

Α Β Γ Δ Ε Ζ Η Θ Ι Κ Λ Μ Ν Ξ Ο Π Ρ Σ Τ Υ Φ Χ Ψ Ω

FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE

INTRODUCTION
2024 HANDBOOK: SECTION ONE

RESIDENTIAL LIFE | FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE
Α Β Γ Δ Ε Ζ Η Θ Ι Κ Λ Μ Ν Ξ Ο Π Ρ Σ Τ Υ Φ Χ Ψ Ω

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FROM THE ADVISORS OF FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE

Dear Fraternity or Sorority Leader,

The Fraternity & Sorority Leader Handbook is designed to be a comprehensive guide to the resources, procedures, and guidelines associated with fraternities and sororities at Columbia University. As Fraternity & Sorority Life advisors, we want to support you in carrying out your responsibilities and in achieving your goals as a leader. We hope this handbook will help make fraternity and sorority life more enjoyable for your members, yourself, and the Columbia community at large. This handbook is organized to make pertinent information readily accessible.

Please stop by one of our offices in the 515 Lerner Hall suite or call 212-854-4196 if you need help or have any questions.

We are looking forward to meeting and working with each of our fraternity and sororities to make this year rewarding.

Sincerely,

The Fraternity & Sorority Life Team

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I. FRATERNITY AND SORORITY STATEMENT

Fraternalities and sororities have been a part of Columbia University for over 150 years. Traditionally, they have challenged students to reach their full potential: intellectually, personally and socially. Over the years, the fraternity and sorority community at Columbia has grown, creating a diverse range of fraternities and sororities including single-sex, culturally-based groups, and co-ed chapters. The fraternities and sororities at Columbia pride themselves on the individual personality and nature of each chapter on campus. The fraternity and sorority community offers a rich and rewarding experience for their members. In addition, fraternities and sororities have contributed substantially to campus life, community service, and the educational mission of the University.

Our chapters develop innovative approaches and effective programs that carve a space for fraternities and sororities on Columbia's campus. Integral to our community is a strong sense of character. Although each fraternity or sorority sponsors its own functions and possesses its own identity, our chapters have many things in common. They all seek to foster an environment which:

- Develops bonds of brotherhood or sisterhood
- Develops leadership and interpersonal skills
- Forms lifetime friendships
- Thrives in an atmosphere of teamwork
- Performs community service projects
- Programs social functions for the student community

Columbia University is dedicated to education - to cultivate intellectual curiosity, to instruct in various disciplines, to encourage social and moral growth, and to provide an atmosphere conducive to the pursuit of these goals. It is the responsibility of fraternities and sororities to foster these goals. Our chapters actively work towards an atmosphere of learning, social responsibility, respect for human dignity, and positive influence and constructive development for members, prospective members, and the greater Columbia community.

Contact Fraternity & Sorority Life

Phone: 212-854-4196

Fax: 212-854-7333

https://www.cc-seas.columbia.edu/reslife/fraternity_sorority

II. COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY FSL GOVERNING COUNCILS & HONOR SOCIETY

Inter-Greek Council

Please contact: *igc-exec@columbia.edu*

The Columbia Inter-Greek Council (IGC) is the self-governing student organization that oversees Columbia Fraternity and Sorority Life's three councils: the Interfraternity Council, Multicultural Greek Council, and the Panhellenic Council. The IGC provides guidelines and support to Columbia's fraternity and sorority organizations. In addition, they connect chapters together and arrange important events, such as an annual awards ceremony to recognize the hard work of fraternities and sororities at Columbia.

Interfraternity Council

Please contact: *ifc-eboard@columbia.edu*

The **Interfraternity Council** (IFC) is the self-governing student organization that oversees the Columbia social men's fraternities, many of which are members of the umbrella organization North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC). The IFC provides guidelines and support to the fraternities it represents. IFC currently governs the following chapters:

Alpha Delta Phi

Alpha Epsilon Pi

Beta Theta Pi

Delta Sigma Phi

Kappa Delta Rho

Phi Gamma Delta

Sigma Chi

Sigma Nu

Sigma Phi Epsilon

Zeta Beta Tau

Multicultural Greek Council

Please contact: *mgc_board@columbia.edu*

The **Multicultural Greek Council** (MGC) is the self-governing student organization that consists of organizations with national membership or affiliations in one of the umbrella organizations of National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations (NALFO), the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), National Multicultural Greek Council (NMGC), and the National Asian Pacific American Panhellenic Association (NAPA). MGC currently governs the following chapters:

Alpha Kappa Alpha

Alpha Phi Alpha

Delta Sigma Theta

Kappa Phi Lambda

Lambda Phi Epsilon

Lambda Pi Chi

Sigma Lambda Gamma

Zeta Phi Beta

Panhellenic Council

Please contact: *panhellexec@columbia.edu*

The Panhellenic Association (Panhel) is the self-governing student organization that provides guidelines and support to its member organizations. Panhellenic consists of organizations with national membership in the umbrella organization National Panhellenic Conference (NPC). Panhellenic currently governs the following chapters:

