the Town of Amherst feels compelled to conduct.
 - b) If a facility fails two consecutive scheduled inspections, the facility will lose its approved housing status for one year (two consecutive semesters). In order to regain its approved housing status, the chapter must present a request to the Director of Fraternities and Sororities. Documentation of what has been done to fulfill code requirements in the facility must be presented, with verification from the Office of Inspections for the Town of Amherst.
- If a facility is closed for code violations and/or it loses its approved housing status, all second year students in residence must return to University Housing in accordance with the residency requirement.

(Revised January 2005)

2) NEIGHBORHOOD STANDARDS

The appearance of the facility and its grounds must be maintained in a manner that is a positive reflection upon the chapter, the system, and the University.

- The facility's exterior must be maintained in accordance with the building and health code (painting, integrity of siding, windows and screens, etc.).
- Vehicles must be parked in designated parking areas only.
- Only furniture designed for outdoor use (for example, resin chairs, picnic tables, etc.) may be used outside the facility. Upholstered furniture (couches and chairs) are forbidden for outdoor use (including porches).
- The grounds, lawn and plantings must be regularly maintained (grass mowed, shrubs and trees pruned, leaves raked, etc.). The grounds must be kept free of trash.
- All household waste must be properly stored inside trash barrels or dumpsters. Dumpsters must be emptied on a regular schedule negotiated with the service provider. All complaints must be addressed and resolved by the chapter within 48 hours.
- Front sidewalks, walkways, stairs, entrances, and fire escapes must be kept clear and free of debris, ice and snow.
- A facility must have a designated area where guests, family members, and officials may be received appropriately (a formal chapter room or living room).
- Residents and their guests must not have access to the roof of porches/the roof of the facility.

The Office of Fraternities and Sororities will monitor compliance on a monthly basis. An assessment report will be given to the chapter and kept on file in the office. A facility assessment will also be completed when a complaint is filed with the Office of Fraternities and Sororities.

If the facility fails an assessment, it will be placed on probation. A representative of the chapter must meet with the Director of Fraternities and Sororities within 2 business days and submit a plan to fulfill the neighborhood standards. If the chapter has failed to fulfill this plan within the agreed time frame, the chapter will be referred through the discipline process to the Dean of Students Office.

If a chapter fails to meet these standards for two consecutive assessments, the chapter will lose its approved housing status for the remainder of that semester and through the next semester. First and second year students will return to the residence halls.

In order to regain the approved housing status at the end of that year, the chapter must submit a request to the Director of Fraternities and Sororities. Documentation of meeting this standard must be presented at this time.

3) ACADEMIC STANDARDS

The fraternity and sorority movement supports the academic mission of the institution. The University expects that each chapter with a facility will provide its members with an environment that is conducive to academic excellence.

- In order for an initiated second year student to move into a fraternity or sorority facility, that student must be in good academic standing with the University (at least a 2.0 GPA – semester or cumulative).
- Each chapter must maintain an overall chapter average GPA of a 2.0 per semester to remain in good standing with the University.
- The Office of Fraternities and Sororities will monitor the academic status of each chapter and its membership. Semester reports will be given to each chapter for verification of membership and grades.

If a chapter fails to achieve a 2.0 GPA for the semester, it will be placed on probation for one semester. The scholarship chair and president of the chapter must meet with the Director of Fraternities and Sororities and present an academic plan for the next semester (workshops, incentives, members seeking assistance from University offices, etc.) If the chapter attains a 2.0 or better for the semester, the probation will be lifted.

If the chapter has a second consecutive semester with an overall chapter GPA below a 2.0, it will lose its approved housing status for one academic year. Approved housing status will not be restored until the chapter achieves an overall 2.0 GPA for two consecutive semesters and a new academic program is approved by the Office of Fraternities and Sororities.

If a new member class fails to achieve a 2.0 GPA for the semester, the scholarship chair and new member educator will meet with the Director to review the new member program. If the next new member class fails to achieve a 2.0 GPA, the national office will be contacted and asked to intervene (review new member program, work with chapter advisor, etc.).

4) PROGRAMMATIC STANDARDS

Every chapter must conduct developmental programs for its membership (one per month). To maintain approved housing status, a chapter must comply with the developmental program requirements outlined in the standards statement for the system. For more details, please see the Director of the Office of Fraternities and Sororities.

