

# Arkansas Tech Fraternity and Sorority Life Expansion and Recolonization Policy

## **University Statement on New North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) Affiliated Organizations**

*Based on the recommendation of the Arkansas Tech Interfraternity Council and with the support of University administration, Arkansas Tech will not review any applications for colonization of new NIC-Affiliated organizations before January 2020. At which time, the organization is required to follow the ATU Fraternity and Sorority Life Expansion and Recolonization Policy outlined below.*

## **Purpose**

Focused on empowering each member, Fraternity and Sorority Life at Arkansas Tech is built on the principles of scholarship, leadership, service, and unity. Members of these Greek lettered organizations will create life-long friendships while gaining an enriching and rewarding experience.

Fraternity and sorority membership begins during recruitment and lasts a lifetime. While you're in college, the Arkansas Tech Fraternity and Sorority community will help you meet your personal, academic, social, cultural, and recreational goals. The entire fraternal community encourages you to get involved through a variety of programs and activities. Whether serving on a scholarship committee or chairing a campus fundraising project, all members are challenged to reach their personal best.

Currently, Arkansas Tech has 14 chapters on campus: 10 fraternities and 4 sororities. The Interfraternity Council and College Panhellenic Council act as the governing bodies for these Greek lettered organizations and provide opportunities for all groups to work together to promote fraternity and sorority Life. With the recent addition of a third National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) organization, a NPHC council will be established in 2019.

## **POLICIES AND DEFINITIONS**

Social fraternities and sororities (including women's fraternities) are Title IX protected single sex organizations whose primary purpose is personal development. These organizations are not limited to any particular field of study, profession, or academic discipline. Members of these organizations are not permitted to hold membership in other social fraternities or sororities. Only enrolled students at Arkansas Tech are able to maintain and hold membership in our recognized organizations.

### **1.1 University Recognition**

Recognizing the value of student organizations, Arkansas Tech affords recognized student groups many benefits beyond those programs and services mentioned previously. Below is a brief listing of those benefits:

- a. Use of the name Arkansas Tech University.

- b. Use of campus facilities and support services for meeting and approved activities.
- c. Funds for educational activities from Gold Cabinet.
- d. Permission to enter into solicitation and fundraising activities in accordance with University policies.
- e. Access to on-campus University mail services through the ATU Post Office.
- f. Participation in the activities of state and/or national organizations, if such affiliation is established, or any other activities which are not in violation of University policy.
- g. Inclusion in University publications and website.

## 1.2 University Policies and Requirements

Along with the benefits of University, fraternities and sororities are held to a high standard reflective of the quality of educational experience that Arkansas Tech seeks for its students. The following policies and procedures must be followed to maintain recognition and good standing with the University:

- a. Arkansas Tech Student Handbook
- b. Fraternity and Sorority Life Policies and Procedures
- c. Fraternity and Sorority Life Social Policy
- d. New Member Education and Intake Guidelines

## 1.3 Definitions and Terms

- a. *Expansion* - Expansion involves inviting inter/national social fraternities and sororities to establish chartered chapters on the campus of Arkansas Tech University.
- b. *Extension* - Extension is a process of adding one of the 26 organizations of the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) to campus. This is a process which is defined, dictated, and managed through the NPC Manual of Information (MOI) - (*National Panhellenic Conference, Manual of Information, Extension, p. 143-155*) and the college Panhellenic.
- c. *Intake* - Intake is the process by which the nine associated organizations of the NPHC establish membership on campus. Multicultural organizations such as National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations and National Multicultural Greek Council also utilize an intake process for establishing chapters on college campuses.
- d. *Recolonization* - Recolonization involves re-establishing a relationship with past chartered organizations through invitation and support of respective councils. This includes organizations whose recognition was previously suspended or revoked by the University through the formal conduct process, previously sanctioned judicial procedures, or their inter/national organization.
- e. *Colonization* - A new organization that registers with Arkansas Tech University through the Expansion and Recolonization process. The new organization will remain a colony under probationary terms for one year from establishment.

## JURISDICTION AND AUTHORITY

Arkansas Tech University reserves the right to approve or deny any fraternity or sorority seeking registration and recognition with the University that does not adhere to this policy or any other guidelines or

expectations. The University also reserves the right to limit expansion or re-establishment efforts to one process per calendar year.

## **2.1 Jurisdiction of Governing Councils**

- a. For the purpose of Extension, the campus Panhellenic Council will manage the exploratory process and Extension Committee with the assistance of the Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life at Arkansas Tech. (Manual of Information, Unanimous Agreements, Section V). The campus Panhellenic will convene and discuss the possibility of extension through an Exploratory Committee. The committee is responsible for providing a written report of findings to the Panhellenic Body and to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life for approval.
- b. The campus Interfraternity Council will serve as a recommending body to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. This committee will determine if it is an appropriate time for expansion, will determine all timelines for reviewing expansion proposals, and will provide the Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life with any recommendations to invite organizations to charter or recolonize.
- c. The NPHC Executive Board will review potential colonization by any Divine Nine organization currently not represented on campus. They will provide the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life with a written report and proposal and will be considered as a recommending body.