Alpha Chi Omega
Alpha Omicron Pi
Delta Gamma
Gamma Phi Beta
Kappa Alpha Theta
Sigma Delta Tau

Order of Omega Honor Society

Please contact: orderofomega_exec@columbia.edu

Order of Omega is a national honorary organization recognizing those fraternity men and women who have attained a high standard of leadership in fraternity and sorority community activities. Order of Omega encourages them to continue along this line, and to inspire others to strive for similar high levels of excellence.

III. MEMBERSHIP

The fraternity and sorority community at Columbia University strives to foster a holistic collegiate experience that will strengthen a commitment to life-long membership and our alma mater. Columbia alumni/ae remember fraternity and sorority membership as a defining and valuable part of their college experience.

A. University Membership

Membership in any social fraternity or sorority at Columbia University is open to all full-time undergraduates in any division of the university. Membership selection must be conducted in a manner which reflects the diversity of the Columbia community and must not be restrictive on the basis of race, religion, physical disability, sexual orientation, athletic interest, or national origin.

B. City-Wide Chapter Membership

In the case of city-wide chapters, only the membership drawn from Columbia University will be recognized as the official fraternity or sorority chapter. Participants from outside the university will be considered "guests" of the fraternity or sorority. The official chapter is responsible for the actions of their guests. In the event Columbia University students are not active, the city-wide chapter will be placed on dormant status.

IV. NATIONAL AFFILIATION

Each chapter is required to abide by its national/international organization's policies and regulations including those for insurance and risk management. All such policies are adapted to university regulations. If you have any questions about this, please contact the Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life.

V. UNIVERSITY AFFILIATION

Undergraduate Student Life, through Residential Life-Fraternity & Sorority Life, serves as the liaisons between the university and the Columbia fraternity and sorority community. As such, the Dean of Undergraduate Student Life, or their designee, has the power to grant or to remove recognition of a fraternity/sorority chapter, and to give or remove university-owned housing as they deem appropriate.

VI. FRATERNITY & SORORITY RELATIONSHIPS TO THE UNIVERSITY

The fraternity/sorority community at Columbia has continually grown in recent years to become an important element of undergraduate life on campus. It is essential for individual fraternity and sorority chapters on campus to understand their relationship with the university and to be aware of

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the rights and privileges of their organization as well as their responsibility to the University. In addition, each chapter should be acquainted with the rights of the university in order to fully appreciate and understand how fraternities and sororities can work with university departments to create a safe and successful community environment.

A. Rights and Privileges of Fraternities and Sororities

- The FSL Governing Councils (IGC, IFC, MGC, and Panhellenic) and IGC Judicial Board may, in accordance with their governing documents, regulate the activities of fraternities and sororities and establish procedures for enforcing its rules. They may appeal to the university advisor to fraternities and sororities (hereafter known as the Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life) for help in this.
- IFC, IGC, MGC, Panhellenic, and IGC Judicial Board have the authority to make recommendations for approval or withdraw the recognition of individual fraternities or sororities. Official recognition comes from Residential Life-Fraternity & Sorority Life and the Dean of Undergraduate Student Life of Columbia College (CC) and The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS).
- Individual fraternities and sororities should maintain contact with the Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life in order to maintain satisfactory relations with university offices and other groups and organizations.
- Fraternities, sororities, Order of Omega, and the IGC Judicial Board have the right to use, when available, certain facilities of the university, such as telephone extensions and space for meetings and social events.
- Due to the diversity of the campus community and the scarcity of appropriate housing in the vicinity of the campus, housing for FSL chapters cannot be guaranteed. Existing chapters assigned to university-owned brownstones are privileged to be assigned to these spaces and chapters must continually exhibit a commitment to FSL values in order to continue to occupy university-owned housing.
- The university will provide advice on financial matters to chapters that request it.
- The university will help fraternities and sororities establish and maintain strong and productive ties to alumni/ae and national organizations.

B. Rights of the University

- When a new fraternity or sorority is recommended for approval by IFC, MGC or Panhellenic Council, written notice should go to Residential Life-Fraternity & Sorority Life for final approval.
- For sufficient cause, Columbia University may remove a fraternity or sorority's recognition. When such action is taken, the Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life must notify the president of the fraternity or sorority with the reasons for the action and send copies of the notification to IFC, MGC, and Panhellenic and the Inter/National Headquarters of the fraternity or sorority losing recognition.
- Any changes to the constitution or bylaws of IFC, MGC, and Panhellenic must be approved by Residential Life- Fraternity & Sorority Life before taking effect.
- The Dean of Undergraduate Student Life or their designee reserves the right to conduct disciplinary proceedings of fraternity and sorority chapters.

