



ST. JOHN'S
UNIVERSITY

Fraternity & Sorority Life

St. John's University
Fraternity & Sorority Life Information Manual
Staten Island Campus

St. John's Mission

St. John's University is Catholic, Vincentian, Metropolitan, and Global

As a university,

we commit ourselves to academic excellence and the pursuit of wisdom, which flows from free inquiry, religious values, and human experience. We strive to preserve and enhance an atmosphere in which scholarly research, imaginative methodology, global awareness, and an enthusiastic quest for truth serve as the basis of a vital teaching-learning process and the development of lifelong learning. Our core curriculum in the liberal arts and sciences aims to enrich lives as well as professions and serves to unify the undergraduate experience. Graduate and professional schools express our commitment to research, rigorous standards, and innovative application of knowledge. We aim not only to be excellent professionals with an ability to analyze and articulate clearly what is, but also to develop the ethical and aesthetic values to imagine and help realize what might be.

St. John's is a Catholic university,

founded in 1870 in response to an invitation of the first Bishop of Brooklyn, John Loughlin, to provide the youth of the city with an intellectual and moral education. We embrace the Judeo-Christian ideals of respect for the rights and dignity of every person and each individual's responsibility for the world in which we live. We commit ourselves to create a climate patterned on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ as embodied in the traditions and practices of the Roman Catholic Church. Our community, which comprises members of many faiths, strives for an openness that is "wholly directed to all that is true, all that deserves respect, all that is honest, pure, admirable, decent, virtuous, or worthy of praise" (Philippians 4:8). Thus, the University is a place where the Church reflects upon itself and the world as it engages in dialogue with other religious traditions.

St. John's is a Vincentian university,

inspired by St. Vincent de Paul's compassion and zeal for service. We strive to provide excellent education for all people, especially those lacking economic, physical, or social advantages. Community service programs combine with reflective learning to enlarge the classroom experience. Wherever possible, we devote our intellectual and physical resources to search out the causes of poverty and social injustice and to encourage solutions that are adaptable, effective, and concrete. In the Vincentian tradition, we seek to foster a world view and to further efforts toward global harmony and development by creating an atmosphere in which all may imbibe and embody the spirit of compassionate concern for others so characteristic of Vincent.

St. John's is a metropolitan and global university.

As a metropolitan university, we benefit from New York City's cultural diversity, its intellectual and artistic resources, and its unique professional educational opportunities. With this richness comes responsibility. We encourage the metropolitan community to use our resources to serve its needs. As a global university, we are one of our nation's most diverse institutions of higher education, enriched by a mixture of cultures, which complements an internationalized curriculum. Through collaboration with other institutions around the world, study abroad opportunities, and online courses and degrees, our outreach spans the globe. In educating students, we pledge to foster those qualities needed for our alumni to become effective leaders and responsible citizens in a vibrant city and dynamic world.

Mission Statement of St. John's University, New York

Approved by the Board of Trustees, December 1991

Modified and re-approved March 1999, March 2008, October 2015

Whoever wishes to make progress in perfection should use particular diligence in not allowing himself to be led away by his particular passions, which destroy with one hand the spiritual edifice which is rising by the labors of the other. But to succeed well in this, resistance should be begun while the passions are yet weak; for after they are thoroughly rooted and grown up, there is scarcely any remedy.

--St. Vincent DePaul

Purpose

St. John's University recognizes the positive contributions that fraternities and sororities make to the University community. The fraternity and sorority community at St. John's University seeks to provide opportunities for students to serve the community, cultivate leadership skills, engage in campus life, encourage academic excellence, and support a diverse community. We believe all of these endeavors enhance the collegiate experience of undergraduates while also contributing positively to the St. John's community as a whole.

Note on St. John's University Anti-Discrimination Policy

St. John's University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex (including sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, religion, age, status in the uniformed services of the United States (including veteran status), marital status, status as a victim of domestic violence, citizenship status, genetic predisposition or carrier status in its programs and activities as required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Amendments Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VI or Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other applicable statutes and University policies.

