Greek Life Handbook & Risk Management Policy

For the Interfraternity, National Pan-Hellenic, Multicultural and College Panhellenic Fraternities and Sororities at Valdosta State University

Adopted: 2004

Revised: 2019

The Interfraternity, National Pan-Hellenic, Multicultural and College Panhellenic Councils are registered student organizations at Valdosta State University. Registration shall not be construed as approval, endorsement or sponsorship by Valdosta State University of the student organization’s publications, activities, purposes, actions or position.
The following policy has been revised to assist chapters in the areas of Greek policy awareness, event management, responsible member behavior and decision-making, reducing legal liability, and providing a healthy and safe environment for members and guests.

Throughout this policy, the term "off-campus" refers to any location not in or on the property of Valdosta State University or the VSU Foundation. The term "fraternity" refers inclusively to both men's fraternities and women's sororities, unless otherwise stated. The terms "IFC," "NPHC", “MGC,” and "CPC" refer to the Interfraternity Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Multicultural Council, and the College Panhellenic Council respectively.

**CHAPTER OFFICERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EDUCATION OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS, INCLUDING NEW MEMBERS AND ALUMNI/AE ABOUT THESE POLICIES.** The chapter President and Risk Management/Social Chair are responsible for educating all Active, New/Associate, and Alumni/ae members about responsible event management and these policies. Ignorance is not tolerated, and chapters may be held responsible for the actions of members and guests. It is recommended that these policies be reviewed regularly at chapter and new member meetings, and prior to coordinating any event.

**Shared Responsibility:** Any student, who knowingly acts in concert to violate University regulations, may be held jointly responsible for such violations. Students are responsible for the conduct of their guests on or in University property and at functions registered by the University or any student organization.

**Organization’s Shared Responsibility:** Any student organization will be held responsible for the behavior of their members, whether they are current students, alumni/ae or guests, when their actions evolve from or are in any way related to their association with or activities of the organization. Student organizations which condone or encourage behavior which violates University or state regulations may be given joint responsibility for such violations.
1. Adhere to the principles and ideals contained in your Ritual.
2. Comply with all your national policies (hazing, risk management, meeting attendance at national conventions and leadership schools, new member education, etc.)
3. Attend all training session, retreats, meetings and workshops such as Greek Council, IFC, CPC, MGC, NPHC, etc.
4. Achieve a chapter GPA, that is equal to or exceeds Valdosta State University's all women's or all men's average.
5. Update your chapter roster by the end of finals each semester. This will ensure that you have an accurate roster for scholarship compliance, payment of dues to your respective councils, and verification of membership figures with the national headquarters.
6. Comply with the Greek Risk Management Policy.
7. Submit the names of new members to the Assistant Director for Fraternity and Sorority life after recruitment/intake to have the most accurate roster for posting of recruitment results and for new member seminar attendance figures.
8. Comply with the VSU Greek Life Human Dignity statement both as individuals and as a group.
9. All new members must attend the New Member Risk Management Seminar.
10. NPHC and MGC groups must inform the Assistant Director for Fraternity and Sorority life (prior to intake) of the dates for chapter intake activities. Chapters will have two weeks following the start of their MIP to furnish a list of names to the Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority life which will be kept confidential until after membership showcase.
11. In order to be a registered student group at VSU, groups must have an active advisor and a faculty advisor.
12. All groups will not participate in a little brother/sister program.
13. Comply with the Greek Excellence Program in its entirety.
14. A representative from the chapter and the chapter advisor MUST attend the student organization meeting each fall.
Expectations for the Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority life

1. Maintain the highest standard of personal conduct.
2. Actively promote and encourage the highest level of education within the profession and institution.
3. Maintain loyalty to Valdosta State University and pursue its objectives in ways that are consistent with public interest.
4. Be an advocate for the Greek community to move towards positive change to benefit the goals and aspirations of the students.
5. Strive for excellence in all aspects of management and leadership of Valdosta State University and the Office of Student Life.
6. Serve all students impartially.
7. Be a liaison between the students and institution's administrative.
8. Show continuous support for the Greek community and policies of the university.
9. Cooperate with both the national headquarters of the Greek organizations, as well as the local chapter advisors.
10. Use every opportunity to improve public understanding of the role of Fraternity and Sorority life.

Mission Statement

The office of Fraternity and Sorority life's mission is to promote student development by providing opportunities for scholarship, community service, campus involvement and fraternal friendship by ensuring all members a high-quality and safe undergraduate experience.

At Valdosta State University it is our goal to be a nationally recognized Greek Community. To fulfill this goal, we strive for continuous improvement in all aspects of scholarship, programs, services and operations.
**Scholastic Requirements**

To be eligible to join Fraternity & Sorority Life, a student must fit into one of three categories and meet the requirements listed therein.

**Freshman:**

A first semester freshman must have a minimum 2.5 cumulative high school GPA as calculated by the Office of Admissions.

**Current Students:**

Current Valdosta State University students with an established college GPA may join at any time during their collegiate careers given that they have a cumulative GPA of 2.50 or higher based on 12 or more credit hours and a minimum semester GPA of a 2.50 the semester prior to joining. Students must also be in Good Standing with the University.

**Transfer Students:**

Current Valdosta State University students who transferred to the University with an established college GPA may join at any time during their collegiate careers given that they have a cumulative GPA of 2.50 or higher based on 12 or more credit hours, a minimum semester GPA of a 2.50 the semester prior to joining and successfully completed 12 or more hours at Valdosta State University. Students must also be in Good Standing with the University.

All Greek organizations are required to maintain a minimum chapter grade point average of 2.5 per semester. The average is derived from the roster provided by the Spring Semester and Fall Semester deadlines. In regards to Membership Section 1, items 4 and 5 are contingent upon the completion of items 1-3. The Assistant Director of Student Life will be responsible for dictation the sanction and limitation to their probation.

Any organization earning below a 2.5 for one semester:

1. Fined $100.
2. Required to plan and attend an educational program for time management and/or study skills for the following semester.
3. Required to submit and implement a Chapter Scholarship plan.
4. Allowed two social events (including brotherhood, formals, semi-formals, socials, dates nights) for the following semester.
5. Will be allowed to participate in Greek Wide Events such as, but not limited to Greek Week, Greek Stock, Homecoming events, and chapter’s sponsored Philanthropy Week.
6. Any individual member who obtains a cumulative previous semester GPA of less than 2.5 shall not be eligible in any CPC, IFC, MGC, and NPHC activity, excluding the chapter’s sponsored Philanthropy Week. Scholarship requirements can only be adjusted by the Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority life.
Any organization earning below a 2.5 for two consecutive semesters:

1. Fined $100.
2. Placed on Social Probation for that semester (Please see section 9 of the Risk Management Policy for a definition of Social Probation).
3. Required to submit and implement a Chapter Scholarship plan.
4. Will not be allowed to participate in Greek Wide Events, such as Greek Week and Greek Stock, and Homecoming events.
5. Any individual member who obtains a cumulative previous semester GPA of less than 2.5 shall not be eligible in any CPC, IFC, MGC, and NPHC activity, excluding the chapter’s sponsored Philanthropy Week. Scholarship requirements can only be adjusted by the Assistant Director of Student Life.