VII. ADVISEMENT

A. University Advisement

- Residential Life-Fraternity & Sorority Life provides advisement for all students active in, or interested in, fraternities or sororities. The Fraternity & Sorority Life advisors are the

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primary advisors for the individual fraternity and sorority chapters, the Inter-Greek Council and all of its subsidiaries, the Greek Judicial Board, and the Order of Omega. Fraternity & Sorority Life does not support pre-professional or service fraternities.

- Fraternity & Sorority Life advisors support and implement judicial and disciplinary procedures.
- Each chapter president is REQUIRED to meet with their advisor at least twice a semester.
- The advisors act in consultation with the Dean of Undergraduate Student Life of CC and SEAS; therefore an advisor should be contacted initially concerning any problems or situations. Advisors will follow up with the Dean of Undergraduate Student Life's office and with other departments as needed.
- It is very important for student leaders to initiate and maintain a relationship with Fraternity & Sorority Life advisors. The advisor is available to help work out leadership, organizational, or personal concerns and to serve as a resource for programming ideas and on-campus or off-campus contacts. In addition, the advisor can explain and interpret the University policies and procedures, which have a direct impact on the activities of a chapter.

B. Working with your Chapter Advisor

Working closely with an advisor is a great way to strengthen a fraternity and sorority chapter and ensure its good standing with the university. When meeting with the advisor, chapter leadership, and chapter members should meet the following expectations:

- Communicate all problems, events, and questions in a timely manner.
- Respond to advisor's requests.
- Contribute to the Columbia University community through thoughtful programming and community service that is planned ahead of time.
- Act as responsible representatives of the chapter and of the fraternity or sorority's national organization.

When should you or a member of your organization see the advisor?

- When you have questions about resources on campus for you and your organization.
- When there is a concern for either yourself or a member.
- When your organization is planning an event and you need help on location, concept, and policies regarding aspects of the event/program.
- When you are experiencing a conflict within your organization and you are looking for assistance with mediation or simply with someone to discuss your concerns.
- When you are working on ALPHA Standards and would like guidance.

Chapters have often found success in arranging weekly or bi-weekly meetings with their advisor to accomplish events, ALPHA Standards, and chapter community building.

The advising team is made up of the Director, Assistant Director, and Residence Hall Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life. Advisors are committed to fostering an inclusive, safe and engaging atmosphere and working with chapter leaders to realize their goals.

VIII. FRATERNITY & SORORITY CAMPUS EVENTS

A. Event Planning

Fraternities and sororities at Columbia contribute actively to the campus community by planning enriching events that promote wellness, inclusivity, sisterhood/brotherhood, and a positive environment. Many fraternities and sororities find success collaborating with other on-campus or off-campus organizations to conceptualize educational and uplifting activities. Fraternities and sororities that create notable events that truly help shape the character of Fraternity & Sorority Life

at Columbia and which uphold the ideals of Columbia University are honored once a year at the IGC Award Ceremony. Types of events that fraternities and sororities can plan include, but are not limited to:

- Community service events
- Educational events
- Wellness events
- Cultural events
- Brotherhood or Sisterhood events
- School Spirit events

B. Event Policies & Space Reservations

Residential Life- Fraternity & Sorority Life follows the same policies of all offices under Undergraduate Student Life. Policies regarding Event Management, Reserving Space, Events, Travel, Communication, Fundraising and Funding Opportunities are located online at:

<https://www.cc-seas.columbia.edu/studentlife/resources>

C. Social Events

There are important protocols in place for arranging social events, which are especially applicable to chapters residing in university-owned or university-affiliated housing. For more on social events, please see Part 4 of the Fraternity and Sorority Life Handbook which addresses social events in detail. For further inquiries, speak with advisors in Fraternity & Sorority Life.

IX. IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES FOR 2024

Month	Items of Importance
January	Club Refuel Sessions 72 Hours after Bid Acceptance –Hazing Prevention Forms (new member/pledge) Panhellenic Sorority Recruitment Chapter Information Form Due
February	Spring Leadership Training Judicial Board Applications Due Club Refuel Sessions Fall 2024 House Roster Due
March	Spring Break
April	Pre-Calendaring begins
May	Closing walkthroughs for brownstones
August	RA Training F@CU NSOP-Meet the Greeks
September	Chapter Information Form Due Activities Day Club Refuel Sessions Fall Leadership Training
October	72 Hours after Bid Acceptance –Hazing Prevention Forms (new member/pledge) MGC Yard Show

November	IGC Board Elections New Member Summit Pre-calendarng begins
December	DUE by December 2, 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated Swipe Access Roster for Spring 2024• Updated Officer Report for 2024• 2024 ALPHA Standards Requirements