Behavioral Expectations

Conduct unbecoming of a fraternity/sorority and/or its individual members as set forth by the guidelines of the FSL community or university policies will not be condoned or tolerated. While the policies in this document are in place, there are circumstances not listed in this that may arise in which the behaviors of members are egregious enough to reach the level of conduct unbecoming of fraternity men or sorority women. In these cases, consultation will be made with campus partners and appropriate action will occur.

Our community will not tolerate or condone any form of offensive behaviors on the part of members, whether physical, mental, or emotional. This includes any actions, activities or events that are demeaning on or off-campus. All community members should always remember that their behavior not only reflects upon themselves, but also their organization, as well as the entire SJU community. The Office of Student Conduct will hold individuals accountable for their actions, as well as organizations accountable for the actions of its members.

The Four Pillars of Fraternity & Sorority Life

Scholarship

The fraternity/sorority community strives for scholarship and development of academic excellence among its members. All chapters at St. John's University maintain academic requirements for membership and initiation. In order to assure academic growth, chapters provide scholastic assistance in the form of study hours tutoring, scholarships and awards. As students make the transition from high school or other colleges, the fraternity and sorority community helps them adjust to their new academic surroundings and provide the tools necessary for success. Each fraternity and sorority member also have the opportunity to apply to the Order of Omega Honor Society.

Service

Members at St. John's University strive to benefit the university and the greater Staten Island community through community service. Each fraternity and sorority have philanthropy and service projects which range from donating time to raising funds for charitable or university causes to hands on experiences. These relationships allow for the entire fraternity and sorority community to come together and provide service to the Staten Island community. Giving to others is one of the most important experiences as a fraternity or sorority member.

Brotherhood and Sisterhood (Fellowship)

The social aspect of Fraternity & Sorority Life offers students a break from the daily routine of classes and studying. Each chapter has its own activities; however, typical events include formals, brotherhood/sisterhood events, weekend retreats, alumni/ae reunions, and functions with other fraternities and sororities. In addition, Greek Week, and Recruitment are some of the social experiences you will have as a fraternity or sorority member.

Leadership

Fraternities and sororities encourage active participation in leadership experiences. There are over 40 registered student organizations that provides students with opportunities for leadership and problem-solving skills that are necessary in today's society. Members can participate as a chapter officer or as a member for one of the committees that each chapter maintains. There are also opportunities for our members to become actively involved in Student Government and other student organizations.

Risk Management

All organizations and their members are expected to adhere to the Student Organizations Conduct Process at all times, on or off campus (<https://www.stjohns.edu/life-st-johns/student-conduct/code-conduct/student-code-conduct>). Fraternities and sororities found to be in violation of this process are subject to discipline including, but not limited to, probation, suspension, and/or loss of recognition by St. John's University.

All organizations and members of their organizations are expected to adhere to FIPG Policy where applicable except where University or inter/national policy has more detailed regulations. Organizations may not host any event where alcohol is served EVEN WHEN IN COMPLIANCE WITH FIPG POLICY. All organizations will attend mandatory FIPG policy training to receive most up-to-date information.

All organizations must provide the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life with a comprehensive packet of their Risk Management policies, procedures, and protocols. Additionally, they must sign a waiver that they will abide by BOTH these policies AND University policies.

Organizations and their members who do not adhere to FIPG and appropriate University Risk Management protocols may be in violation of the Student Organizations Conduct Process. Organizations and their members who knowingly or recklessly engage in actions or

behaviors that threaten the safety or disrupt the community (on or off-campus) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Hazing Policies

While the primary purpose of any hazing policy is to keep students safe and out of harm's way while providing guidelines for organizations in the creation of practices and traditions associated with the process of bringing new members into those groups, no policy can be so precisely written so as to include all behaviors which may lead to harm. Therefore, all fraternities and sororities are highly encouraged to discuss their practices, plans and traditions with the Fraternity/Sorority Advisor prior to implementation. By clarifying the appropriateness of their actions well in advance of the new member education program and attending programs sponsored by national organizations and the office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, groups can prevent harm to their members and/or their organizations

St. John's University specifically prohibits any individual student or recognized student organization from engaging in the following practices collectively or individually, on or off-campus during affiliation with or in connection with initiation into any organization. All visiting brothers/sisters and new members must abide by all rules and regulations governing Greek letter organizations and guests while at St. John's University.