**Greek Event Calendar or Closed Calendar**

The chapters will be able to place dates on the calendar during the first President’s Roundtable meeting of the semester. The order in which chapters can put their events on the calendar changes each semester based on the previous semester’s GPA. In the event that organizations have the same GPA for the previous semester, community service hours will be the deciding factor.

There cannot be more than 2 social events per day during the week (Monday - Thursday) & no more than 4 events (2 per council) during the weekend (Friday – Sunday).

If it is something minor, the chapter requesting to add to the date must have permission from each of the other chapters that have something scheduled.
I. Required Paperwork

Chapters will be required to submit a variety of Paperwork to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life each semester. Failure to turn in this paperwork will result in a fine schedule determined by the chapter’s respective council. This paperwork can be found on the Greek life page of Blazerlink.

**Due Date:** September 15th by 5pm & February 15th by 5pm

**All chapters are required to turn in the following:**

Roster, Faculty Advisor Form, Chapter Officer Contact Form, Human Dignity Statement, and Greek Excellence Packet. For help please reference the checklist.

**Greek Excellence**

- **Excellence**:
  - Letter to national office notifying them of your year’s status and recognized on VSU website

- **Merit**:
  - Letter to national office notifying them of your year’s status

- **Development**:
  - Probation status- chapter on probation status will be required to submit an improvement plan explaining how your chapter will make improvements within the next semester and year to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life by September 15.
  - The Fraternity and Sorority life Office will send a letter to your organization’s national office notifying them of your year’s status. The chapter will also be required to send a letter to the chapter advisor and national chapter explaining how they will improve their chapter status.
  - Your chapter will be put on Tier One Probation status. If the chapter remains in the development stage for two years this will lead to inactive status.

**New Member Process**

All new member education processes shall be conducted in the fall of spring semester of each academic year. The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life considers the start of the new member education process to be the point when the potential new member is being extended an invitation for membership, or bid, by the organization.

Regardless of start date, new member education activities shall end no later than the day prior to the beginning of finals week. There is to be no crossover of new member education activities from semester to semester. The new member education process should not last any longer than what the inter/national headquarters has approved, but under no circumstances should it be longer than **8 weeks**.

The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life retains the right to override any of these policies if deemed in the best interest of student organizations or if there is a concern of safety or wellbeing within the organizations or an individual member of and Valdosta State University Greek Lettered Organizations.
II. **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 CPC), 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 process must be followed:

- The president of the governing council (IFC, MGC, NPHC, or CPC) must schedule a meeting with the Assistant Director of Fraternity and 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 and 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 and 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 CPC)
- 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 and 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.
III. Alcohol and Hazing (Also see Risk Management Policy online)

1. Students’ possession or transportation of alcoholic beverages under the age of 21 is prohibited.

2. If a student is under the age of 21 and determined to be under the influence of alcohol he/she will be cited for underage consumption of alcohol and referred to the appropriate authorities for disposition by the appropriate disciplinary process.

3. A student in an intoxicated state will be cited and referred to the appropriate authorities for disposition by the appropriate disciplinary process.

4. The consumption of alcoholic beverages or possession of an open container of an alcoholic beverage on University property is prohibited in public areas. (A public area is defined as any area outside of an individual’s living quarters.) Students who publicly consume alcohol or possess an open container of alcoholic beverage on University property are considered in violation of this policy.

5. No student shall furnish or cause to be furnished any alcoholic beverage to any person under the legal drinking age of 21.

6. The serving of alcohol to someone visibly intoxicated, and/or the facilitating of drinking competitions or games involving the consumption of alcohol is prohibited.

7. No common source containers of alcoholic beverages e.g. beer kegs, hunch-punch, etc., may be present at any registered University organization event.

8. No alcohol may be purchased with student activity fee funds or chapter funds.

Hazing

Valdosta State University's Student Code of Conduct, Section J, Hazing.

J. Hazing This policy applies to all Valdosta State University students, clubs, and student organizations. Hazing includes, but is not limited to, acts of servitude and or behavior that humiliates, degrades, embarrasses, harasses or ridicules an individual, or is otherwise harmful or potentially harmful to an individual’s physical, emotional, or psychological well-being, as an actual or apparent condition for initial or continued affiliation with any group. A student or organization violates this standard regardless of either the lack of intent to cause harm or the hazed individual’s own willingness to participate and regardless of whether the actions took place on or off campus. Unless affirmative steps were taken by the responding student or organization to prevent the hazing behavior, conduct charges may be brought against the group, officers of the group, and members of the group who are deemed to have encouraged the behavior, in addition to any conduct action against persons who engaged in the hazing behavior.
IV.  

**Events Policy**

The Office of Fraternity and Sorority life defines the following five types of events. An event is defined as such if it meets one or more of the following criteria. Each event type defined below includes possible examples but is not limited to those examples.

1. **Recruitment/Intake Events**
   a. Events where the primary focus is to educate potential new members on the benefit of membership
      i. Informational events
      ii. Orientation
      iii. Open house
      iv. Interest meetings
   b. Events where the primary focus is to extend membership to join an organization
      i. CPC or IFC Recruitment
      ii. MGC or NPHC Intake rush meetings

2. **Educational Events**
   a. Events where the primary focus is to educate the audience on a specific topic
      i. Lectures
      ii. Public Forums

3. **Philanthropic or Community Service Events**
   a. Events where the primary focus is to raise money for a chapter specific philanthropy
   b. Events where the primary focus is to dedicate time and service to an outside organization or group of people

4. **New Member Education**
   a. Events where the primary focus is to educate new members on the history and ritual of the organization
      i. New Member Meetings
      ii. Educational Meetings

5. **Social Events**
   a. Events where the primary focus is social in nature
   b. Events where alcohol is present
   c. Events where no formal agenda or program is provided
   d. Events where admission is charged
   e. Events open to non-VSU students or community members
      i. Parties/Mixers/Socials
      ii. Step Shows/Dance Competitions
      iii. Founder’s Day Events
      iv. Brotherhoods/Sisterhoods
      v. Parent’s Weekend
      vi. Pageants

**Events with Alcohol Policy:**

The Student Life Office recommends that all events were alcohol is present take place at an insured and certified third party vendor. It is the event host’s responsibility to implement a sound risk management plan and ensure all social events taking place where alcohol is present conform to the following standards as well as the Valdosta State University Alcohol Policy stated in the Student Code of Conduct:

1. Social fraternities and sororities at Valdosta State University may not host, financially support or participate in any event open to the general public where alcohol is permitted. Any exception must
be reviewed in consultation with the Director of Student Life at least 72 hours prior to the beginning of the event. Fraternities and sororities may host closed events where alcohol may be present and where invited guests may be in attendance, subject to compliance with state and federal law, local ordinances and University regulations.

2. All social events where alcohol is present will be private events. A private invite is limited to the members of the host organization and their invited guest. The event must also be BYOB (bring your own beverage) or closed functions using a third party vendor to handle the alcohol. The host organization cannot purchase alcohol with organizational funds or participate in the purchase of alcohol in any other manner (no bar tabs, use of personal checking accounts, pooling of funds or “passing the hat,” etc.).

3. Alcohol products above 15% ABV are PROHIBITED in any chapter facility or at any chapter event, except when served by a licensed third-party vendor.

4. The total number of persons present may not exceed three times the membership of one host organization or 100 guests, whichever is greater. Any exception must be reviewed in consultation with the Director of Student Life at least 72 hours prior to the beginning of the event.

