

Policy Prohibiting On-Campus Student Participation in Unrecognized Greek Organizations:

Preamble:

Lafayette has long been characterized by a living-learning community that fosters the development of students as leaders and as campus citizens, that promotes high academic achievement, nurtures a lifelong love of learning, and fosters the development of close friendships and a sense of shared purpose. These are essential components of a Lafayette education. The College recognizes that over the years fraternity and sorority members have produced many noteworthy contributions to campus life.

However, among the College's foremost concerns are the safety and welfare of its students. For this reason, the College has established the Fraternity and Sorority of Excellence Program. This Program provides training to our recognized fraternities and sororities to foster safe, informed, and thoughtful organizations, and seeks to address any negative Greek behavior. Fraternities and sororities that are not recognized (or authorized) by Lafayette do not participate in these training programs and are not subject to the College's rules and standards. These organizations may undermine those fraternities and sororities that are recognized by the College and may put the safety of students at risk. For these reasons, the Board of Trustees has voted to prohibit unrecognized organizations from operating on property owned or under the control of the College (referred to as the "Lafayette Campus"), or from using any College resources or property, and to prohibit students from participating in unrecognized Greek organizations while on the Lafayette Campus, or through the use of any other College resources or property. If a student does participate in an unrecognized Greek organization on the Lafayette Campus or through making use of any other College resources or property, that student will be in violation of the policy and will be subject to discipline.

By enacting this policy, the Board does not seek to limit the ability of students to associate freely with whomever they wish entirely outside the bounds of the Lafayette Campus. Although they are advised against doing so, Lafayette students are not prohibited from joining unrecognized Greek organizations whose activities take place entirely off the Lafayette Campus, do not reach on to the Lafayette Campus, and do not use any other College property, facilities or resources.

1. Greek Life at Lafayette College:

A social Greek life system is available on Lafayette's campus for students who wish to participate in it. There are four social fraternities and six sororities currently recognized by the Board of Trustees and authorized to operate on Lafayette's campus. Recognition has been granted to those organizations that provide a student life experience that supports and furthers the College's academic mission and student life goals. A student who is interested in Greek life should only join a Greek organization that has been recognized by the Board of Trustees and participates in the training and oversight programs described below.

Those social fraternities and sororities recognized by the College's Board of Trustees receive regular educational training from the College on a variety of topics including hazing, alcohol use, sexual misconduct, and diversity and inclusiveness. The College also requires that members of recognized organizations meet or exceed minimum standards related to grade point averages and disciplinary history. Moreover, recognized fraternities and sororities participate in an annual accreditation process known as the Fraternity and Sorority of Excellence Program. This program focuses on five core values: academic integration, leadership development, civic engagement, positive relationships and intercultural development. This Program provides oversight of the Greek system and is intended to promote the welfare and safety of those participating in that system.

A student may not rush, pledge, join, recruit for, participate in, perpetuate, contribute funds to, or otherwise engage in activities as an actual or prospective member of a Greek organization until the beginning of his or her sophomore year. After that time, if a student wishes to participate in the Greek life system, he or she may participate in the rush process during the time frames prescribed by the College.

2. Unrecognized Greek Organizations:

No student may rush, pledge, join, recruit for, participate in, perpetuate, contribute funds to, or otherwise engage in activities as an actual or prospective member of an Unrecognized Greek Organization while on any property owned or under the control of the College (referred to as the “Lafayette Campus”), including but not limited to the public and private areas of the College, residence halls or other living areas on campus, as well as other buildings and facilities, including the grounds, athletic fields and other property of the College, or while otherwise using Lafayette’s resources, wherever they may be located. (Such conduct is hereinafter referred to as “Prohibited On-Campus Conduct.”) Prohibited On-Campus Conduct also extends to the use of College-provided electronic mail, telephone service, servers, or other College-supplied technology, even when physically off of campus property, if using Lafayette’s resources to reach on to campus to engage in conduct regarding an Unrecognized Greek Organization. The foregoing broad prohibition on the use of any College property in connection with Prohibited On-Campus Conduct by Unrecognized Greek Organizations is intended to make clear that any such conduct is undertaken without College approval or endorsement, and constitutes a violation of this policy.

An Unrecognized Greek Organization is any fraternity, sorority, or other similar social organization which:

- Previously was recognized by the College but is no longer so recognized; or

- Has a membership and purpose substantially identical to a fraternity or sorority that previously was recognized by the College but is no longer recognized by the College, even if operating under a different name; or
- Purports to be any other fraternity, sorority or Greek organization not recognized by the College, regardless of whether it has a national affiliation or is recognized elsewhere.

The College retains full and final authority to determine whether a particular organization is operating as an Unrecognized Greek Organization, and to determine whether a particular student is engaging in Prohibited On-Campus Conduct with an Unrecognized Greek Organization.

Any student who violates the College's policy against Prohibited On-Campus Conduct with an Unrecognized Greek Organization will automatically be brought before the Student Conduct Committee, and be subject to the full range of disciplinary sanctions available at the College, up to and including expulsion. Moreover, any such Organization may itself be subject to additional organization-wide discipline, legal action, and in appropriate circumstances, could face civil and criminal penalties.

Participation by students in Unrecognized Greek Organizations while completely off campus, without the use of any College resources, and without reaching on to campus to engage in conduct is strongly discouraged, but is not prohibited. Students are also reminded that they are representatives of Lafayette College wherever they are. Conduct away from the campus reflects upon the student and the College, and the College may take disciplinary action against students for misbehavior off campus.