## **PROCEDURES FOR NEW ORGANIZATIONS**

When an inter/national social fraternity or sorority would like to explore official recognition on the campus of Arkansas Tech University the following procedures will be followed as outlined below:

**3.1** All inter/national organizations seeking recognition must complete and submit a letter of intent to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. The letter cannot be submitted by a student or alumni on behalf of the inter/national organization. This letter must include information about the inter/national values and principles, inter/national organization's rationale of how it will be able to differentiate itself from current chapters on campus, and how it can help strengthen the fraternity and sorority community at Arkansas Tech University. The letter should also outline goals, priorities and timeline for establishing a new chapter, and the intentions of the inter/national office to offer continued support to an established chapter and campus. We encourage all organizations wishing to be considered to submit a complete packet of petition with their letter.

Upon receiving any letters of intent or formal documentation, Fraternity and Sorority Life will respond in writing to confirm receipt and notify the interested inter/national organization of a review timeline. A letter of intent must be received by July 1 to be considered for the following academic calendar.

**3.2** After reviewing any letters of intent, the Assistant Dean for Campus Life and Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life will initiate a discussion and review all submitted information with the respective council's Expansion or Extension Committee. Reviews will occur annually in January and August, or at a time otherwise deemed necessary or appropriate to consider the growth of the fraternity and sorority community. As part of the review, the committee will be responsible for evaluating the need, timing, and feasibility of allowing an additional fraternity or sorority to expand or recolonize. The current national trends and general health of the community at Arkansas Tech University will set the tone for the review.

**3.3** A formal presentation may be requested as part of the evaluation and review process. If a presentation is requested, the inter/national organization would be responsible for all costs associated with travel to the campus of Arkansas Tech University. To formally present to the community does not guarantee approval. For all organizations under NPC Extension, all relevant policies will be followed as stated in the MOI. The expectations of the presentation will be established by the respective council and Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and will be provided in formal notification to the inter/national organization two weeks prior to expected visit.

**3.4** The respective councils or their designees will determine if they wish to extend invitation or not to an inter/national organization via a council vote after all procedural steps and reviews have concluded. A formal recommendation must be submitted to the Office Fraternity and Sorority Life within five business days of the vote and must include all notes and reports collected during the review.

**3.5** Final decision regarding approval of expansion or recolonization lies with the University. The inter/national organization will be notified via writing about the decision. If approved, notification will include designated timeline of colonization and requirements.

## **PETITION REQUIREMENTS FOR RECOLONIZATION**

**4.1** In addition to the process outlined in section 3.1 of this policy, the organization wishing to recolonize at Arkansas Tech University must provide the following information as a part of their petition application:

- a. History of the organization on campus
- b. How the inter/national office will review previous members wishing to participate with the organization either as undergraduate active members or alumni advisors

**4.2** Upon receipt of the organization's petition to recolonize, the Department of Student Conduct and Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life will review past conduct history to determine if the organization is eligible. In order to petition, the organization must clearly have met all suspension requirements as outlined in their suspension letter. The return of the organization is not automatic. The Department of Student Conduct or Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life may deny an application for recolonization if the organization's misconduct during suspension would have warranted additional disciplinary action. If the organization has failed to satisfy any sanction that was imposed prior to application for recolonization, the Department of Student Conduct or Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life may deny the organization's petition. Consequently, the Department of Student Conduct and Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life will set a date when another application for recolonization may be considered.

## **COLONIZATION AND RECOLONIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

Any inter/national organization that has been approved to colonize at Arkansas Tech University will follow the Student Handbook Policy and Guidelines Manual for establishment. Once established, the colony will have all rights and privileges associated with student organization recognition.

**5.1** The inter/national office will provide the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life the following information prior to arrival on campus:

- a. Colonization timeline.
- b. Information about long-term chapter support and advising plan.
- c. Colony standards for chapter installation, inter/national organization standards, and expectations for active chapters.
- d. Membership development program, including new member development.

- e. Risk management/risk reduction/crisis management programs, policies, and procedures.
- f. Academic standards and academic support programs.
- g. Financial requirements associated with membership.

- 5.2** The colony will be considered on probationary status for one year and will need to complete the following:
- a. Maintain good standing with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, the respective council, and the University
  - b. Complete all minimum recognition expectations as outlined in upcoming standards program. (Standards of Fraternal Excellence Fall 2019)
  - c. Meet the colony standards for chapter installation as provided by the inter/national office

**5.3** If a colony fails to complete the above requirements during their probationary term, the University will either extend the probationary period or revoke recognition. If recognition is revoked, the inter/national organization will be ineligible to petition until five years have passed from the date of lost recognition.

**5.4** Unsuccessful petitions may be resubmitted one calendar year following the initial submission.