

Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life Expansion Policy

The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life is committed to developing fair processes, policies and guidelines for colonization of chapters of inter/national fraternities and sororities at Valdosta State University. Inter/national fraternities and sororities who seek to establish a colony should read these guidelines and criteria carefully and follow the processes and procedures outlined herein.

This policy will serve as a guideline for all groups with the intent to establish a new social fraternity or sorority at Valdosta State University. In order to provide the maximum stability, guidance and support for each group, all fraternities and sororities intending to apply for recognition must be an inter/national fraternity or sorority. Preference will go to members of the following national umbrella organizations:

- North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC)
- National Panhellenic Conference (NPC)
- National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)
- National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations (NALFO)
- National Multicultural Greek Council (NMGC)
- National Asian Pacific American Panhellenic Association (NAPA)

Valdosta State University reserves the right to implement a moratorium on expansion or re-colonization at any time. In addition, fraternities and sororities that decide not to adhere to the expansion policy will not be recognized by Valdosta State University and will be listed as a non-registered organization on the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life and Office of Student Life websites.

Fraternity and Sorority expansion for inter/national fraternities or sororities can occur in three ways:

- Through the fraternity and sorority community (IFC, MGC, NPHC, or PHA), where it is decided that expansion is desired and the University determines expansion is desired.
- A group of Valdosta State University students request to establish a chapter (new or previously recognized)
- Through an inter/national fraternity or sorority desiring to expand

Please see headings below for more information on each of these processes and procedures.

If the fraternity and sorority community desires to expand, the following the process must be followed:

- The president of the governing council (IFC, MGC, NPHC, or PHA) must schedule a meeting with the Assistant Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life to review expansion procedures and discuss if expansion is desired or not.
- Final decision whether or not expansion is desired lies within the Office of Student Life.
- If expansion is desired, the Assistant Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life will reach out to all national umbrella organizations letting them know Valdosta State University is open for expansion.
- Interested inter/national organization will be required to submit an electronic expansion packet by the specified date communicated to the appropriate umbrella organization. The packet should provide at minimum the following information:
 - Brief history and purpose of the organization.
 - Cost expectations for members.
 - Copy of New Member Education Program.
 - Copy of Risk Management Policy.
 - Detailed description of how the organization will benefit Valdosta State.
 - Detailed description of how the organization will benefit the fraternity and sorority community.
 - Expected colony and chartering timeline.
 - List of all current colonies established in the last three years (status of each, expected chartering timeline for each, resources devoted to each).
 - List of active collegiate chapters within a three hour distance of Valdosta.
 - Number of active alumni in the Valdosta/Tallahassee area.
 - Requirements for membership within the organization.
 - Relations that can be built within the governing council, the university, and surrounding communities.
 - Statement of national support for expansion.

An expansion committee will be created to look at all inter/national expansion packets submitted. The expansion committee will determine which organizations will be invited to campus for a presentation. Organization will be given the option to do an in person presentation or a virtual presentation.

The Expansion committee will review the expansion packet and the presentation and vote to recommend extending an invitation to colonize. The final decision on whether or not to expand and/or the order in which organizations will be invited to colonize will be made by the Assistant Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life.

Once a decision has been made, the Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life will issue a letter officially denying or inviting the inter/national organization to colonize at Valdosta State. At this time the inter/national organization will be allowed to begin recruiting on campus. The Office of Student Life will assist with the process.

For more information regarding the expansion committee, please refer to the last section of this document.

If a group of VSU student(s) request to establish a chapter (new or previously recognized) they must follow the process listed below:

- Schedule a meeting with the Assistant Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life to review expansion procedures and discuss if expansion is desired or not.
- The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life in consultation with the appropriate governing council will determine if expansion is desired or not.
- Final decision whether or not expansion is desired lies within the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life.
- If expansion is desired; student(s), will be asked to submit a Letter of Interest to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. The letter, minimally, should include the following:
 - The organization's website
 - Names of all interested students
 - All interested students must have a minimum individual GPA of a 2.5 or above
 - All interested students must be non-graduating seniors

After receiving the letter of interest, the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life will request an electronic expansion packet from the inter/national organization. The packet should provide at minimum the following information:

- Brief history and purpose of the organization.
- Cost expectations for members.
- Copy of New Member Education Program.
- Copy of Risk Management Policy.
- Detailed description of how the organization will benefit Valdosta State.
- Detailed description of how the organization will benefit the fraternity and sorority community.
- Expected colony and chartering timeline.
- List of all current colonies established in the last three years (status of each, expected chartering timeline for each, resources devoted to each.)
- List of active collegiate chapters within a three hour distance of Valdosta.
- Number of active alumni in the Valdosta/Tallahassee area.
- Requirements for membership within the organization.
- Relations that can be built within the governing council, the University, and surrounding communities.
- Statement of national support for expansion.