5. The event, on or off campus, must be registered with the Fraternity and Sorority life Office at least 72 hours prior to the beginning of the event.

6. A sign shall be conspicuously displayed at all entrances indicating the event is restricted to members and invited guests and stating the ending time of the event.

7. If alcohol and invited guests are present at an event, the host organization must provide adequate identifiable security personnel or other security measures to ensure the safety of others in attendance during the entire event, including the 30 minute allowance for crowd dispersion at the end of the event.

8. Advertising on campus or social media of a social event where alcohol may be present is prohibited.

9. Each person attending the event is responsible for bringing his/her own alcohol for personal consumption (no more than one six pack of beer per person). Underage persons may not bring alcohol into any social event hosted by a fraternity or sorority. The fraternity or sorority is responsible for ensuring individuals bring in and consume only their own alcohol.

10. Fraternities and sororities are responsible for taking steps necessary to prevent uninvited guests and noticeably intoxicated people from entering the event; to prevent underage persons from bringing alcohol into the event; to prevent persons from leaving the event to drink, then being readmitted to the event; and to make certain individuals do not leave the event with open containers of alcohol.

11. All common source containers of alcohol, including but not limited to, kegs, community coolers (cooler shared with others), punch bowls, bulk quantities, and any other container that may be shared with others, are prohibited.

12. All entrances and exits to the event must be monitored at all times. ALL registered organizations hosting a private party are responsible for providing a certified law enforcement officer to check
IDs of all those attending to assure compliance with the State of Georgia’s legal drinking age requirements.

13. Glass bottles are strictly prohibited at any social event, unless provided by a third party vendor.

14. The host organization is responsible for ensuring that a safe means of transportation is available for its member and guests such as cabs or designated drivers.

15. Fraternities and sororities must also conform to all standards established by their respective national organizations regarding social events with alcohol present.

16. Any outdoor event must be registered with the Valdosta-Lowndes County Police Department or other local municipalities, where required, if the event does not occur on University property.

17. All social event forms are to be turned into the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. Compliance to these policies is the responsibility of the host social organization.

Failure to comply with this policy may result in referral of the student organization to Judicial Affairs. Any questions should be directed to the Director of Student Life or his/her designee.
V. **Blazerlink**

- All Greek social organizations are required to use and be familiar with Blazerlink. More information on how to get started with Blazerlink is available in the Student Organization Manual.
- Social Event Registration forms will ONLY be accepted on Blazerlink.

It is each chapter’s responsibility to comply with the following policies. Failure to do so will result in sanctions by the Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority life.

**Regaining active status**

- If your chapter becomes inactive the following steps must be taken to regain active status on campus.

  **You will have one semester to meet these goals once inactive status has been set.**
  - Have a semester average GPA of 2.5.
  - The chapter must have an active chapter advisor.
  - All fines and forms must be completed at the end of each term.
  - Any debts to the University or Student Life must be paid in full.
  - Organization must be approved by review committee for student organizations.

- If your chapter has been inactive due to Academic Probation, your chapter must meet the above requirements and will be reinstated to campus on Tier 1 of probation.
Risk Management Policy
For the Interfraternity, National Pan-Hellenic, Multicultural and College Panhellenic Fraternities
And Sororities at Valdosta State University
HAZING POLICY

Valdosta State University expects that all members of all recognized student organizations will observe and fully comply with the State of Georgia Education Code requirements on hazing. In addition, all students are expected to adhere to regulations set forth by their respective (Inter) National fraternities, *IFC, NPHC, MGC and CPC councils,* and University policies concerning practices commonly referred to as hazing. Individuals can report hazing anonymously at any time through the Student Conduct Incident Report found on the Student Conduct Office and Fraternity and Sorority Life website. Individuals can also report anonymously to the Hazing Hotline at 1-888-NOT-HAZE. All reports and calls will be handled confidentially. We thank all those willing to help stop hazing in our community by reporting acts of hazing that they may be aware of on our campus.

**Valdosta State University's Student Code of Conduct, Section J, Hazing.**

J. Hazing This policy applies to all Valdosta State University students, clubs, and student organizations. Hazing includes, but is not limited to, acts of servitude and or behavior that humiliates, degrades, embarrasses, harasses or ridicules an individual, or is otherwise harmful or potentially harmful to an individual’s physical, emotional, or psychological well-being, as an actual or apparent condition for initial or continued affiliation with any group. A student or organization violates this standard regardless of either the lack of intent to cause harm or the hazed individual’s own willingness to participate and regardless of whether the actions took place on or off campus. Unless affirmative steps were taken by the responding student or organization to prevent the hazing behavior, conduct charges may be brought against the group, officers of the group, and members of the group who are deemed to have encouraged the behavior, in addition to any conduct action against persons who engaged in the hazing behavior.

**FIPG Policy on Hazing**

No chapter, colony, student or alumnus should conduct, participate in or condone hazing activities. Permission or approval by a person being hazed is not a defense. Hazing activities are defined as: "Any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off fraternity premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Such activities may include but are not limited to the following: use of alcohol, paddling in any form, creation of excessive fatigue, physical and psychological shocks, quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips or any other such activities carried on outside or inside of the confines of the chapter house; wearing of public apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste, engaging in public stunts and buffoonery, morally degrading or humiliating games and activities, and any other activities which are not consistent with academic achievement, fraternal law, ritual or policy or the regulations and policies of the educational institution or applicable state law."
Georgia State Law 16-5-61. Hazing

(a) As used in this Code section, the term:

(1) "Haze" means to subject a student to an activity which endangers or is likely to endanger the physical health of a student, regardless of a student's willingness to participate in such activity.

(2) "School" means any school, college, or university in this state.

(3) "School organization" means any club, society, fraternity, sorority, or a group living together which has students as its principal members.

(4) "Student" means any person enrolled in a school in this state.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to haze any student in connection with or as a condition or precondition of gaining acceptance, membership, office, or other status in a school organization.

(c) Any person who violates this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

The following is a NON-INCLUSIVE list of fraternity or sorority activities considered to be hazing.

1. Calisthenics — such as sit-ups and push-ups.

2. Total or partial nudity at any time in which the new member is told, encouraged, or some form of the above to expose parts of themselves in public.

3. Wearing or carrying items such as helmets, coconuts, burlap bags, paddles, rocks, etc.
   a. Dropping food (eggs, grapes, liver, etc.) into the mouths of associates or pledges.

4. Paddle swats.

5. Extremely loud music or many repetitions of the same music played during pre-initiation week and/or between portions of the ritual.

6. Throwing whipped cream, water, paints, eggs, etc., on an associate member or pledge.

7. Pushing, shoving or tackling associates.

8. Associate members or pledges awakened during the night.

9. Call-outs requiring pledges or new members to meet at a certain place at a certain time.

10. Forcing alcoholic beverages on a member who does not wish to drink.

11. Line-up of the associate member/pledge class in order to quiz members under pressure, interrogate, berate, etc.
12. Required eating of raw onion, spoiled food, etc.

13. Road trips and kidnaps of associate members or pledges.


15. Putting associate members or pledges in a room which is uncomfortable (temperature, noise, too small) during pre-initiation activities or between portions of the ritual.

