

Student organizations are formed for the purpose of bringing individuals together who have common goals or interests, and to add to the co-curricular experience of students. The core principles of social fraternal organizations are similar in nature: to promote academic integrity, cultivate brotherhood/sisterhood and a sense of belonging, offer service to the campus and local community, provide opportunities for leadership, appreciate a specific culture or multiculturalism, strengthen character, and develop the values of confidence, honesty and dignity in members. Social fraternal organizations are embedded in the rich history of campus life at Fresno State, and the continued interest of students to participate in fraternal activities shows that fraternity and sorority life remains relevant to the collegiate experience. The Student Involvement Center is committed to providing support to all recognized social fraternal organizations.

University recognition is a privilege granted to student organizations by the Student Involvement Center. The office supports the formation of and grants recognition to student organizations whose purposes and activities enhance the social, cultural, recreational, and educational functions of Fresno State. Such organizations foster valuable experiences for students that often lead to significant learning and development.

Any new or returning fraternity or sorority seeking to expand at Fresno State and receive university recognition must follow the procedure below and complete the expansion packet in its entirety. Completed packets may be turned in at any time to the Student Involvement Center. Packets will be reviewed and a response will be issued no later than 60 days from packet submission.

Expansion Committee

The Expansion Committee will coordinate all social fraternal organization expansion matters for the university, for both internal and external inquiries. The Expansion Committee shall consist of the four Governing Council Presidents, the Greek Life Advisor, and another full-time professional staff member from Student Involvement; and in the case of external interest, two Chapter Presidents will be chosen to represent the Governing Council in which the expansion will take place. It is the responsibility of the Expansion Committee to review submitted packets, or internal interest for growth, coordinate all steps of the expansion process, and make a recommendation to the Associate Dean of Student Involvement.

Procedure for Expansion:

Step 1: Indicate interest by communicating with the Greek Life Advisor in the Student Involvement Center

The interested students or organization representatives must meet and communicate the potential expansion interest to the Greek Life Advisor. This meeting will serve as an introduction for both parties to review the expansion process.

Step 2: Create expansion packet

The expansion packet MUST include the following information in its entirety and will be reviewed by the Expansion Committee. Completed expansion packets may be submitted to the Greek Life Advisor via hard copy to the University Student Union, room 306, or electronically to greeklife@csufresno.edu.

Expansion Packet Contents for organizations RETURNING to campus

Note: This includes all organizations that previously had a chapter at Fresno State and left for any reason.

1. **Expansion Interest Questionnaire** (page 8)
2. **Inter/National or Regional Headquarters Values, Policies, and Publications**
 - a. A description of the organizational values and founding principles
 - b. Membership anti-discrimination policies
 - c. A summary of the organizational structure at the chapter and inter/national or regional levels
 - d. Constitution (inter/national, regional, or local)
 - e. Minimal expectations of colony for chartering
 - f. Risk management policies including alcohol/drugs, hazing, and sexual misconduct
 - g. Scholarship policies
 - h. Inter/national or regional publications
3. **Fresno State History & Alumni Information**
 - a. Total number of alumni in Fresno County

- b. Statement of interest and support from the alumni in establishing a chapter, if applicable
- c. A list of specific alumni who are interested in working with the chapter in an advisory capacity
- d. Nearest alumni group, if applicable
- e. Previous closure information:
 - i. Reasons why the chapter became inactive on campus and when
 - ii. How the issues or behaviors involved have been addressed
 - iii. How the organization plans to prevent similar behaviors or incidents from happening in the future (if applicable)
 - iv. How the organization has cleared any debts or sanctions still incomplete from when previously on campus (if applicable)

4. Chapter Development

- a. The following information for *three* specific time periods: 1) during recolonization; 2) two years after re-chartering; and 3) five years after re-chartering
 - i. Membership goals
 - ii. Community interaction and service projects
 - iii. Campus involvement
 - iv. Programming initiatives
 - v. Chapter & alumni board finances
 - vi. Fundraising efforts
 - vii. Impact on Greek and Fresno State communities

5. Membership Development

- a. Risk management education programs including alcohol/drugs, hazing, and sexual misconduct
- b. Membership education policy and program (new and continuing member)
- c. Recruitment/intake program
- d. Leadership development and officer transition programs

6. Information on inter/national strength

- a. Total number of chapters inter/nationally or regionally
 - i. Total number of chapters colonized in the past five years, including where
 - ii. Total number of failed expansion projects, including where
- b. Total number of initiated members inter/nationally or regionally
- c. Total number of chapters in California
- d. Total number of anticipated colonizations in the next calendar year, including where, when, and why
- e. Number of chapters closed and/or suspended during the last three years, including where, when, and why
- f. Average size of chapters on campuses similar to Fresno State in enrollment size and percentage of student body affiliated
- g. Leadership development and officer transition programs
- h. Risk management education programs

7. Insurance Information

A copy of the organization's insurance certificate (\$1,000,000 per occurrence, \$2,000,000 aggregate, \$1,000,000 automobile liability if applicable). Note, these limits are subject to change pending CSU and University Risk Management requirements. These amounts should be verified at the time of application by Student Involvement.

