



Expansion Procedures at Methodist University

Adopted from University of Idaho

Important Notice to Inter/national Fraternities and Sororities:

In order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students and establish guidelines for fair expansion and new member education processes Inter/national fraternities and sororities that are seeking recognition under a Greek council may only solicit, recruit, or initiate full time registered Methodist University students in accordance with the policies outlined below. This policy is in place to ensure that all Greek organizations represented on campus are approved and following standards and expectations set by the University. Failure to adhere to the process below may result in a moratorium on the group's eligibility to become recognized for a time to be determined by the Greek Life Expansion Committee that will be no less than one year.

Expansion Committee

The expansion committee shall be comprised of the following individuals:

1. Director of Student Involvement
2. Assistant Director for the Student Involvement Center
3. President of the Interfraternity Council
4. President of the Panhellenic Council
5. President of the Greek Council
6. President of the Multicultural Greek Council (if/when established)
7. Faculty/staff member
8. Director of Multicultural Affairs
9. Student Government Association President
10. Student at large member of Greek council

Criteria for Expansion Consideration:

Interest is shown from at least eight (8) interested/prospective full time undergraduate students at Methodist University

University enrollment trends in males and females to determine sustainability of organizations

Number of new fraternities and sororities that have been established on campus over the previous years

Sororities belonging to the National Panhellenic Conference will follow all rules and regulations following the expansion process set forth by NPC. Expansion information can be found by visiting <https://www.npcwomen.org/extension-info.aspx>

Statement on Interest Groups and Colonies

If a national organization is eligible and approved to begin the expansion process it may form an official interest group or colony in order to recruit members to assist in its establishment on campus. The interest group may not engage in any activities restricted to recognized fraternities/sororities, and if the group presents itself as a fully recognized Greek organization at any time it may affect its eligibility for expansion to the campus.

Statement on Recognition

In order to be a recognized Fraternity or Sorority under the office of Greek Life you must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.50 or higher and have at least 8 undergraduate interested members (for all new organizations not already established on campus). If a group falls below these requirements for a period longer than one year they will no longer be recognized as a functioning organization.

To be considered for recognition all five steps outlined must be completed

Step 1: Submit a written prospectus which must include the following information in the format outlined below.

Methodist University History & Alumni Information

- a) Total number of alumni in the surrounding area (within 100 miles)
- b) Statement of interest and support of the alumni in establishing a chapter
- c) A list of any alumni who may be interested in working with the chapter in an advisory capacity
- d) Nearest alumni club/organization/graduate chapter
- e) If a group is returning to campus, describe the following:
 1. Reasons why the chapter became inactive on campus, and when
 2. How the issue(s) involved have been addressed
 3. How the group has cleared any debts or circumstances still incomplete from when previously on campus (if applicable)

Inter/national Headquarters Values, Policies and Publications

- a) A letter of support for expansion from the inter/national headquarters or corporate office
- b) A description of the organizational values and founding principles
- c) A summary of the organizational structure at the chapter and inter/national levels
- d) Constitution and bylaws (inter/national and local if applicable)
- e) Minimal expectations of colony for existence and chartering
- f) Alcohol and substance abuse policy and program
- g) Scholarship policies and programs
- h) Inter/national magazine/publications (if any)
- i) A copy of the organization's insurance certificate

Chapter Development

a) Please provide the following for three specific time periods: recruitment process of starting a new chapter. Expectations, steps and guidelines to chartering. 5-10 year plan after chartering:

1. Membership goals (numbers, GPA)
2. Community interaction and service projects
3. Campus involvement
4. Programming initiatives (educational/cultural/faculty)
5. Chapter & alumni board finances
6. Fundraising efforts
8. Assistance to be provided to chapters from headquarters/corporate offices (Educational/Leadership Consultant visits, etc.)

Membership Development

- a) Hazing policy
- b) Membership discrimination policy
- c) Membership education policy and program (New Member Education / Intake)

d) Recruitment/Membership intake policy and program

Information on inter/national strength

a) Total number of chapters nationwide

b) Total number of chapters and colonies in North Carolina and bordering states

1. Total number of colonizations during the past five (5) years

2. Where, number chartered, number not chartered c) Total number of initiated members

d) Total number of colonizations anticipated in the next calendar year and where

e) The number of chapters closed and/or suspended during the last three (3) academic years, including where, when, and why

f) Average size of chapters on campuses similar to the Methodist University

g) Leadership development and officer transition programs

Additional Information

a) A copy of the organization's insurance certificate and coverage

b) Letter of intent from the inter/national Headquarters Expansion Chairperson

c) A list of all interested students (if applicable) including Name, Class Status and GPA

All items above, plus any additional information should be sent to:

**Assistant Director for the Student Involvement Center
Methodist University
Berns Student Center
5400 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville NC, 28311**

Step 2: The expansion committee will review packets upon receiving them and recommend a number of interested inter/national fraternities and sororities to the Assistant Director for the Student Involvement Center to invite to campus for a presentation. The Assistant Director for the Student Involvement Center will share this recommendation and the packet with all fraternity and sorority presidents and the Vice President for Student Affairs.

