Social fraternal organizations are embedded in the rich history of campus life at Sonoma State University. The growing interest of students to participate in fraternal activities shows that fraternity and sorority life remains relevant in the collegiate experience, and The Center for Student Leadership, Involvement and Service (CSLIS) is committed to providing support to all recognized social fraternal organizations.

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

Any social fraternity or sorority seeking university recognition must follow the procedure below and complete in its entirety the expansion packet. Completed packets may be turned in at any time to the CSLIS office however, they will not be reviewed until the campus has determined its readiness for growth.

Procedure

**Step 1: Indicate interest by communicating with the Campus Life Advisor in CSLIS**

In this meeting, the interested students or organization representatives must meet/communicate the potential expansion interest to the appropriate staff in the CSLIS office. This meeting will serve as an introduction for both parties to review the appropriate steps to reach recognition status.

**Step 2: Create expansion packet**

The expansion packet MUST include the following information in its entirety and serve as an approval document to be reviewed by CSLIS staff and appropriate Greek council leadership.

**Step 3: Campus Determines Readiness for Growth**

Once completed expansion packets have been submitted, the campus will determine its readiness for growth and will initiate steps 4-7 at such time.

**Expansion Packet Contents:**

1. Expansion Interest Questionnaire (see attached) detailing interest in expansion, added value to SSU Greek community, added value to SSU student community and how fraternity/sorority is different than those who currently exist on campus
2. Copy of constitution
3. Copy of the following policies, procedures and educational programs:
   - Risk Management Policy/Protocol (Including the following) must use FIPG guidelines
     http://www.fipg.org/
     - Anti-hazing policy and enforcement guidelines
     - Alcohol & Substance Abuse Policy and related educational program(s)
   - Scholarship Policy and academic program(s)
   - Member Education Policy and educational program(s)
   - Recruitment Policy and related program(s)
   - Officer education and leadership program(s)

4. Proof of insurance

5. 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 Sonoma State University 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 Expansion and colonization timeline

6. Information relating to inter/national organization
   - History and organizational structure
   - List of chapters at other higher education institutions within 100 miles
   - Collegiate chapter support program(s)
   - Description of national support for colonies
   - Description of conventions, leadership trainings and scholarships available

7. Demonstrate availability of local alumni or advisory support
   - Number of alumni within 30 miles/60 miles of SSU campus

8. Names, student ID #s and contact information of at least five (5) interested Sonoma State University students

**Step 4: Present expansion plan to appropriate Greek Council**

Student organizations are formed for the purpose of bringing individuals together who have common goals and/or interests. The Center for Student Leadership, Involvement and Service does not recognize
groups with duplicate or similar mission statements. The core principles of social fraternal organizations are similar in nature: promote academic integrity, cultivate brotherhood/sisterhood, serve 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. Should an organization wish to expand with a similar mission or purpose; The Center for Student Leadership, Involvement and Service expects the group to receive support in the form of an invitation to join the appropriate Greek Council.

The three social Greek Councils at Sonoma State University are the National Panhellenic Council (NPC), The Interfraternity Council (IFC) and the Multicultural Greek Council (MGC). In the event a new council is interested in forming, The Center for Student Leadership, Involvement and Service expects the new council to present a different purpose than that of a currently recognized Council.

Following procedures outline by the individual council, interested groups will present information contained in expansion packet, as well as any other important information in an in-person meeting. Members from each chapter represented in the council as well as council executive board members should be in attendance. Based upon the presentation, The Center for Student Leadership, Involvement and Service staff in consultation with the Council will determine whether or not to extend an invitation to the interested group.

**Step 5: Present expansion plan to CSLIS staff and other University administrators**
Prior to a formal invitation to expand, Interest groups will present expansion plan to CSLIS and SSU administrators and staff, similar to presentation to the appropriate Greek Council. Presentation will seek to determine long term sustainability of interested organization at SSU and their added value to the current community.

**Step 6: Obtain approval letter to expand**
Following the presentations, the CSLIS staff will communicate regarding the viability of the interested group. If approval for expansion is to be granted, a letter will be generated from the CSLIS office and will outline the expansion timeline.

**Step 7: Complete the CSLIS Club & Organization Recognition Process**
Recognition procedures can be found online at [http://sonoma.edu/campuslife/clubs/start.html](http://sonoma.edu/campuslife/clubs/start.html).
SSU Fraternity & Sorority Expansion Interest Form

Name:_____________________________________
Email:_____________________________________
Phone:_____________________________________
Name of (Potential) Fraternity/Sorority:____________________________________
National/Regional Contact Person:___________________________________________
Email:_____________________________________
Phone:_____________________________________
Website:_____________________________________

Why do you wish to start/create this fraternity/sorority at SSU?

How is this fraternity/sorority different from other Greek Organizations on campus?

How is this fraternity/sorority different from other campus organizations?
What are the values and principles of the fraternity/sorority and why are they important to you and your interested members?

Why do you want to be part of the Greek community at Sonoma State University?

How will this fraternity/sorority add value to the Greek Council in which it is a member of?