



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Division of Student Affairs

Altgeld Hall 208
DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2880
815-753-1573
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www.stuaff.niu.edu/stuaff/

Fraternity & Sorority Life Relationship Statement

This document outlines the requirements fraternities and sororities must meet in order to remain in good standing at Northern Illinois University (NIU). Chapters that do not abide by the items in the Relationship Statement are subject to disciplinary action through NIU Student Conduct, Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL), or the chapter's respective governing council.

Our goal is for fraternities and sororities to feel supported and valued at NIU. At NIU recognized fraternities and sororities can expect the following from Fraternity and Sorority Life:

- Chapters will receive assistance from Fraternity & Sorority Life (FSL) staff and a full time Faculty/Staff Advisor.
- Councils will receive advisement, supervision, support, and assistance from FSL staff through co-advisement with a Graduate Assistant and a Full-Time staff member.
- Chapters will be eligible to apply for FSL awards each spring semester.
- Chapters and councils can request trainings to provide educational programs and skill building for new and returning members. Trainings may include but are not limited to Huskie Link, bystander intervention, officer transitions, the conduct process, and CODE workshops.
- FSL staff will plan and execute a presidents' retreat for all chapters and council presidents. This retreat may be combined with CAB and SGA leadership trainings.
- Recognized chapters not governed by an inter/national headquarters that exist at NIU as of August 2018 shall continue to exist unless disciplinary action removes them from campus. No new local chapters will be recognized by NIU.
- FSL staff will be responsible for creating and implementing an effective expansion plan that addresses the needs of the entire community following any applicable inter/national governing umbrella policies.
- FSL Staff may hold chapters accountable for not abiding by this relationship statement. These accountability measures may include, but are not limited to restricting student organization privileges, the inability to participate in step shows/stroll exhibitions or competitions or men's/women's tugs, etc.

Requirements for Fraternities and Sororities at NIU

Scholarship

- Chapters will designate a Scholarship Chair to direct academic programming and support.
- Chapters will earn a minimum 2.5 semester GPA each fall and spring semester. Any chapter earning a GPA lower than 2.5 will be placed on academic probation and will not be able to host social events.
- Chapters on academic probation will not be permitted to participate in council sponsored programs including but not limited to Step Shows, Stroll Competitions/Showcases, or men's/women's tugs for the semester. Recruitment or intake efforts (formal recruitment, tabling events, etc.) are permitted.
- Chapters will create, maintain, and implement a comprehensive academic plan to improve academic performance of all members and the chapter semester GPA. Chapters on academic probation must submit their academic plan to FSL Staff for review.
- Chapters on academic probation for 3 consecutive semesters will continue to be on academic probation and will work with FSL Staff and Inter/National Organization to review their academic plan.
- Chapters who are on academic probation for 5 consecutive semesters will be referred to student conduct for review of further action.

Chapter Operations and Administration

- Chapters will identify a Full Time Faculty/Staff Advisor who will:
 - Serve as a liaison between the chapter and the University.



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- Meet with chapter leadership and alumni advisor(s) at least twice a semester.
- Assist with academic programming, plans, and support.
- Assist in planning events.
- Check Huskie Link regularly to review and approve/deny forms.
- Chapters will abide by the bylaws and constitution of their respective Inter/National organization and council, including all alcohol, drug, housing, and recruitment or intake policies.
- Chapters will abide by all NIU policies, including but not limited to, the Code of Conduct, Student Government Association (SGA) policies, student organization policies, and applicable local, state, and federal laws. It is the chapter's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to these policies.
- Chapter members must be enrolled students at NIU. An enrolled student is defined as a person taking at least one credit hour of coursework at NIU, without respect to part-time or full-time status or undergraduate or graduate status, unless defined differently by the Inter/National Organization. Anyone duly enrolled for the spring and fall semesters of the same calendar year shall be considered a member of the organization for the intervening summer term.
- Chapters will use an alumni advising structure in accordance with their Inter/National Organization's policies or under the guidance of FSL staff if no such policy exists.

Paperwork & Deadlines

- Chapters will submit all paperwork and forms on time. This includes but is not limited to SGA, FSL, and Student Conduct forms. FSL staff have the right to postpone/cancel any events, activities, etc. and place the chapter on a hold no more than 5 business days after the deadline if the chapter has outstanding paperwork.
- FSL staff will provide a calendar of due dates, required programs, and trainings by August 15, and when applicable for spring semester updates, by January 15 to allow for chapter planning.
- Chapters will update chapter officers, alumni and faculty/staff advisors, and other information on Huskie Link within two weeks of the change or vacancy.
- Chapters will submit a Prospective Membership Form one week prior to offering membership invitations or bids for membership. This form is to verify enrollment status of prospective members.
- Chapters will submit a Beginning of Semester Report by September 15 and January 15 each semester. This report includes but is not limited to:
 - Recruitment, Intake, and New Member Education information
 - Dates of when NIU policies are discussed.
 - Certificate of Insurance submission.
 - President, Alumni Advisor, Faculty/Staff Advisor, and IHQ contact information.
 - Chapter housing information, when applicable, including but not limited to occupancy, contact information, and housing certificate of insurance.
- Chapter will submit an End of Semester Report by December 15 and May 15 each semester. This report includes but is not limited to:
 - Membership Roster numbers
 - Siblinghood information
 - Service hour and philanthropic donation numbers
 - Leadership Programming information
 - NIU ADEI Training Numbers
 - Academic/Scholarship Program information
 - Risk management information and training
- Chapters will register events on Huskie Link in accordance with the NIU events policies.