Step 3: The councils will report back to their chapters to vote whether or not they recommend the petitioning organization for expansion. At the following council meetings there will be a vote under old business whether or not to recommend expanding to this organization. In order to move forward with the expansion process a majority vote will be needed from all councils (2/3) will be needed to proceed with on campus presentations *this number may change as other councils form*

Step 4: After the approval from councils, The Assistant Director for the Student Involvement Center will work with the inter/national office to officially invite and schedule the interested fraternities /sororities to campus for an official campus presentation. The Assistant Director for the Student Involvement Center will send out official campus notification of expansion presentations and work to book meeting locations. The expansion committee will be present during all presentations and the presentations will be made open to the campus community.

Step 5: The Greek Life Expansion Committee will meet to discuss the petitioning organization, taking the vote of the council petitioned as well as the presentation and expansion packet into consideration. The Assistant Director for the Student Involvement Center shall serve as the chair of the committee casting no vote. A majority vote of shall be required from the expansion committee for an organization to move forward.

At the conclusion of the meeting the committee will make a final recommendation to the Vice President for Student Affairs to allow or deny expansion to the petitioning organization.

Methodist University Fraternity & Sorority Life Hazing Policy

(Student Life Handbook (http://www.methodist.edu/student_life/handbook.htm))

As used in this policy, hazing is defined as any act committed against a student by another student, acting individually or in concert with others, or aiding or abetting such acts in connection with pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization, team, or group affiliated with Methodist University where such acts, either intentionally or unintentionally, has the effect of physically injuring, humiliating, harassing, intimidating, demeaning, or endangering the physical or the emotional health of any student. A violation of the hazing code can occur **on or off campus**. Methodist University will treat any act of hazing involving Methodist University students either on or off campus in precisely the same manner. Under North Carolina state laws, hazing is defined more narrowly as follows: "to subject another student to physical injury as part of an intimidation, or as a prerequisite to membership, into any organized school group, including any society, athletic team, fraternity or sorority, or other similar group." N.C. Gen. Stat. 14-35. Such acts are criminal (Class 2 Misdemeanor) under this statute. In addition to disciplinary action for acts of hazing as defined more broadly by the University, a student who violates the state law definition of hazing is subject to prosecution by local or state authorities. Students who are found in violation of the Methodist University Hazing Policy will be given a minimum penalty of **probation** and may receive a maximum penalty of **expulsion** from the University. As stated above, any student who violates the North Carolina statute on hazing may also face criminal charges.

NC General Statutes - Chapter 14 Article 9 1

14-35. Hazing; definition and punishment.

It is unlawful for any student in attendance at any university, college, or school in this State to engage in hazing, or to aid or abet any other student in the commission of this offense. For the purposes of this section hazing is defined as follows: "to subject another student to physical injury as part of an initiation, or as a prerequisite to membership, into any organized school group, including any society, athletic team, fraternity or sorority, or other similar group." Any violation of this section shall constitute a Class 2 misdemeanor.

Where hazing is alleged or suspected, the Dean of Students, in conjunction with Campus Police, shall conduct a thorough investigation of the facts surrounding the incident. When the investigation produces evidence that hazing activity may be a violation of criminal law or a violation of campus disciplinary standards, the following steps are to be taken.

1. Campus Police will report the facts uncovered in the investigation to law enforcement officials of the appropriate jurisdiction for prosecution as a criminal matter.

2. Campus disciplinary procedures will be initiated, regardless of whether criminal prosecution occurs. The Dean of Students may immediately refer the matter to the campus disciplinary process, or may defer referral until the outcome of the criminal proceedings has been reported. Sanctions which may be imposed through the campus disciplinary procedures include

indefinite suspension from the University. Regardless of the sanction imposed by campus disciplinary proceedings, if conviction of a criminal offense of hazing occurs, the student will be expelled from the University, as is required by state law.

3. If the hazing appears to have occurred in connection with any club or organization, the Dean of Students Office will notify the regional and national offices of the organization in which the alleged hazing occurred and may request them to conduct an independent investigation of the incident. The Dean of Students may share any information gained through the University investigation with these offices, except that which is legally protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. The Dean of Students will also notify the local advisor of the organization of the allegations and the progress of the investigation.

Any organization found participating in any form of hazing will be dismissed and will no longer be a recognized organization at Methodist University.