16. Personal errands run by associate members or pledges for the active members.

17. Assigning "pranks" such as stealing, painting objects, panty raids harassing other organizations.

18. Active members intentionally messing up the house or rooms for the associate members/pledges to clean.

19. Calling associates "scums" or similar names.

20. Less than six (6) continuous hours of sleep for associate members/pledges each night during pre-initiation periods.

21. Associate members/pledges are not permitted adequate time for studies during pre-initiation or initiation periods.

22. Yelling and/or screaming, or use of obscenities, at associates members/and or pledges.

23. Lengthy work sessions that limit sleep, take time away from academics, etc.

24. Associate members/pledges expected to do anything that the active members say.

25. Running stairs while reciting fraternity material.

26. Purposeless runs for the sake of creating "unity."

27. Telling associate members/pledges they have failed by snuffing out candles in front of them.

28. Blindfolding associate members/pledges and telling them to do certain things.

29. Bracing and finger-snapping in an associate member/pledges ear.

30. Exposure to extreme climate changes.

31. Verbal abuse.

32. Any activity not consistent with the policies of your (Inter)National organization, the University and/or the
2 SEXUAL ABUSE POLICY

The IFC, NPHC, MGC, and CPC will not tolerate or condone any form of sexually abusive behavior on the part of its members, whether physical, mental or emotional. This is to include any actions which are demeaning to any person including but not limited to date rape, gang rape, sexual or verbal harassment.

Sexual Harassment Pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, "sexual harassment" is defined as: Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, when:

- Submission to such conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or status in a course, program or activity;
- Submission or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or educational decisions affecting such individual; or
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity.

Examples of sexual harassment may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Physical Assault.
- Direct or implied threats that submission to sexual advances will be a condition of employment, work status, compensation, promotion, grades, or letters of recommendation.
- Sexual advances, physical or implied, or direct propositions of a sexual nature. This activity may include inappropriate/unnecessary touching or rubbing against another, sexually suggestive or degrading jokes or comments, remarks of a sexual nature about one's clothing and/or body, preferential treatment in exchange for sexual activity, and the inappropriate display of sexually explicit pictures, text, printed materials, or objects that do not serve an academic purpose.
- A pattern of conduct, which can be subtle in nature that has sexual overtones and is intended to create or has the effect of creating discomfort and/or that, humiliates another.
- Remarks speculating about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history that does not serve a medical or academic purpose.

Sexual harassment can occur regardless of the relationship, position or respective sex of the parties. Same sex harassment violates this policy, as does harassment by a student of a faculty member or a subordinate employee of his/her supervisor.
AUXILIARY GROUPS POLICY

From Valdosta State University's Student Organization Regulations, Section O, Auxiliary Groups:

The North-American Interfraternity Conference (as of 1987), the National Panhellenic Conference (as of 1988) and the member organizations of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. urge and recommend that member organizations work to eliminate auxiliary or "little sister/little brother" programs.

Valdosta State University formally recognizes the request from these national organizations and their national presidents and hereby prohibits the formation of auxiliary group on the campus. Any organization believed to be acting as an auxiliary group shall be prohibited from using University facilities. The Office of Fraternity and Sorority life will contact the national organization of the group in connection with the auxiliary immediately.

Any organization alleged to have violated this policy will be referred to the Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students via the Office of Student Conduct.
D. Disruptive Behavior The Board of Regents (BOR) Policy Manual Section 12.2 regarding disruptive behavior states: "Any student, faculty member, administrator, or employee, acting individually or in concert with others, who clearly obstructs or disrupts, or attempts to obstruct or disrupt any teaching, research, administrative, disciplinary, or public service activity, or any other activity authorized to be discharged or held at any campus of the University System of Georgia is considered by the Board to have committed an act of gross irresponsibility and shall be subject to disciplinary procedures, possibly resulting in dismissal or termination of employment.

1. No one shall assemble on campus for the purpose of creating a riot, or causing destruction of property, or creating a disorderly diversion, which interferes with the normal operation of the University. This section should not be construed to deny any student the right of peaceful, non-disruptive assembly per the policies set forth in Appendix D Section IV of this code.

2. No student or group of students shall obstruct the free movement of people about the campus, interfere with the use of University facilities, or materially interfere with the normal operation of the University.

3. The abuse or unauthorized use of sound amplification equipment indoors or outdoors during classroom hours is prohibited. (Any use of sound amplification equipment must be cleared through the Event Services Office.)
ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS POLICY

The possession, sale, use or consumption of ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, while on chapter premises or during a fraternity event, in any situation sponsored or endorsed by the chapter, or at any event an observer would associate with the fraternity, must be in compliance with all applicable laws of the state, county, city and Valdosta State University, and must comply with either the BYOB or Third Party Vendor Guidelines.

A. No alcoholic beverages may be purchased through chapter funds nor may the purchase of same for members or guests be undertaken or coordinated by any member in the name of, or on behalf of, the chapter.

B. The purchase or use of bulk quantity or common sources of alcoholic beverages, (e.g. kegs, cases, alcoholic punch, tubs filled with cans, trucks filled with cans, etc.) is strictly prohibited.

C. No members, collectively or individually, shall purchase for, serve to, or sell alcoholic beverages to any minor (anyone under the legal drinking age of 21).

D. Anyone under the age of 21 is not allowed to drink according to Georgia State Law.

E. No chapter may co-sponsor an event with an alcohol distributor, charitable organization or tavern (tavern defined as an establishment generating more than half of annual gross sales from alcohol) where alcohol is given away, sold or otherwise provided to those present.

F. No chapter may co-sponsor or co-finance a function where alcohol is purchased by any of the host chapters, groups or organizations.

G. No chapter may co-sponsor or co-finance a function, fundraiser or philanthropy event that involves alcohol.

H. All recruitment/intake activities associated with any chapter will be a DRY (no alcoholic beverages) recruitment/intake function.

I. No member shall permit, tolerate, encourage or participate in an activity which could be construed as a "drinking game."

J. No alcohol shall be present at any pledge/associate member/new member/novice program, activity, social or ritual of the chapter.

K. Public intoxication on campus is prohibited.

L. Driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs is prohibited.
M. The possession, sale and/or use of any ILLEGAL DRUGS, CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES and/or DRUG PARAPHERNALIA, at any chapter house, sponsored event or at any event that an observer would associate with the fraternity/sorority, is strictly prohibited.

N. The possession or use, (without valid medical or dental prescription), manufacture, distribution, or sale of any drug controlled by federal or Georgia law is prohibited.
SOCIAL EVENT PROCEDURES

The following procedures are to be followed for each social event for Greek-letter social fraternities/sororities for all social events. In addition, each organization is responsible for following its own inter/national organizational and chapter policies concerning risk management and social events. The Fraternal Information & Programming Group (FIPG) is currently used by Fraternity and Sorority Life to inform requirements for Social Event Policy, registration, and risk management practice.

FIPG Risk Management Policy (fipg.org) boasts a mission to be the leading resource of risk management education, programming, and information to the broad based constituency involved in all aspects of Fraternity and Sorority life. More than fifty national Greek lettered organizations are members of FPIG. The Risk Management Policy of FIPG includes provisions, which shall apply to ALL fraternities and sororities at Valdosta State University. Valdosta State University does not approve, condone, or is responsible for any social events.