St. John's University prohibits any action taken or situation created to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule to members or new members of an organization. Such activities may include but are not limited to the following: bullying; compulsory use of alcohol; paddling in any form; creation of excessive fatigue; physical and psychological shocks; quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts; road trips for non-educational purposes; 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 fraternal law, ritual or policy or the regulations and policies of St. John's University.

Examples of behaviors St. John's University considers hazing

The following specific examples of hazing activities **are not considered to be all-inclusive** of those practices that may be considered hazing since it is impossible to anticipate every situation that may involve reckless or intentional endangering of a person's mental or physical health. They are intended to serve as guidelines for organizations developing positive new-member education programs.

- Use of physical brutality (Including paddling; striking with fists or objects; and branding)
- Calisthenics, exercises, games, or "make work" activity
- Walking in/on line and all traditionally associated behaviors are prohibited
- Wearing uniforms or identical clothing is prohibited
- Dressing in a degrading manner (attire outside of usual student dress)

- Public activities that may place new members in conspicuous, degrading, or humiliating situations
- Application of foreign substances to the body resulting in lewdness, potential for ridicule, or bodily harm, including tattooing or branding
- Forced, coerced or permitted inappropriate consumption of any food, liquor, drug or any other substance. Deprivation of meals.
- Deprivation of access to means of maintaining a normal schedule of cleanliness
- Forced nudity or partial nudity
- Creating situations which may cause a new member to be the object of amusement, ridicule, embarrassment, shame or other verbal abuse
- Creating situations that may compromise the personal, religious, or cultural values of a new member
- Creation of excessive fatigue and stress through deprivation of privacy or sufficient sleep. No activity should extend past 11 pm nor begin prior to 8 am.
- Imposed restriction on verbal or any other form of communication
- Use of drugs or illegal/controlled substances, and illegal or excessive consumption or serving of alcohol
- Theft or Destruction of property
- Bullying or cyber bullying, which may manifest as abusive treatment, the use of force or coercion to affect others on or off the internet.

Evaluation of Progress and Maintenance of Standards

- The Office of Student Activities evaluates individual fraternities and sororities at the close of each academic year by using the “Accreditation Program.” This curriculum examines the progress in the areas of:
 1. Scholarship
 2. Service and Philanthropy
 3. Organizational Development
 4. Member Development
 5. SJU Community Engagement
 6. Organizational Conduct/Discipline
 7. OFSL Basic Requirement

The program operates on a point distribution system, with different criteria for each designation. As stated in the program, its purpose is “to enhance chapter management and student development, while evaluating the quality of recognized organizations at the University. This program will evaluate and assess chapters on the completion of basic requirements and their annual conduct, while also examining each organization’s achievement in five critical areas (listed above).” There is an expectation that all fraternities and sororities will strive to attain a “distinguished chapter” designation, but “accredited chapter” is minimum standard to remain recognized.

The Accreditation Program can be found on the OFSL website.

Membership

All active members must be in good standing with the University.

A member will be given INACTIVE status under the following circumstances:

- a. The member's cumulative GPA is below 2.50
- b. The member is a part-time student (11 credits or below)
- c. The member is not registered for classes at St. John's University
- d. The member has been removed from their inter/national organization's roster
- e. The member has been made inactive by their respective organization

A member will be given to the option to declare ACTIVE or INACTIVE STATUS in the following circumstances:

- a. The member is participating in student teaching
- b. The member is enrolled in a study abroad program
- c. The member is a 5th or 6th year student in a 5 or 6-year academic program
- d. The member is engaged in clinical research/work

Only active members count towards Accreditation percentages.

If a member has taken "early alumnus/a status," the appropriate documentation from the Inter/ National/Regional Headquarters must be filed with the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life. All organizations must adhere to Student Government, Inc. membership requirements. All fraternities and sororities must adhere to the "Minimum Membership Requirement" as outlined.