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Leadership and Education

- Chapters will send seventy-five percent (75%) of its members to educational programs sponsored by FSL.
- Chapters will send one hundred percent (100%) of new members to participate in the FSL new member education program. NPHC & UGC members not yet presented will attend in the semester they are crossing virtually to maintain confidentiality.
- Chapters will send the chapter president or designee from the executive board to the Leadership Retreat held in January.
- Chapters will send at least seventy-five percent (75%) of its members to the All-Community Meeting held at the start of the academic year.
- Chapters will send the chapter president or designee from the executive board to the monthly presidents' meetings held the last Wednesday of every month September – November and January – April, at noon.

Recruitment, Intake, and New Member Education

- To be eligible for membership, interested and prospective members must have at least a 2.5 GPA unless the inter/national organization requires a higher GPA.
- Chapters will educate all new members on this relationship statement, events policies, and NIU's policy on hazing.
- Chapters will register all recruitment and intake activities following the timeline outlined in the NIU events policies. This includes but is not limited to informal recruitment events, informational, rush, or interest meetings.
- Chapters are prohibited from providing alcohol at recruitment and intake activities.
- Chapters will register all new member presentations on Huskie Link at least two weeks prior to the event. All presentations must be completed by the last day of classes fall or spring semester. This includes in person, hybrid, or virtual presentations.
- Chapters' new member education process cannot last more than eight (8) weeks, including all initiation ceremonies. If the inter/national organization process is longer than the defined eight (8) week timeline, chapters must submit a copy of the inter/national organization policy outlining a longer process to FSL staff in the Beginning of Semester Report.
- Chapters are not allowed to conduct summer recruitment/intake activities. Summer is defined as the dates between the last day of classes in the spring semester and the first day of classes in the fall semester.
 - A chapter can submit an exemption request to conduct summer recruitment/intake and host new member meetings over the summer. The request must include the following information and be submitted via email to the full time FSL staff member.
 - The reason the chapter would like to host summer recruitment/intake.
 - A detailed outline of the summer intake timeline including interest meetings/recruitment dates, new member education meetings, new member presentation, etc. with dates, times, and locations.
 - Name and contact information of the undergraduate members overseeing recruitment/intake and new member education.
 - Name and contact information of the alumni advisor/graduate chapter members overseeing recruitment/intake and new member education.

Non-Discrimination and Hazing

- Chapters will abide by NIU's policy on hazing outlined in the NIU Code of Conduct.
- Chapters will not haze any member of the FSL community regardless of active member, new member, or potential new member status.
- Chapters will foster an environment for learning and protect the safety, rights, and dignity of every member, new, active, and prospective.

Chapter Housing

- Chapters with recognized chapter hours will adhere to all municipal building and fire codes.



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- Chapter houses will maintain general upkeep of their property including, but not limited to, shoveling snow and mowing lawns.
- Chapter members living in chapter houses will be responsible, respectful, and conscious of neighbors in the surrounding area.
- Chapters hosting events in chapter houses will abide by all NIU events policies.

Organizational Conduct

- Chapters will follow all federal, state, and municipal laws.
- Chapter members will follow all federal, state and municipal laws and the NIU Student Code of Conduct regarding alcohol and drug use and consumption.
- Chapter conduct statuses will be publicly posted on the FSL website.
- Chapter members will cooperate and engage in all organizational student conduct processes.

Community Relationships

- Chapters will recognize that every action by an individual member of the FSL community, verbal or non-verbal, deliberate or unintentional, shapes the external perception of not only the NIU FSL Community, but the inter/national fraternity.
- Chapters will establish and maintain trusting relationships with all constituents across campus and the community including but not limited to members, prospective members, parents and family members, alumni, volunteers, members, chapter house directors, university faculty and staff, the local and campus community, and vendors.

By submitting and signing the Relationship Statement, I am acknowledging I have read and understand the requirements of my chapter as a recognized fraternity and sorority at NIU. I work to meet these requirements and educate chapter members about these requirements. The chapter and chapter members, including myself as a chapter president, can be held accountable for not adhering to the Relationship Statement.

This Relationship Statement must be digitally signed and submitted by the chapter president in Huskie Link by September 15. The Relationship Statement must also be digitally signed/approved by the faculty/staff advisor in Huskie Link and digitally signed by the alumni advisor via email acknowledgement to the full time FSL staff member. If a new president is elected or a new advisor is appointed in the middle of the academic year, the Relationship Statement remains in effect for the academic year.