- Verification of these activities must be documented with the Office by the presenter/agency.

If a chapter with a facility fails to fulfill the developmental program requirements, it will be placed on probationary status for one semester. While on probation, it must complete the current semester's requirements as well as complete any unfulfilled requirements from the previous semester. An officer of the chapter must meet with the Director to review a plan to meet these obligations.

If a chapter with a facility fails to fulfill the developmental program requirements for a second consecutive semester, it will lose its approved housing status for one academic year (two consecutive semesters). In order to regain its status, it must complete any past obligations and complete the requirements for that next academic year. An officer of the chapter must meet with the Director once a month to monitor progress to meet these obligations.

5) SUPERVISORY STANDARDS

- a. The University/Office of Fraternities and Sororities requires each chapter with a facility to have a “property manager”. A property manager may take one of several forms:
 - 1) A resident house director
 - 2) A property manager from a realty firm in the Amherst area
 - 3) A representative from the alumni/ae or house corporation of the chapter. This person(s) must be nearby and take an active part in the management of the property.
 - 4) An alternative, subject to approval by the Office of Fraternities and Sororities.

(By the end of the Spring 2003 semester, each chapter must notify the Office what model of property management they will employ. This model must be in place for the Fall 2003 semester).

- b. The Office must have on record the following information:
 1. A copy of the lease or contract used by the house corporation or the landlord.
 2. The names and contact information of the house corporation officers (president and treasurer) or the name and contact information of the landlord.
 3. The name and contact information for the house director and/or the property manager.
 4. A roster of all residents in the facility.
- The president, house director/property manager, or other designated officers will participate in an orientation program prior to the start of the Fall semester.
 - Officers will attend workshops and presentations that are offered during the academic year (president meetings, fire marshals, house managers, etc.)

If a chapter fails to meet the standard (either a house director or the property manager), it will lose its approved housing status until the chapter and its sponsoring corporation is able to demonstrate that it can fulfill the requirements.

If the chapter fails to provide the contact information, it will be on probation until the information is provided.

The chapter must inform the Office of any changes in its supervisory structure (change in house director or property manager, etc.)

6) CONDUCT STANDARDS

The University's Code of Student Conduct applies to all the fraternities and sororities, regardless of whether a chapter has a facility. Please refer to the Code of Student Conduct for more details. All violations of the Code will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students Office.

Violations of the Approved Housing Standards will initially be discussed with the Director of Fraternities and Sororities. If an agreement cannot be reached between the Director and the chapter officer, the Director will forward the violation to the attention of the Dean of Students Office.

Chapters must also abide by the policies of the Office of Fraternities and Sororities. All reports must be completed and submitted on time. Chapters will abide by the social and risk management policies of the Office of Fraternities and Sororities as well as those of their own national organization.

If a chapter is found responsible for a major violation of the Code of Student Conduct and loses its recognition from the University, the chapter facility will lose its approved housing status and second year members (i.e. sophomores) in residence will return to the residence halls.

A chapter may lose its approved housing status yet still maintain its recognition as a Greek organization/RSO while on sanction. All second year students will return to the residence halls for the duration of the sanction period. While a chapter is on sanction, new second year members may not move into the facility.

In addition, chapters with facilities must abide by all of the Town of Amherst By-laws, state codes and laws, and other directives of its agencies. The Town of Amherst will inform the Office of Fraternities and Sororities of any violations of these codes. A facility may lose its approved housing status for a major violation of these codes. Such a decision will be made in consultation with the appropriate Town of Amherst agency and the Dean of Students Office.

7) ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

Every chapter with a facility must complete the Annual Report for the Office of Fraternities and Sororities (see General Requirements). If the chapter fails to submit the annual report by the designated deadline, the chapter will be placed on probation and remain on probation until the report is submitted. If the chapter is already on probation for a Code violation or an Approved Housing Standard violation, the chapter will lose its approved housing status. The approved housing status will be restored when:

- the annual report is submitted to the Office
- the chapter president and the chapter advisor has met in conference with the Director to review the status of the chapter

An awards committee will evaluate the chapter annual reports and select recipients for the various awards given at the annual banquet. The Office will use the annual reports as part of the annual evaluation process.