A social event is defined as:

- Events where the primary focus is social in nature
- Events where alcohol is present
- Events where no formal agenda or program is provided
- Events where admission is charged
- Events open to non-VSU students or community members
  - Parties/Mixers/Socials
  - Step Shows/Dance Competitions
  - Founder’s Day Events

I. Registration of Events

A. All events that meet the criteria of a social event must be registered with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life through Blazerlink

B. A fully completed SOCIAL EVENT REGISTRATION FORM must be submitted to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life via Blazerlink three (3) business days prior to the event.

i. Please note that any event being held on-campus or in a fraternity/sorority residence will require that a copy of the Event Registration Form be sent to the Valdosta State Police Department by the Assistant Director for Fraternity and Sorority Life in an effort to promote a culture of safety.

ii. Events will not be approved until the completed form with all the required information and signatures are acquired and submitted by the deadlines listed below:

- **FRIDAY, SATURDAY, OR SUNDAY event**: Form due prior **Tuesday by 5:00 PM**
- **MONDAY evening event**: Form due prior **Wednesday by 5:00 PM**.
- **TUESDAY evening event**: Form due prior **Thursday by 5:00 PM**.
- **WEDNESDAY evening event**: Form due prior **Friday by 3:00 PM**
• **THURSDAY evening event**: Form due prior *Monday* by 5:00 PM

C. For events with Alcohol Present:
   i. A pre-determined guest list must be submitted to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life three (3) business days prior to the event.
   ii. The guest list should clearly show the names of the guests expected to attend the event.
   iii. Chapters may not use chapter rosters, phone books, phone trees, or any other pre-existing chapter information to complete guest lists for non-members attending events.
   iv. Chapters must compile guest list information on an individual, invitational basis.

D. Social Event Registration Forms may be obtained from in the “Forms” section of Blazerlink.

E. No event may be labeled or titled “party” nor include inappropriate or suggestive titles or themes.
   i. Chapters may face loss of recognition as a result of poorly chosen titles or themes. By avoiding racially and culturally sensitive words and themes, fraternity and sorority members can prove respect for, and acceptance of, the communities in which they live.

G. The chapter representative submitting the form **must** be present at the event and must be one of the sober hosts listed.

I. **“First 14 Day Rule”**: No chapter shall be allowed to host events with alcohol during the first fourteen (14) days of the fall semester. This is an intentional effort to allow the chapter members to return to academic focus after time away from campus and to ensure that there is time to train and educate new members. During the First 14 days of the Fall semester, chapter members are encouraged to attend Fall Explosion events, plan for the semester, get settled into course work and activities. The ‘Frist 14 days’ shall begin on the first day of fall classes and shall end on the fifteenth day following.

II. **Time of Social Events**
   A. No chapter shall be allowed to host social events with alcohol until:
      1. 80% of the active chapter members successfully complete the online Risk Management Education
      2. The chapter has submitted a copy of the Risk Management Policy Statement of Understanding signed by all chapter officers and advisor
   
   B. Weekday events (Sunday - Thursday) must end by 12 Midnight.
   
   C. Weekend events (Friday and Saturday) must end by 2 AM.
D. From the time the event is officially over, thirty (30) minutes is allowed to send all guests home.

E. Security officers must stay until all guests have departed.

III. Noise Restrictions

In order to maintain good neighborhood relations, the following noise restrictions are necessary.

A. Time Restrictions

i. During weekday events (Sunday - Thursday) all amplified sound and music inside the house must end by 12 Midnight.

ii. During weekend events (Friday and Saturday) all amplified sound and music (band or amplifier) inside the house is not permitted after 1:30 AM.

iii. No outdoor events involving bands or other forms of amplified music are allowed from 7:00 PM Sunday to 7:00 PM Friday. Exceptions may be appealed to the Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority life.

iv. Outdoor events on Fridays or Saturdays must cease by 12 Midnight. Indoor events may continue until 2 AM.

v. At all times, sound levels must be such that neighbors are not disturbed.

vi. The organization must follow all city laws and municipal ordinances with regard to noise levels and sound.

IV. Event Clean Up

A. **30 minutes following an event** the yard, parking lot, sidewalk, porch, and entire street area must be cleaned and free of debris.

B. If the event is multi-day (i.e. Friday and Saturday), the clean-up is to be done each day of the each event.

C. Each organization is responsible for keeping its area clean and free of debris.

D. Failure to abide with the event clean up policy will result in chapter or individual sanctioning as determined by the levels of sanctions found in the Greek Life Handbook.

E. Repeat offenders will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct, which may include but is not limited to loss of privilege as a student organization.
F. Clean-up procedures apply to any additional parking areas or University/community parking lots that have been used by the chapter or chapter guests as part of the event.

V. Guidelines for Events with Alcohol Present

The following guidelines must be used by organizations and security companies when assigning duties and task during events. Security companies should be supported by members of the organization in duties except when physical force is necessary to enforce rules and regulations.

The Host Organization is responsible for the event and for the enforcement of these policies and procedures as well as those of its (International organization.

VI. Advertisement or Promotion of Events

A. Events with alcohol present may not be advertised in any way (i.e. sheet signs, flyers, palm cards, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.)

B. Specific invitations must be issued directly to individual guests.

VII. Guest Management and Safety

A. Only invited guests from the submitted and approved Guest List should be admitted to the event. Changes in the Guest List should be noted properly and should be substituted on a person-for-person basis.

B. For events at an organization's house, an organization may invite three (3) guests per member. (50 members x 3 = 150 guests, 150 guests + 50 members = 200 total attendees). For larger events, organizations should secure a facility that can accommodate large functions.

C. EXCEPTION: For special events such as Homecoming, Parent/Family Weekends, and Alumni Events, an exception to the guest limit MAY be granted on a case-by-case basis. This request must be indicated on the Social Event Registration Form, received 3 business days prior to the event date, and be approved by the Assistant Director for Fraternity and Sorority life prior to sending invitations.

D. When the attendee total has been reached, no one else may be admitted. Persons leaving the event DO NOT create a vacancy for others to enter.

E. All guests and members must sign in at the check-in table, present identification, and receive the proper wristband or security stamp.

F. For guest safety and event control, members and guests may not linger in parking areas. Attendees should be inside the event area (inside the house or inside fenced area), not hanging out in unsecured areas.
G. It may be necessary to put up temporary fencing to create a secure and controllable event environment. There is to be only one point of entrance for all members and guests. All temporary fencing must be removed 30 minutes after close of event.

H. When the event closes, those waiting for safe drivers should wait INSIDE. No music or other disturbance is permitted. These individuals should be transported away from the venue as soon as possible by sober transportation or taxi cab service.

VIII. Wristbands

The following guidelines are to be followed for social events with alcohol at a chapter house:

A. All members and guests must wear a wristband or a unique method such as a black light stamp issued by security or sober event monitor indicating whether or not they are over 21 or under 21.

B. EXCEPTION: At certain events such as Parent's Day or an alumni/ae function, those individuals who are obviously over the age of 35 may be admitted without a wristband IF THEY ARE PROVIDED A NAMETAG INDICATING THEY ARE ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND THE EVENT. This exception must be requested on the Social Event Registration Form submitted to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority life.

