

TOWSON UNIVERSITY FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE RELATIONSHIP STATEMENT



Revised January 2025

The purpose of this document is to outline the expectations, guidelines, and responsibilities associated with the relationship between Towson University and fraternities and sororities seeking to be established or continue their presence on campus. This document aims to ensure a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all students and our organizations. By setting clear policies and providing a framework for collaboration, the university seeks to foster positive partnerships with Greek-letter organizations that align with the institution's values and mission.

1. Towson University supports the right of assembly for all members of the university community. Students are therefore free to organize and assemble if they abide by local, state, and federal law.
2. University recognition for Fraternities and Sororities at Towson University is granted to the completion of the office of Fraternity and Sorority Life expansion or reactivation process. Recognition is then maintained by adherence to federal, state and local law, university policy, meeting expectations through the chapter assessment program, governing council bylaws and guidelines, as well as the policies of their respective inter/national organizations.
3. University-recognized fraternities and sororities are affiliated with the Student Government Association (SGA) through their respective governing councils. The five SGA recognized governing councils are as follows: Interfraternity Council (IFC), National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), Independent Greek Council (IGC), Panhellenic Association (PHA), and Multicultural Greek Council (MGC). No local chapters may exist at Towson University unless they belong to one of the five governing councils.
4. Due to the affiliation with the umbrella councils listed above, each chapter is provided a Towson University SGA financial account. Money can be deposited through this account to pay for internal transactions such as paying council dues, purchasing materials for meetings and events,

paying event and conference services charges, etc. The administrative assistant for the office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will support all our organization with the management of these accounts.

5. Fraternities and Sororities at Towson University are expected to acquire and maintain liability insurance. Verification of the chapter's insurance status will be requested annually by the office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.
6. Towson University's Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will offer leadership training workshops and educational seminars to support chapter excellence and the personal development of fraternity/sorority members.
7. Fraternity/sorority academic reports shall be obtained through the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. They can be sent within 3-4 weeks after a semester is over. Only the president, national office, or advisor may receive this report.
8. Each Greek-letter organization is required to have at least one active chapter advisor and one advisor from the faculty or professional staff at Towson University.
9. Students interested in joining a Greek-letter organization at Towson University must be fully matriculated undergraduate students enrolled in a full-time credit load and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5. Students wishing to join during their first semester at Towson University are exempt from the GPA requirement, as they will not have an established university GPA. Graduate students are not eligible to participate as roster members of any chapter.
10. The university recognizes that Greek-letter organizations employ selectivity in recruiting new members. The university further recognizes that some fraternity/sorority memberships are grounded in a particular cultural, religious, or historical heritage. Mindful of these legacies, the university encourages Greek letter organizations to abide by the Towson University non-discrimination policy, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, age, condition of handicap, marital status, or political affiliation.
11. Chapters are expected to adhere to the published guidelines for the new member process.
12. Greek-letter organizations shall have no fewer than five (5) active (enrolled undergraduate) members. If a chapter falls below 5 members, they will have one (1) year recruit up to and over 5 members. If a chapter has zero (0) active (currently enrolled undergraduate) members, the chapter will no longer be recognized, and the national organization will need to go through the formal expansion/reactivations process to regain recognition.

13. Each Greek-letter organization shall submit the Chapter Assessment Program (CAP) at the end of every academic term and achieve bronze status or higher. Organizations who fail to achieve bronze status will fall into the need's improvement status. Back-to-back needs improvement status may result in a loss of university recognition.
14. The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will annually publish the accomplishments of our Greek-lettered organizations, as submitted through the chapter assessment program. This report, titled the 'Community Impact Report,' will be available on the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life website.
15. Individual chapters, the Independent Greek Council, Interfraternity Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Panhellenic Association, and Multicultural Greek Council are bound by the same regulations and procedures that are followed by other student organizations, subject to the provisions of Section 86.14 of Title IX of the Education Acts of 1972 and will receive the same benefits as other student groups. Section 86.14 of Title IX of the Education Acts of 1972 allows Greek letter organizations to maintain single-sex memberships. This section guarantees that all student groups will receive equal benefits from the university.
16. Greek-letter organizations, by virtue of alumni support, foundations, and professional staff, can exist without the support or recognition of the university. To take advantage of the university's benefits and facilities, however, chapters must be a positive contributor to the university community. Towson University has no obligation to allow access to its facilities or services. The university has a mission to maintain a safe, productive academic and cocurricular environment, and is within its rights to restrict the use of university facilities to those groups compromising that mission.
17. All forms of hazing, which may include but is not limited to the consumption of alcohol and drugs, physical injury, or forms of abuse during membership recruitment and education are strictly prohibited. Chapters may not require nor encourage a prospective member to participate in any form of hazing for membership.
18. The university discourages the organization or sponsorship by a Greek-letter organization for any student subsidiary group (little sisters, sweethearts, etc.) which does not offer full membership in the parent organization. Any organization choosing to organize or sponsor a subsidiary group will be held responsible for the actions of the group despite any claim or proclamation to the contrary made by the chapter or the national. Greeks are granted single sex membership by law. By organizing a subsidiary group, the organization is in effect saying that it wants the opposite sex involved in the organization without having to grant full membership rights to the subsidiary. This jeopardizes the organization's exemption from the University's sex discrimination policy because the chapter cannot claim to be a single sex organization when members of the opposite sex are involved with the group in an organized manner. As a result, the parent organization is responsible for the actions of the subsidy group, even if the national office of the chapter has a policy which does not recognize subsidiary groups.

19. Each Greek-letter organization and chapter advisor is required to review this document and the university hazing policy annually.
 20. Violations of these standards will be referred to the university's Office of Student Accountability & Restorative Practices to be adjudicated. If a chapter is found responsible for violating one or more of the expectations the organization may be subject to sanctions and / or a loss of university recognition.
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CHAPTER PRESIDENT

DISCLAIMER I, _____ (print name), chapter president of _____ (organization), have read the Relationship Statement for Greek-letter Organizations at Towson University, reviewed the document with my active members and understand that the failure to adhere to these standards may result in disciplinary action.

Sign _____ Date _____

CHAPTER ADVISOR

DISCLAIMER I, _____ (print name), chapter advisor of _____ (organization), have read the Relationship Statement for Greek-letter Organizations at Towson University and can confirm that chapter president has reviewed this document and the university hazing policy with each of the active members of the organization prior to the signing of this document.

Sign _____ Date _____