8) ANNUAL EVALUATION PROCESS

At the end of each academic year, the Office of Fraternities and Sororities, in collaboration with the Dean of Students Office, the Student Activities Office, and the governing councils, will evaluate each chapter's performance for the academic year. This process will take place each May, to be completed before the start of comprehensive finals. The Director of Fraternities and Sororities, in consultation with the graduate advisors and the executive boards of the governing councils, will do an assessment of each chapter, recommend a status, and forward the recommendations and rationale to the Dean of Students. The Dean of Students will review the recommendations and either accept the recommendations or return them to the Director for further evaluation.

The Office of Fraternities and Sororities will maintain an assessment file for each chapter, compiling reports and documentations that will be considered during the evaluation process. Chapters are encouraged to submit their own documentation and any other information that will allow the director to make a fair assessment of the chapter's performance. The Director and/or graduate advisor will discuss the status of the chapter and its progress in meeting the standards at the monthly meeting with the chapter president.

Criteria that will be evaluated at end of academic year:

- **Health and Safety Code Compliance Record**
- **Neighborhood Standards Compliance Record**
 - a) **Chapter Facility Assessment Reports**
- **Academic Performance Record**
 - a) **minimal GPA requirements**
 - b) **performance as compared to system**
 - c) **chapter average compared to peer group**
- **Programmatic Standards Compliance Record**
 - a) **Verification Report Forms**
 - b) **Quality of programming effort**
- **Supervisory Standards Compliance Record**
- **Conduct Standards Record**
- **Submission and Review of Annual Chapter Report**
- **Submission of Fraternity/Sorority Monthly Report**
- **Submission of Chapter Goal Statement**
- **Community Service Record**
- **Involvement in Campus Life and Campus Service**
- **Risk Management Program**
- **Social Policy Adherence**
- **Attendance and Participation in Governing Council**
- **Participation in events sponsored by Governing Councils and/or the Office of Fraternities and Sororities:**
 - a) **New Member Day**
 - b) **Junior Panhellenic**
 - c) **Leadership Conference (February)**
 - d) **Campus Activities Leadership Conference (August)**
 - e) **Homecoming**
 - f) **Greek Week**
 - g) **Intramural Athletics Program**
 - h) **Receptions and campus community events**
 - i) **Involvement in greater Amherst community**
 - j) **Interaction with other councils/member chapters**
- **Status with international organization or sponsors (locals)**
- **Completion of forms and documentations**
 - a) **Chapter Officer and Local corporation forms**
 - b) **New Member Cards and New Member Roster**
 - c) **Chapter Scholastic and Membership Reports**
 - d) **Hazing Compliance Document**
 - e) **Social event registrations**
- **Interaction with Office of Fraternities and Sororities/Student Activities Staff**
 - a) **Monthly meeting with advisor**
 - b) **Adherence to Student Activities policies and procedures**

Levels of Chapter Status:

- 1. Chapter in Good Standing**
 - a. Meets or exceeds minimum requirements in all areas**
 - b. Chapters that exceeds minimum requirements in major areas will be recognized as a “Gold” or “Silver” chapter at annual awards banquet**

- 2. Probationary Status**
 - a. Chapter meets minimum requirement in some areas**
 - b. Chapter fails to meet minimum requirements in several areas**
 - c. Chapter is under disciplinary sanctions**
 - d. Chapter compliance with standards is not consistent**

- 3. Loss of Approved Housing Status**
 - a. Chapter fails to meet most or all of major standards categories:**
 - i. Health and Safety Code**
 - ii. Neighborhood Standards**
 - iii. Academic Standards**
 - iv. Programmatic Standards**
 - v. Supervisory Standards (starting Fall 2003)**
 - b. Chapter is placed on disciplinary sanction that removes housing status for specified period of time**

- 4. Loss of University Recognition**
 - a. Chapter fails to meet all major standards categories**
 - b. Chapters loses University recognition through disciplinary sanction**

Appeals process for Loss of Approved Housing Status (when given as part of evaluation process at end of academic year):

- a) Chapter president must submit letter of appeals to Director of Fraternities and Sororities within 7 business days of notification of loss of approved housing status.**
- b) Letter of appeal must include a plan by which the chapter will meet all the requirements of the standards.**
- c) Chapter advisor must submit a letter of support, indicating amount of support and involvement advisor and/or local corporation will provide to the chapter and its leadership**
- d) International office or local corporation must submit a letter of support, indicating amount of support and involvement the international fraternity/local corporation will provide to the chapter and its leadership**
- e) After receipt of letters, the chapter president and chapter advisor will meet with the Director of Fraternities and Sororities and Dean of Students to evaluate appeal and make decision.**

If Loss of Approved Housing or Loss of University Recognition occurs because of a discipline sanction, appeals process is that described in the 2004-05 Code of Student Conduct.