- *Minimum Membership Requirement*: In order to be recognized as a student organization, each chapter must have at least five active members. If a chapter falls below five active members, the chapter has the following two semesters to reach five members, or it will no longer be a recognized organization. If an organization falls below five members, it is ineligible to receive the funding associated with accredited, notable, and distinguished chapter designations.

Academics

The OFSL will check grades on members at the conclusion of the fall and spring semesters. OFSL will check grades and credit standing of potential new members at the time of recruitment.

The following are the standards for being in good academic standing:

1. Organizations must maintain a 2.5 GPA each semester.
2. General members must maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA to remain active on campus.
3. General members must be a full-time student (12 or more credits) to remain active on campus.
4. Potential new members are required to have a 2.5 cumulative GPA to participate in recruitment.
5. New Member Class cumulative GPA may not decrease by more than 0.50. If there is a 0.50 or higher decrease in an individual new member's cumulative GPA during his/her new member education process, and/or the new member class' cumulative GPA drops by more than 0.50 during the semester of initiation, that organization will be deemed delinquent in the Academics section of their Accreditation Program and/or face sanctions OFSL deems appropriate.

Organizations not complying with the above standards will be placed on academic probation with the OFSL.

Leadership Positions

All members who hold leadership positions within their organizations and/or councils must meet the minimum requirements of active members in addition to the meeting the requirements outlined by the OFSL.

1. Organizational Executive Board: Students must be active members in their organizations during the semester that they are seeking a position and the semester(s) they are serving in office. Students must have a 2.7 cumulative GPA during the semester that they are seeking a position and the semester(s) they are serving in office.

2. Council Executive Board: Students must be active members in their organizations during the semester that they are seeking a position and the semester(s) they are serving in office. Students must have a 2.7 cumulative GPA during the semester that they are seeking a position and the semester(s) they are serving in office.

Failure to comply with these executive board GPA requirements will result in the removal of the member from the executive board position within the organization and/or the council.

Grade Releases

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. Schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student—a student who reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level—in order to release any information from a student's education record. To comply with FERPA regulations, OFSL will not release the academic information of any current or potential fraternity and sorority member to chapter and/or organizational leadership unless that member or potential new member has completed a “grade release form.” This form grants one-time access to the eligible student's grades. Each inquiry thereafter will require a new submission. Once the grade release form is completed, the appropriate party(s) will receive the eligible student's academic information.

For initiated members, the most current semester GPA and overall cumulative GPA will be provided. For potential new members, eligibility for membership will be confirmed or denied, as specifics to GPA information is not necessary for membership and will therefore remain protected.

Initiated Members

When grades are needed for reporting purposes to inter/national headquarters, it is the responsibility of the chapter president to provide a deadline to OFSL of when the grade information is needed for initiated members. Once this deadline is provided, initiated members should follow the appropriate steps for submission.

1. Members should access the “active member grade release form” located on the OFSL website and complete all sections correctly and entirely
2. Members are expected to submit a completed grade release form 48 hours prior to the deadline provided by the chapter president to allow OFSL the appropriate time to gather the necessary data.
 - a. The grade information of any member who does not submit a form by the given deadline will not be released.

Potential New Members [PNMs]

For grade releases for potential new members, please adhere to given deadlines of OFSL as those deadlines relate to recruitment and new member education periods.

1. PNMs should access the “potential new member grade release form” located on the OFSL website and complete all sections correctly and entirely

a. During formal recruitment for the Panhellenic Council in the spring semester, PNMs will use the default form as a part of registration for recruitment. Once invitations are extended OR once PNMs are initiated, it is the responsibility of the chapter president to have these members fill out the grade release form.

2. PNMs are expected to submit a completed grade release form 48 hours prior to the deadline provided by OFSL to allow the appropriate time to gather the necessary data.

a. The grade information of any PNM who does not submit a form by the given deadline will not be released.

Any chapter that chooses to delay the start of its new member education process must still adhere to the given deadlines for the submission of documents. Failure to meet these deadlines will delay the commencement of the chapter’s new member education process.

