



Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life

Fraternity and Sorority Life Expansion Policy

Social fraternities and sororities may establish chapters at SMU only through formal invitation extended by the University. Expansion proposals from students, chapters, and/or National Greek letter organizations interested in expansion must first be consistent with the [mission](#) and [policies of SMU](#). Requests for Fraternity & Sorority Life expansion are reviewed by Council Leadership, Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life (FSL) staff, and Student Affairs leadership when a designated council is open for expansion. Expressions of interest may be sent to FSL and will be reviewed according to the following criteria and procedures.

Step One: University Consideration

Process for Securing Approval to Expand:

1. The designated Council, along with FSL Staff, will conduct an internal review to determine if the community has need and meets University and Council criteria that indicates a readiness to expand.
2. If a Council believes they are ready for expansion, the Council must first pass a proposal for expansion utilizing their constitutional voting process and/or umbrella organization policies. If expansion is approved, the Council must abide by their Council expansion policies outlined in their constitution, with supervision of their Council Advisor.
3. If expansion is approved, the petitioning Council requests approval to proceed from the Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA).

Step Two: Expansion Announcement and Information Collection

If the VPSA approves the expansion request, the Council begins the expansion process as outlined by the Council's umbrella organization and constitution. Steps may include:

1. FSL Staff announces the Council is open for expansion to eligible inter/national organizations and solicits applications.
2. Organization applications for membership are reviewed and evaluated via a rubric based on application criteria.
3. Finalists are identified and campus visits scheduled.

Required Information for Applying Organizations

Interested organizations will be asked to provide specific information in their application, dependent on the Council expanding. Minimum materials required include:

1. Brief history and purpose of the inter/national organization.
2. Disclosure of current and historical connections to SMU – If the inter/national organization seeks to re-establish a chapter formerly at SMU, a history of the SMU chapter, with reasons for the chapter's closing and plans to ensure success moving forward should be included.
3. Membership statistics:
 - a. Present size of the organization (including but not limited to the number of current active chapters and probationary chapters and location of each).
 - b. Number of new chapters and colonies in the last three years (current size and location of each).

- c. List of active collegiate chapters within three-hours of Dallas.
 - d. Current total number of undergraduate members and alumni/ae.
 - e. Number and locations of chapters closed in the last five years and the reason(s) for closing.
 - f. Number and locations of chapters currently on some form of conduct status.
4. Membership costs:
 - a. These must include, but are not limited to, new member and initiation fees, membership dues, etc. This should be an accurate cost breakdown for members and explanation of chapter expenses.
 5. Requirements for membership within the organization.
 6. Statement of support for expansion from inter/national organization.
 7. Detailed description of how the organization will provide benefit to the SMU Fraternity & Sorority Life community as well as strategies for building relationships within the governing Council, the University, and with alumni.
 8. Establishing chapter procedures & policies, including but not limited to:
 - a. Anticipated expansion and charter timeline.
 - b. Recruitment/Intake plan.
 - c. New Member Education plan and if applicable, adapted plan to meet SMU's 6-week maximum new member period requirement.
 - d. Retention Plan.
 - e. Minimum standards for potential new members.
 - f. Scholarship/academic support programs.
 - g. Community service and philanthropy programs/requirements.
 - h. Sample chapter constitution and bylaws.
 - i. Code of conduct/standards/judicial procedures.
 - j. Relationship violence and sexual assault/sexual misconduct prevention.
 - k. DEI Plan to address both historical and current context.
 - l. Alcohol and substance use/abuse.
 - m. Risk Management Policy.
 - n. Leadership development & officer training.
 - o. Timeline of support through consultations and supervision for establishing a colony.
 - p. Descriptions of training on hazing, substance abuse, diversity and inclusion, and sexual violence prevention.
 - q. Proof of Insurance.
 9. Organizational Support
 - a. The organization must have an established viable Advisory Board and/or written plan to obtain the support of an advisor and alumni three months prior to chapter colonization or recolonization. This Advisory Board/Advisor must be composed of local volunteers who will be actively working with new chapter. The organization should include the following in the application:
 - i. Structure of potential alumni advisory board.

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- ii. Nearest graduate/alumni chapter(s).
- iii. Number of active alumni/ae in the DFW area.
- b. Before colonization/recolonization, the Board/Advisor must:
 - i. Meet with SMU Administrators.
 - ii. Meet with Council Advisor.
 - iii. Receive advisor training, in some form, from national officers as to responsibilities and duties to the chapter.
 - iv. Complete SMU student organization advisor training.
- c. Detailed list of the inter/national organization's support and resources throughout this process.
 - i. Address recruitment, initial establishment through chartering, and first two years as an emerging chapter on campus.

Step Three: Campus Visit

Finalists will be invited to campus to meet with SMU community members and provide space for the organization to give a presentation.

Step Four: Expansion Proposal Analysis

1. After campus visits with finalists, the Council votes to provide a recommendation to the VPSA. The Council may recommend one or more chapters for expansion, or none of the participating chapters.
2. The final decision for expansion lies with the VPSA.
3. Once a decision has been made, SMU will issue a letter officially inviting inter/national organization(s) to establish a chapter at SMU and outline the establishment timeframe. At that time, the inter/national organization(s) will work with FSL Staff to determine next steps. Finalists will meet with SMU administration, FSL Staff, and Council leadership to prepare for a successful onboarding during a predetermined timeline established by SMU.