Chapters without facilities (houses) will be evaluated on standards that are not facility-specific. Such chapters may lose University recognition for a similar non-compliance of standards and/or through a disciplinary sanction.

RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY OFFICE OF FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES

The Risk Management Policy of the Office of Fraternities and Sororities includes the provisions which follow and shall apply to all fraternity entities and all levels of fraternity membership.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

1. The possession, sale, use or consumption of ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, while on chapter premises, during a fraternity event, in any situation sponsored or endorsed by the chapter, or in any event an observer would associate with the fraternity, must be in compliance with any and all applicable laws of the state, the Town of Amherst, the Office of Fraternities and Sororities, the national chapter, and the Code of Conduct of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and must comply with either the BYOB or Third Party Vendor Guidelines.
2. No alcoholic beverage may be purchased through chapter funds nor may the purchase of same for members or guests be undertaken or coordinated by any member in the name of, or on behalf of, the chapter. The purchase or use of a bulk quantity or common sources of such alcoholic beverages (e.g. kegs or cases) are prohibited.
3. OPEN PARTIES, meaning those with unrestricted access by non-members of the fraternity, without specific invitation, where alcohol is present, shall be prohibited.
4. No members, collectively or individually, shall purchase for, serve to, or sell alcoholic beverages to any minor (i.e., those under legal "drinking age").
5. The possession, sale or use of any ILLEGAL DRUGS or CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES while on chapter premises or during a fraternity event or at any event that an observer would associate with the fraternity is strictly forbidden.
6. No chapter may co-sponsor an event with an alcohol distributor, charitable organization or tavern (tavern defined as an establishment generating more than half of annual gross sales from alcohol) where alcohol is given away, sold or otherwise provided to those present.
7. No chapter may co-sponsor or co-finance a function where alcohol is purchased by any of the host chapters, groups or organizations.
8. **All recruitment activities associated with any chapter will be a DRY function.**
9. **No chapter or its membership shall permit, tolerate, encourage, or participate in "drinking games."**
10. No alcohol shall be present at any pledge/associate member/novice program, activity or ritual of the chapter.

HAZING

No chapter, colony, student or alumnus shall conduct nor condone hazing activities. Hazing activities are defined as:

"Any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off fraternity premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Such activities may include but are not limited to the following: use of alcohol; paddling in any form; creation of excessive fatigue; physical and psychological shocks; quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips or any other such activities carried on outside or inside of the confines of the chapter house; wearing of public apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts and buffoonery; morally

degrading or humiliating games and activities; and any other activities which are not consistent with academic achievement, fraternal law, ritual or policy or the regulations and policies of the educational institution, or applicable state law."

ABUSE AND HARASSMENT

1. The fraternity will not tolerate or condone any form of sexually abusive behavior on the part of its member, whether physical, mental or emotional. This is to include any actions which are demeaning to women or men including but not limited to date rape, gang rape, sexual assault or verbal harassment.
2. The fraternity will not tolerate or condone any form of violent behavior on the part of its members. This includes physical assaults, vandalism to property, and other inappropriate behaviors.

FIRE, HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. All chapter houses should meet all local fire and health codes and standards.
2. All chapters should have posted by common phones emergency numbers for fire, police and ambulance and should have posted evacuation routes on the back of the door of each sleeping room.
3. All chapters should comply with engineering recommendations as reported by their insurance company.
4. The possession and/or use of firearms or explosive devices of any kind within the confines and premises of the chapter house are expressly forbidden.

EDUCATION

Each fraternity and sorority should annually educate its students, alumni/alumnae, and advisors in the Risk Management Policy of the Office of Fraternities and Sororities and the University's Code of Student Conduct.