C. Underage drinking is to be monitored and stopped if it occurs. Individuals found in violation may receive a warning for the first violation. After a second violation, the individual should be removed from the event. SECURITY GUARDS SHOULD BE UTILIZED TO ESCORT INDIVIDUALS FROM THE EVENT, NOT MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION. At no time should members of the organization attempt to physically handle an individual.

The following guidelines are for events held at a third party vendor:

D. If the event is held at a licensed premise (bar) which is closed to all but invited guests, participants should be provided wristbands or a stamp in the normal manner; however no alcohol may be brought into the event by attendees.

E. Alcohol must be dispensed from a cash bar provided by the management of the establishment. Alcohol may be dispensed only on an individual drink basis. No pitchers or punch bowls.

F. If the licensed premise (bar) admits those not invited, the party is to be closed immediately.

G. Underage drinking is to be monitored and stopped if it occurs. Individuals found in violation may receive a warning for the first violation. After a second violation, the individual should be removed from the event. SECURITY GUARDS SHOULD BE UTILIZED TO ESCORT INDIVIDUALS FROM THE EVENT, NOT MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION. At no time should members of the organization attempt to physically handle an individual.
IX. Sign-In Lists

A. All members, new members and guests must sign in by swiping their VSU 1Card upon entrance to the event through a registered event in Blazerlink
   a. If a guest is not a VSU student, he or she must sign in on a physical sign in sheet.

B. The sign in list from each event must be printed and submitted to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority life within two (2) business days of the event.

C. The organization will not be allowed to host another event until the sign in list is submitted.

X. Alcohol Management

A. All events are BYOB or Third Party Vendor. No alcohol may be served or sold by the host organization at any time.

B. If the event is BYOB, only those over the age of 21 are permitted to bring alcohol to the event.

C. BYOB guidelines (please reference the FIPG Risk Management Manual) provide that an individual of legal age may bring one six-pack of twelve-ounce beers or one four-pack of wine coolers for personal consumption only.

D. There shall be no common source containers for alcohol. A common source is defined as an open access, un-monitored that holds copious amounts of alcohol such as Kegs, 5 gallon drums, buckets, hot tubs, pools, coolers, party-balls, cases, jugs, barrels, troughs, etc. (please reference the FIPG Risk Management Manual)

E. If the event is Third Party Vendor, only those who are 21 may purchase or consume alcohol.

F. Alcohol products above 15% ABV are PROHIBITED in any chapter facility or at any chapter event, except when served by a licensed third-party vendor.

XI. Event Management

A. The event will begin at the designated time and will end at the designated time. Event may be closed early if problems occur.

B. Security personnel may not leave until all guests have left and the event is closed.

C. All federal, state, and local laws as well as university rules and regulations must be followed.
D. Organization officers and members should always cooperate with the security officers in enforcing laws and campus rules and regulations.

E. Officers and designated individuals should take action when they see problems occurring, not wait for others to bring the situation to their attention.

F. Persons waiting on safe rides must wait inside the house and not cause any disturbance. These persons must be transported as soon as possible. SECURITY OFFICERS MAY NOT LEAVE UNTIL ALL THESE INDIVIDUALS HAVE DEPARTED.

XII. Sober Event Monitor and Safe Drivers

Sober monitors and safe drivers should not register a BAC (Blood Alcohol Content) if they were to be checked by Valdosta State University Police, Valdosta City Police, Lowndes County Sheriff Department and/or Georgia State Police. The event may not begin and will be shut down if any sober monitor listed on the Event Registration Form registers a BAC.

A. Sober Event Monitors
   i. 20% of the chapter must be sober and present for the entire event (unless specifically state otherwise by a National Organization).
   ii. At least one monitor should assist security at the check-in table with guest admission. The remaining monitors should assist security officers in patrolling the event, directing guests and members to the check-in table, keeping guests inside the party or getting their ride home.

B. Safe Drivers
   i. Three (3) Safe Drivers must be present for the entire event.
   ii. Pledges, provisional members, associate members, new members, candidates, etc. may not serve as safe drivers unless an equal number of initiated members are required to drive also.
   iii. There should be sufficient number of safe drivers available along with other transportation options (cab service, rented van/bus).

XIII. Number of Security Officers Required

A. Social Events at Chapter Houses
   i. A minimum of one (1) security officer (which is defined as a certified State of Georgia police officer or an officer approved by VSU police) must supervise the
checking of guest lists, identification, and the putting on of wristbands or stamp for those attending the event.

ii. A minimum of one (1) security officer (which is defined as a certified State of Georgia police officer or an officer approved by VSU police) is to be inside the event observing the behavior of participants and assisting with safety wherever needed.

B. Social Events at Third Party Vendors

i. A minimum of one (1) security officer (which is defined as a certified State of Georgia police officer or an officer approved by VSU police) must supervise the checking of guest lists, identification, and the putting on of wristbands or stamps for those attending the event.

ii. If security is provided by the establishment, the organization may use it in addition to the one (1) officer at the door, if allowed by organization policy.

iii. If security is not provided by the establishment, then at least two (2) guards must be hired to patrol inside the event (for a minimum of three (3) officers).

XIV. Expectation of Security Officers

A. Officers should arrive at the event thirty (30) minutes prior to stated start time and meet with all of the organization's sober monitors and drivers, discuss event security, and receive the wristbands or stamps from the organization. They must identify the chapter officer responsible for the event and the security officer in charge.

B. The organization's monitors should assist security in monitoring the event and determination of guest admission, as well as any problems that arise. In addition, the security officers should assist the monitors in dissolving any issues that may arise.

C. Security Guards (which is defined as a certified State of Georgia police officer or an officer approved by VSU police) should check identification and issue wristbands or stamps to members and guests.

D. Particular attention is to be given to the consumption of alcoholic beverages by those not 21 years of age. If underage persons are observed, the alcohol is to be taken from the individual. If the same individual is again found in possession of alcohol, that person is to be escorted from the event and not readmitted.
E. Persons found without wristbands or stamps should be asked to leave the event immediately (the only exception is listed in Section VIII B).

F. At large events, additional security may be necessary to help patrol the event and parking lot.

G. When behavior warrants, the security officer should call the proper authorities and have the individual(s) involved arrested.

H. When gross violations of regulations occur, the security officer in charge should inform the officers of the organization of the fact and if corrective action is not immediately taken, the event should be closed. If the organization refuses to cooperate, the security officer should call the applicable law enforcement agency: University Police, Valdosta City Police or Lowndes County Sheriff Department.

I. Security officers (which is defined as a certified State of Georgia police officer or an officer approved by VSU police) may be required to appear before a University Judicial Board as witness.

XV. Third Party Vendor Regulations

A. The Third Party Vendor must be properly licensed by the appropriate local and state authority. This may involve both a liquor license and a temporary license to sell on the premises where the function is to be held.

B. The Third Party Vendor must be properly insured with a minimum of $1,000,000 of general liability insurance, evidenced by a properly completed certificate of insurance, prepared by the insurance provider.

