

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: If I am interested in participating in Greek life at Lafayette, which organizations should I consider joining?

A: You should consider joining one of the ten fraternities and sororities that are recognized by the College and authorized to operate on Lafayette's campus: Delta Kappa Epsilon, Delta Upsilon, Phi Kappa Psi, Zeta Psi, Alpha Gamma Delta, Alpha Phi, Delta Delta Delta, Delta Gamma, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and Pi Beta Phi.

Q: What does it mean to be a recognized Greek organization?

A: A recognized Greek organization at the College has the approval of the Board of Trustees to operate on Lafayette's campus, receives training on important topics related to Greek life, is subject to academic standards and expectations regarding community service, and receives some level of oversight from the Fraternity and Sorority of Excellence Program.

Q. What is the College's rationale for only recognizing certain organizations?

A: The College recognizes those organizations that have the Board of Trustees' approval and are seen as supporting and furthering the College's mission and enhancing the academic experience of its students. Those groups which have engaged in misconduct, do not otherwise meet the College's standards, or have closed, are not recognized. Ten organizations are currently recognized by the College, and at this time no new Greek organizations are being considered for recognition.

Q. What is the College's rationale for not allowing unrecognized fraternities and sororities to operate on campus?

A: Only recognized fraternities and sororities receive training from the College, have met academic and service standards, and are subject to the College's rules and standards of conduct.

Unrecognized organizations are unregulated and may undermine the mission and goals of recognized organizations.

Q: What do you mean by “on-campus” and “off-campus”?

A: “On campus” means any activity that occurs on property owned or under the control of the College, wherever located, and also means any activity that uses Lafayette resources, including: using funding obtained from Lafayette College; sending an email from or to a College email address; using Lafayette’s servers, web space, or social media; or calling or texting to or from a telephone located on campus.

“Off campus” means activity that is completely separated from property owned or under the control of the College and uses no College resources of any kind. The Lafayette College Handbook makes all students responsible for their conduct both on and off campus. See Lafayette College 2012–13 Student Handbook at 14.

Q: What if I want to engage in activities with an unrecognized Greek organization?

A: If the organization is operating on campus, using campus resources or facilities, or reaching on to campus to engage in activities, recruit, etc., you are strictly prohibited from engaging with that organization. If the organization is operating entirely outside the bounds of property owned or controlled by the College, and does not make use of any College resources, the College strongly advises against your participation but does not prohibit it. Keep in mind that an unrecognized Greek organization is not subject to the College’s training programs, regulations, or instruction from the Fraternity and Sorority of Excellence Program.

Q: What do you mean by “engaging in activities”?

A: The policy prohibits rushing, pledging, recruiting for, joining, attending any event, contributing funding, or otherwise participating

in any way with an unrecognized Greek organization operating on campus.

Q: If all activity is truly off campus, am I prohibited from joining an unrecognized Greek organization?

A: Although you are advised against doing so, you are not prohibited from joining an unrecognized Greek organization if those activities do not take place or reach on to property owned or controlled by the College, and do not make use of any College resources.

Q: What happens if I violate this policy?

A: You will be brought before the Student Conduct Committee, and be subject to the full range of disciplinary sanctions available to the College, up to and including expulsion.

Q: I belong to several off-campus groups that are not fraternities or sororities, but which recruit new members on campus. Does this policy prohibit me from continuing to meet with these groups?

A: No -- so long as they truly are not Greek fraternities or sororities, or Greek fraternities or sororities posing as something else.

Q: Does this policy affect my ability to rush or join a recognized fraternity or sorority on campus?

A: No.

Q: Are other schools doing this?

A: Yes, other colleges have enacted similar policies.