

Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs

Membership Selection Policies

Fraternities and sororities use different processes through which they select their new members. The University values this diversity. Rutgers supports a recruitment process that encourages as many students as possible to consider the fraternity and sorority option. Each chapter should plan for recruitment the semester prior to its implementation. Chapters are encouraged to work closely with the Interfraternity Council, the Pan-Hellenic Council and the Panhellenic Association, as applicable. The University expects all chapters to make clear to prospective members all obligations and expectations of membership prior to an individual's association with the chapter.

Eligibility

Academic eligibility for RU students is based on completion of 12 college/university credits (from Rutgers or another college or university), achievement of a 2.25 GPA, a 2.0 from the previously attended semester and full-time RU status. Please note: these academic averages are minimum expectations. Most chapters have significantly higher academic standards.

Selection Process

1. In order for chapters to be recognized by Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, each must assure that membership is by no means restrictive on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, ancestry, handicap, marital or veteran status. Membership selection is expected to be conducted in a manner which reflects the diversity of the Rutgers population.
2. All chapters should strictly adhere to the membership selection policies outlined by their own inter/national fraternity/sorority.
3. The "Blackball System" (defined as a membership voting procedure whereby one negative vote would be cause for rejection of a prospective member) shall not be utilized by those registered chapters of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. This system allows for discriminatory practices of individuals to overrule the opinions of the majority. A system of majority vote shall be utilized for membership selection and must remain consistent with the above stated clauses.

New Member Education Program

New Member Education is one of the most important aspects of fraternity and sorority life. It is this program which will project the future for the chapter. New Member Education is and must be a logical, functional and integral part of the chapter. It is not a time for a new member to "prove himself or herself" over an eight week period. The pre-initiation period should be a time for introspection, reflection and discussion. It is not a time for a makeup or a sloppy program, nor should it be an ordeal for those involved. Therefore the responsibilities of each chapter and its members with respect to new member education are as follows:

1. Each chapter is required to submit a comprehensive outline of its New Member Education Program, including a calendar of all events, each semester.
2. The New Member Education Program may be no longer than eight (8) weeks in length. Chapters wishing to initiate after the last day for new member activities must obtain permission from OFSA.
3. In drafting its New Member Education Program, each chapter is encouraged to contact its state or inter/national headquarters to obtain information concerning any model program developed by the state or inter/national and to implement that model program.
4. All programs must incorporate the New Member Orientation program sponsored by OFSA and the governing councils. The program dates are listed on the Greek Calendar. New Member Educators (or their designee) are required to accompany the new members to each New Member Orientation.
5. The New Member Educator, Chapter President and Chapter Advisor shall verify the eligibility of each individual to whom the chapter wishes to extend a "bid" or offer of membership. When filing the New Member Registration Forms, the New Member Educator shall also file the "New Member Eligibility Form" wherein he/she, the Chapter President and Chapter Advisor attests that all new members of the chapter meet all eligibility standards.
6. The New Member Educator is required to submit the "New Member Information Form" by the date listed on the Greek Calendar. It shall further be the responsibility of the New Member Educator to notify OFSA of any additions or deletions to the original list of new members.
7. The New Member Educator shall be responsible for submitting the New Member Registration Forms by the date listed on the Greek Calendar. Failure to file a New Member Registration Form for an individual who has been offered membership shall cause the unreported member to be considered "ineligible" and will result in the same sanctions being imposed on the chapter and its officers as if the chapter had offered membership to an ineligible student.
8. It is the responsibility of the New Member Educator to provide every new member with the Rights & Responsibilities Packet (which includes the Pledges Bill of Rights.) To acknowledge fulfillment of this responsibility the New Member Educator, the Chapter President and the Chapter Advisor are required to complete and return to OFSA the form entitled "Hazing Compliance Form."
9. The New Member Educator shall submit the "Fraternity/Sorority Initiation Form" by the date listed on the Greek Calendar.

Ineligible Students

In the event a chapter is found to have granted membership to an ineligible student, one or more of the following penalties will be imposed:

- The chapter will be assessed a fine of \$100.00 per ineligible member.
- The appropriate chapter officers will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action.
- Each ineligible new member will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action.
- The chapter will be assessed a fine by the appropriate governing council (IFC, Panhellenic, NPHC, MGC) equal to the amount of unpaid dues for each ineligible new member.