C. Third Party Vendors must agree in writing to cash sales only, collected by the vendor, during the function.

D. The Third Party Vendor must assume in writing all the responsibilities that any other server of alcoholic beverages would assume in the normal course of business, including but not limited to:

   i. Checking identification cards upon entry, unless the organization has hired security to complete this task.

   ii. Not serving minors (those individuals under the age of 21).

   iii. Not serving individuals that appear to be intoxicated.

   iv. Maintaining absolute control of ALL alcoholic containers present.
v. Collecting all remaining alcohol at the end of a function (no excess alcohol, opened or unopened, is to be given, sold or furnished to the chapter).

vi. Removing all alcohol from the premises.
How to Determine a Chapter Event

Chapter events are defined as events where chapter or provisional group members are present and the general perception is that the event is chapter or provisional group related. If you answer yes to just one of these questions then it qualifies as a chapter event.

1. Would an observer associate it with the chapter?
2. Did the incident involve expenditure of chapter funds?
3. Was the purpose of the event to be a party?
4. Did members supply alcohol?
5. Were there a large number of members present with alcohol?
6. Was the event publicized/advertised by the chapter or any individual member(s) of the chapter?
7. Was the perception of the gathering a "party"?
8. Was your chapter name assuming responsibility for the event?
9. Was the chapter advisor, or any of the executive officers of the chapter, aware of the incident before it took place, and did they not prohibit it from taking place; or did not take steps to insure that the activity in question was in compliance with the applicable University policies, local ordinances, or Greek standards of conduct, etc.?
10. Did the chapter advisor, or any of the executive officers of the chapter, knowing the identity of chapter members involved in the incident, refuse(s) to divulge such identity to the appropriate authorities (of the University, the police, the Judicial Board, etc.)?
11. Was the incident actively or passively endorsed by other members of the chapter?
12. Was the event publicized either in written form or by word of mouth as a chapter event?
13. Did the incident take place on chapter property, or occur on/in a location which has been contracted for by the chapter or in private residence for the purpose of holding a chapter-sponsored event?
The following are the guidelines pertaining to proper management of academic risk within a chapter.

I. Grade Point Average Requirements
   A) Every active member of Greek Life at Valdosta State University should maintain a minimum semester GPA of 2.5
   B) Grade Point Averages will be calculated by the Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority life at the conclusion of each spring and fall academic term. They will be issued to the chapter president and advisors. Chapter totals will be published to the Greek Life Website and sent to chapter leaders.
   C) Any student who fails to meet a 2.5 semester GPA be placed on academic probation for the following semester.
      1. Fall GPA below a 2.50 denotes Spring Probation
      2. Spring GPA below a 2.50 denotes Fall Probation
   D) Any and all elected officers or leadership positions for chapters and council must have a 2.50 semester GPA unless otherwise stated in chapter bylaws.

II. Academic Probation (Individual)
   A) Academic Probation shall include no participation in Greek Life/Council sponsored events such as Greek Week, Homecoming, Greek IM Sports League, etc.
   B) It is recommended that while on a period of academic probation individual social privileges are revoked by the chapter.
   C) The period of Academic Probation shall last the duration of one academic semester. After two consecutive semesters on academic probation, it is recommended that the chapter reconsider membership revocation.

III. Academic Probation (Chapter)
   A) Any group earning below a 2.5 for one semester: Tier One Probation
      1. Fined $100.
      2. Required to plan and attend an educational program for time management and/ or study skills for the following semester.
      3. Required to submit and implement a Chapter Scholarship plan by February 15th of the spring semester and September 15 of the fall semester.
      4. Allowed two social events (See definition of Social events in Events Policy in Greek Life Handbook) for the following semester.
      5. Will be allowed to participate in Greek Wide Events such as, but not limited to Greek Week, Greek Stock, Homecoming events, and chapter’s sponsored Philanthropy Week.

   B) Any group earning below a 2.5 for two consecutive semesters: Tier Two Probation
      1. Fined $100.
      2. Placed on Social Probation for that semester (Please see section 9 of the Risk Management Policy for a definition of Social Probation).
      3. Required to submit and implement a Chapter Scholarship plan by February 15th of the spring semester and September 15 of the fall semester.
      4. Will not be allowed in Greek Wide Events, such as Greek Week and Greek Stock.
5. Any individual member who obtains a cumulative previous semester GPA of less than 2.5 shall not be eligible in any CPC, IFC, MGC, and NPHC activity, excluding the chapter’s sponsored Philanthropy Week. Scholarship requirements can only be adjusted by the Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority life.

C) Any group earning below a 2.5 for three consecutive semesters: Tier Three Probation
   1. Inactive for one semester and unable to meet or act as a chapter.
   2. Will not be allowed to participate in Recruitment/intake events.
   3. Will not be allowed in Greek Wide Events, such as Greek Week and Greek Stock.

Any chapter that fails to complete the sanctions outlined will automatically go to the next level probation.

D) Regaining Recognition After Loss of Recognition due to Academic Reasons
   You will have one semester to meet these goals once inactive status has been set.
   o Have a semester average GPA of 2.5.
   o The chapter must have an active chapter advisor.
   o All fines and forms must be completed at the end of each term.
   o Any debts to the University or Student Life must be paid in full.
   o A full chapter development plan must be presented
9

VIOLATIONS OF GREEK LIFE HANDBOOK
AND RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

Any member of the University community may notify the Office of Fraternity and Sorority life or the Office of Student Conduct of a violation of the Policy. Disciplinary charges may be filed against the individual member, chapter officers, and/or the chapter as a whole. Violations will be handled administratively through the Office of Fraternity and Sorority life or through individual council judicial boards. Organizational National Headquarters, as well as local chapter advisors will be contacted of any violation of the Greek Life Handbook or Risk Management Policy. Any Violation of policy could trigger a referral to the Student Conduct Office.

Enforcement Criteria
The following is a description of the levels of Greek Life Handbook or Risk Management Policy violations and suggested organizational sanctions that may be solicited. Any violation of this policy is viewed seriously, and it is the responsibility of every chapter member to see that the Greek Life Handbook and Risk Management Policy is upheld and equally important, that the spirit of the Policy is met. The levels below indicate the severity of the violation and the suggested reprimand that may be sanctioned to the chapter.

Level I Violations
Includes, but is not limited to, the following violations:
1. Failure to successfully complete a social event registration form
2. Failure to communicate with the Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority life proper information of the upcoming event
3. Drunken or elicit behavior by any active or associate member
4. Failure to comply with the Greek Life Handbook or Risk Management Policy in any aspect

Sanctions
Includes, but is not limited to, the following sanctions;
1. Chapter members must host/organize an educational program on a topic that is in direct relation with the nature of the violation and must be approved by the executive board and administration.
2. Monetary fines
3. A written, formal apology to the administration and university

Level II Violations
Includes, but is not limited to, the following violations:
1. A second violation or failure to comply with any of the sections within the Greek Life Handbook or Risk Management Policy within one academic year of the first violation.
2. Inappropriate behavior that hinders the growth of the Greek community

Sanctions
Includes, but is not limited to, the following sanctions:
1. Social probation for an extended period of time that may be determined by the administration or an individual council judicial board. Social Probation: The organization is unable to host Social Events. This includes social functions with alcohol in chapter housing or third party venues.
Recruitment, New Member Education, Educational Events, Philanthropy and Community service events are allowed during social probation, unless they are inherently social in nature. Social Probation may require specific terms that will be determined by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life on a case by case basis. If there are any questions as to what a chapter can and cannot do while placed on social probation, that chapter should contact the Office of Fraternity and Sorority life for clarity. While on Social Probation, all chapter events must be approved by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority life. These terms must be adhered to in order to avoid further sanctioning.