After receiving the expansion packet, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will issue a letter officially denying or inviting the inter/national organization to colonize at Valdosta State. At this time the inter/national organization will be allowed to begin recruiting on campus. The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life will assist with the process.

If an inter/national fraternity or sorority desires to expand, they must follow the process listed below:

- Any inter/national organization desiring to expand, must first contact the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life to review Expansion Procedures and inquire if expansion is desired or not.
- The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life in consultation with the appropriate governing council will determine if expansion is desired or not.
- Final decision whether or not expansion is desired lies within the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life.
- If expansion is desired the inter/national organization will be asked to submit an electronic expansion packet. The packet should provide at minimum the following information:
 - Brief history and purpose of the organization.
 - Cost expectations for members.
 - Copy of New Member Education Program.
 - Copy of Risk Management Policy.
 - Detailed description of how the organization will benefit Valdosta State.
 - Detailed description of how the organization will benefit the fraternity and sorority community.
 - Expected colony and chartering timeline.
 - List of all current colonies established in the last three years (status of each, expected chartering timeline for each, resources devoted to each).
 - List of active collegiate chapters within a three hour distance of Valdosta.
 - Number of active alumni in the Valdosta/Tallahassee area.
 - Requirements for membership within the organization .
 - Relations that can be built within the governing council, the University, and surrounding communities.
 - Statement of national support for expansion.

After receiving the expansion packet, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will issue a letter officially denying or inviting the inter/national organization to colonize at Valdosta State. At this time the inter/national organization will be allowed to begin recruiting on campus. The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life will assist with the process.

Expansion Committee

The Expansion Committee purpose is:

- To consider the opportunity for fraternity and/or sorority growth at Valdosta State;
- To make recommendations to the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life as to which organization(s) will most benefit the fraternity and sorority community;
- To provide justifications for expansion based on various factors.

Expansion Committee Membership

- President or representative from each fraternity/sorority council (IFC, MGC, NPHC, and PHA)
- Five (5) members of the fraternity & sorority community
- Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life

(ex-officio) Duties of the Expansion Committee

The Expansion Committee will make a recommendation to the Assistant Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life regarding expansion. The Expansion Committee will utilize multiple factors in making this determination, including but not limited to: success of the past expansion efforts, recruitment/intake statistics, human, financial, and facility resources.

The expansion plan is given to the Assistant Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life who will make the final decision about whether expansion will occur. In the event that expansion will be pursued, the Expansion Committee will follow the procedure below to determine the specific organization(s) invited to campus.

Expansion Committee Quorum

- Voting may only occur when there is quorum, which is established as 50% plus one
- The decision to expand requires a 2/3 vote of the committee members present

Expansion Committee Meetings:

The Expansion Committee will meet at least twice a month until a decision is made as to who will be invited to campus for a presentation. Additional meetings may be convened as necessary.

Inter/National Organization Presentation

Selected organization will be invited to campus to give a presentation to the Expansion Committee. Organization will be given the option to do an in person presentation or a virtual presentation. The Presentation should include the following information:

- Brief history and purpose of the organization.
- Cost expectations for members.
- Detailed description of how the organization will benefit Valdosta State.
- Detailed description of how the organization will benefit the fraternity and sorority community.
- Expected colony and chartering timeline.
- Number of active alumni in the Valdosta/Tallahassee area.

- Requirements for membership within the organization.
- Relations that can be built within the governing council, the university, and surrounding communities.

Decision Making Process

The Expansion committee will review the expansion packet, the presentation and then vote to recommend extending an invitation to colonize. When multiple organizations under one council submit materials to seek expansion, the Expansion Committee will create a list of the order in which to invite to colonize or charter and will provide an estimated timeline.

The final decision on whether or not to expand and/or the order in which organizations will be invited to colonize will be made by the Assistant Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life.

Once a decision has been made, a letter will be issued from Fraternity and Sorority Life. Organizations invited to colonize will be allowed to begin recruiting on campus. Fraternity and Sorority Life will assist with the process.

Special Notes

The College Panhellenic Council shall use the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) Extension procedures, outlined in the NPC Manual of Information, as a guide in facilitating the expansion process. The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life will provide this information, if needed