Statement on Unrecognized Organizations

An unrecognized student organization is any fraternity, sorority, or other student organization which was previously recognized by the University but is no longer so recognized. This includes groups with a membership and/or a purpose substantially identical to a previously recognized student organization, even if operating under a different name.

Student participation in unrecognized student organizations is strongly discouraged, but is not prohibited. Any student who facilitates for other students to participate in an unrecognized student organization shall be charged with violations of the Student Code of Conduct and referred to the student conduct process. The accused student may be subject to the full range of disciplinary sanctions available at the University, up to and including expulsion.

OFSL neither supports nor condones the activities of unrecognized organizations, or other groups representing themselves as an organization fraternity that is not currently recognized by the institution. Any individuals contemplating membership in one of these organizations should carefully consider this information.

Resources

National Umbrella Organizations

National APIDA Panhellenic Association

<http://www.napahq.org>

National Association of Latino Fraternal Organization, Inc. (NALFO)

<http://www.nalfo.org>

National Multicultural Greek Council

<http://www.nationalmgc.org>

National Panhellenic Conference

<http://www.npcwomen.org>

National Pan-Hellenic Council

<http://www.nphchq.org>

North American Inter-fraternity Conference

<http://www.nicindy.org>

Websites

Bacchus and Gamma Peer Education Network

<http://bacchusgamma.org>

Greek 101

<http://www.greek101.com>

Hazing Prevention

<http://www.hazingprevention.org>

Order of Omega Honor Society

<http://orderofomega.org>

Stop Hazing

<http://www.stophazing.org>

TIPS for the University

<http://www.gettips.com>

Books and Articles

African American Fraternities and Sororities: The Legacy and The Vision (Tamara L. Brown)

Black Greek 101 (By: Dr. Walter Kimbrough)

Black Greek- Letter Organizations in the 21st Century, Our fight has just begun
(Gregory S. Parks)

By My Sorority Sister Under Pressure (Dorrie Williams Wheeler)

From Here to Fraternity (By: Robert Egan)

Secret Life of Ritual (By: Ed King)

Sorority Sisters: A Novel (By: Tajuana Butler)

The Divine Nine: The History of African American Fraternities & Sororities (By:
Lawrence C. Ross, Jr.)

Wrongs of Passage: Fraternities, Sororities, Hazing, & Binge Drinking (By: Hank
Nuwer)

FIPG, Inc. Risk Management Policy

The Risk Management Policy of FIPG, Inc. Includes the provisions, which follow and shall apply to all fraternity & sorority entities and all levels of fraternity & sorority membership.

Sexual Abuse and Harassment

The fraternity or sorority will not tolerate or condone any form of sexist or sexually abusive behavior on the part of its members, whether physical, mental or emotional. This is to include any actions, activities or events whether on chapter premises or an off-site location, which are demeaning to women or men, including but not limited to verbal harassment, sexual assault by individuals or members acting together. The employment or use of strippers, exotic dancers or similar, whether professional or amateur, at a fraternity or sorority event as defined in this policy is prohibited.

Education

Each fraternity & sorority shall annually instruct its students and alumni/alumnae in the Risk Management Policy of FIPG, Inc. Additionally, all students and key volunteers shall annually receive a copy of the Risk Management Policy and a copy of the policy shall be available on the fraternity & sorority website. The Risk Management Policy of FIPG, Inc. Includes the provisions, which follow and shall apply to all fraternity & sorority entities and all levels of fraternity & sorority membership.

Academic Honor Societies

Order of Omega

Order of Omega, established in 1959, is a Greek Honor Society. In the Spring of 2000, St. John's University, Staten Island Campus became a chapter of the honor society. The purpose of the Order is to recognize those fraternity and sorority members who have attained a high standard of leadership in campus activities, therefore a cumulative GPA above the All-Greek Average at the start of the junior year, or in any semester during junior or senior year will qualify student's eligibility.

Bringing together members of the faculty, alumni and student members to help create an atmosphere where ideas and issues can be discussed openly across the FSL community is another purpose of the Order. Our chapter takes part in community service projects and other campus activities.

www.orderofomega.org