An event is social if it meets one or more of these criteria (please note this list could include but is not limited to the following):

a. Events where the primary focus is social in nature  
b. Events where alcohol is present  
c. Events where no formal agenda or program is provided  
d. Events where admission is charged  
e. Events open to non-VSU students or community members  
   i. Parties/Mixers/Socials  
   ii. Step Shows  
   iii. Founder’s Day Events  
   iv. Brotherhoods/Sisterhoods  
   v. Parent’s Weekend  
   vi. Pageants

2. The administration will determine any other or alternative sanctions

Level III Violations
Includes, but is not limited to, the following violations:

1. More than a second count of failing to comply with the Greek Life Handbook/Risk Management Policy/Student Code of Conduct  
2. Any other inappropriate behavior determined by the administration/university that may be detrimental to the mission of the Greek community and/or institution.

Sanctions
Includes, but is not limited to, the following sanctions:

1. The chapter may be referred to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority life or Dean of Students via the Office of Student Conduct for further disciplinary sanctions, that may include, but are not limited to chapter suspension or individual expulsion.

Appeals Process
The purpose of an appeals process is to review the chapter’s probation in order to determine if there has been any error. Chapter presidents have the right to appeal decisions made by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life provided relevant grounds for an appeal are cited.

Appeals levels:

1. Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority life  
2. Director of Student Life  
3. Vice President of Student Affairs

All appeals must be submitted in writing to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life within five days after the original decision has been communicated to the chapter president. The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will submit the appeal to the appropriate office, and then communicate to the chapter by electronic mail the decision regarding the appeal, including the process for further appeals.
There are several steps to follow in the event of an emergency, with some additional steps to follow in the event of a death of one of your members or new members. There are a variety of things that constitute an emergency, such as serious injury, excessive consumption of alcohol, overdose, fire, suicide or other death. It is imperative that each chapter review the following protocol with all chapter officers.

1. Be certain that every person in the chapter knows that the president is in command of every emergency situation involving serious injury, death or fire. In the president's absence, a ranking order of officers should be established.

2. If a tragedy has occurred within the house, close the house at once. Instructions cannot be given if members are leaving and strangers are entering. Permit only appropriate official to enter.

3. The first phone call you make is to the 911 emergency number. Briefly and calmly explain the situation so that appropriate emergency personnel can respond.

4. Before you leave the phone, the second phone call is to your chapter advisor. Then call Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority life. Call at any hour, day or night (office: 229-333-5674; or personal cell phone which all chapter presidents and Risk Managers have access to). If you are in doubt whether a situation is serious or not, CALL!! Next, call your Inter/National headquarters.

5. Assemble your members in a group. Explain to them that there is an emergency situation and that the house is closed. Request all members to cooperate in halting outgoing phone calls until the situation is under control. DO NOT discuss the situation until the chapter advisor and/or Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority life arrives. Instruct all members to make no statements to anyone other than law enforcement and/or University officials. The president of the chapter will make any appropriate statements to the media after the situation is under control and the content of the statement has been discussed with University officials. Where possible litigation may follow, be cautious about jumping to conclusions or speculation.

6. DO NOT notify parents. In the event of a serious accident or illness, the medical personnel will notify parents and advise them of the student's physical situation. In the event of a death; hospital, law enforcement, or University officials will notify parents.
A common misperception about liability insurance is that since you pay your chapter or your (Inter)National headquarters, you can do whatever you want and not get sued. Guess Again! You can always be sued, even for something you know nothing about. Another misperception is that your liability insurance company will pay any damages a court may find against you or your chapter. In fact, your insurance does not even cover you if the activity in question was not in line with the insurance company's policy, much less your own risk management policy.

Check out some of these facts about liability insurance coverage for fraternities and sororities...

- Individual chapters pay liability insurance premiums annually to their national headquarters for insurance.

- The amount of the premium is based on the track record of the Inter/National fraternity/sorority — the more the cases, the higher the premiums.

- Sororities pay an average of $50 per person per year.

- Fraternities pay an average of $100 per person per year.

- Individual chapters get different rates depending on their track record.

- No insurance covers violations of the national policy.

- Usually the first $5,000 - $10,000 comes from the chapter.

- Individuals, not just officers, are named in lawsuits.

- Claims from injuries usually come from the value of the chapter house, officers' personal accounts, parents' homeowner's insurance policies, and individual members.
APPENDIX A:

RISK MANAGEMENT STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING FOR CHAPTER OFFICERS

We, the officers of _____________________________(fraternity/sorority), have completed the following:

☐ Chapter officers understand Valdosta State University Greek Risk Management policies as read at a meeting designated by the chapter on __________________________ (date).

☐ Understand that all social functions organized and sponsored by the chapter will adhere to Valdosta State University Greek Risk Management Policy and our (Inter)National fraternity/sorority risk management policy.

☐ In the event that the Valdosta State University Greek Risk Management Policy is violated, the chapter is aware of its judicial due process rights and responsibilities.

☐ The undersigned officers recognize our duties to uphold the laws, rules, regulations and policies of our fraternity/sorority, Valdosta State University and the State of Georgia.

☐ We understand that this statement of understanding will be re-signed every academic semester in addition to when there is a succession of new chapter officers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Print Name</th>
<th>Signature Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>(Print)</td>
<td>(Signature)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
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<td>Risk Manager</td>
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<td>Social Chair</td>
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<td>Recruitment/Intake Chair</td>
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<td>New Member Educator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter Advisor</td>
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<td>(Signature)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFC/CPC/MGC/NPHC RM Chair</td>
<td>(Print)</td>
<td>(Signature)</td>
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APPENDIX B:
EXAMPLE SIGN-IN LIST

Beta Beta Beta
Welcome Back Mixer
August 30, 2010, 10:00pm-2:00am
Sharky's Bar and Grill

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Attendee (Alpha by first name)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adele</td>
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<td>Ben Folds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ben Harper</td>
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<td>Billy Joel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taylor Swift</td>
<td>Taylor Swift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usher Raymond</td>
<td>Usher Raymond</td>
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</table>
Human Dignity Statement
Valdosta State University

The furtherance of human value and maintenance of the dignity of men and women are constant goals of Valdosta State University, and the Student Life department. The concepts of enhancing human dignity and fostering personal development provide a foundation for each student organization registered with Valdosta State University.

Student Life at Valdosta State University serves a vital role in educating men and women about issues confronting our community. Racism and sexism are directly counter to the ideals of our University and will not be tolerated. The Office of Student Life, under the direction of the Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students, further condemns of all forms of hazing, alcohol and substance abuse, auxiliary groups, and activities that are sexually explicit, demeaning, or degrading to women and/or men.

We, the members of __________________, have been made fully aware of the rules and regulations regarding the consequences of violating any hazing and/or human dignity statement. This means, I have read and understand the VSU hazing Statement and the Code of Conduct, the State of Georgia Hazing Law, and our national hazing/human dignity policies (if applicable). If I or my organization’s membership is found to be in violation of such policies, I and my organization is fully aware of the potential consequences and liabilities that may ensue. I am in complete understanding that if at any time I am being hazed or treated in a matter that is in violation of the human dignity statement, I can speak confidentially with the Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority life, the organization Advisor, and my National Organization.