8. Proof of 501(a) or 501(c) status or demonstration that 501 status has begun

In order to comply with Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972, Section 6A, all single sex Fresno State fraternities and sororities must submit proof of their 501(a) tax exemption status. Organizations that are exempt under Section 501(a) include those organizations that are classified within Section 501(c). Section 501(c) applies to single-sex organizations recognized by the IRS under social or fraternal designation, including but not limited to sections 501(c)(4), 501(c)(7), 501(c)(8), and 501(c)(10).

Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972

Section 1681. Sex

(a) Prohibition against discrimination; exceptions. *No person in the United States shall, on the*

basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance, except that:

(6) Social fraternities or sororities; voluntary youth service organizations

(A) of a social fraternity or social sorority which is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of Title 26, the active membership of which consists primarily of students in attendance at an institution of higher education.

9. Names, student ID #s and contact information of at least eight (8) interested current Fresno State students

10. Letter of intent from the Inter/National Headquarters or Regional Expansion Chairperson

Step 3: Campus Determines Readiness for Growth

Once completed expansion packets have been submitted, the Expansion Committee will determine the Fresno State Greek community's readiness for growth before making their recommendation to the Associate Dean of Student Involvement. The committee will take into consideration all information within the packet, as well as the following:

- Fraternity/Sorority recruitment trends over the past 5 years at Fresno State
- Organization's standing and impact at sister institutions
- Current total undergraduate population at Fresno State
- Demand for alternative organization options
- Current health of the Greek Life organizations at Fresno State
- Capability and resources of Fresno State to support the expansion and another organization
- If an organization was previously on campus, the organization's previous/current relationship with Fresno State, including previous conduct record and steps taken to remedy those issues/behaviors
- Any instances of misconduct in the local Fresno area at organization sponsored activities reported to law enforcement agencies, the organization's national or regional chapter or to the University over the past 5 years. If so, a description of the misconduct and the outcome or resolution of the matter.

If it is determined that the campus is ready to expand, step four will be initiated at such time. If it is determined that the campus is *not* ready for expansion, the organization will be sent a letter of explanation. The organization will be kept in consideration if it is deemed that the campus is ready for expansion in the future and will be asked to resubmit their application at that time.

Step 4: Present expansion plan to Governing Council and staff

Once an organization has participated in steps 1-3, Student Involvement expects the group to receive support in the form of an invitation to join the appropriate Governing Council.

The four social Greek Governing Councils at Fresno State are: the National Pan-hellenic Council (NPHC), the Interfraternity Council (IFC), the College Panhellenic (CPH), and the United Sorority and Fraternity Council (USFC). In the event a new council is interested in forming, Student Involvement expects the new council to present a different purpose than that of a currently recognized council.

The organization must present the information contained in expansion packet, as well as any other important information at an in-person meeting with the appropriate Governing Council. The presentation should focus on long term sustainability of interested organization and their added value to the current Fresno State and Greek community. Members from each chapter represented in the council as well as council executive board members should be in attendance. Based upon the presentation, the Governing Council will provide their recommendation to the Expansion Committee.

Additionally, the organization must make a similar presentation to the Student Involvement Center and other key Fresno State staff.

Step 5: Obtain approval letter to expand

After the completion of all steps, the Expansion Committee will make a final recommendation regarding the viability of the interested organization to the Associate Dean for Student Involvement. The Associate Dean, in conjunction with the Dean of Students and the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, will make the final determination. If approval for expansion is granted, a letter will be generated and detail the expansion timeline. However, if expansion is not approved, the Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management will send the

organization a letter of explanation. The organization will have a right to submit a new request for expansion in the following academic year.

** Completion of the expansion packet does not mean that the expansion process can commence and does not guarantee acceptance to colonize. Colonization cannot initiate until the entire process for approval has been completed and the approval letter for expansion has been received.*

*** Organizations seeking reinstatement after being suspended, removed from campus, losing campus recognition, or having a charter revoked may be subject to the above outlined process. Specific information for these groups is contained in the sanction letter, or determined by the Dean of Students.*

**** For inquires or questions regarding the expansion and recognition process, please contact the Student Involvement Center Greek Life staff at 559-278-2741 or greeklife@csufresno.edu.*

Fresno State Fraternity & Sorority Expansion Interest Form

(Please answer the following on a separate sheet of paper.)

Main Contact Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Name of (Potential) Fraternity/Sorority: _____

National/Regional Contact Person: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Website: _____

1. Why do you wish to start/create this fraternity/sorority at Fresno State?
2. How is this fraternity/sorority different from other Greek organizations on campus?
3. How is this fraternity/sorority different from other campus organizations?
4. What are the values and principles of the fraternity/sorority and why are they important to you and your interested members?
5. Why do you want to be part of the Greek community at Fresno State?
6. How will this fraternity/sorority add value to the Greek Council of which it is a member?
7. How will this fraternity/sorority add value to Fresno State and its students?