

13 Greek Standards and Expectations

Greek organizations have been part of the history of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi almost since the founding of it as an undergraduate institution. These organizations are an important part of campus life for many students and can have a meaningful impact on the development of their members.

Greek organizations are different in some respects from other student organizations, particularly in their selection of members, the secrecy of their rituals of initiation, the very broad scope of their organizational activities and their high campus visibility.

Therefore, the university has defined specific standards of performance and behavior that all Greek organizations must meet to continue their affiliation with the University. These expectations are listed below.

13.1 Integrity

All fraternity and sorority chapter members, new members, and affiliates are to speak and act with honesty and scrupulous respect for the human dignity of others.

Failure to act when infractions are known or attempting to conceal misbehavior critically affects the trust that must exist for a positive and continuing relationship between the organization and the University. Furthermore, acting with integrity includes not only following written policy but the intent of policy as well.

13.2 University Policy

It is expected that Greek organizational leaders and members are aware of University policy (which includes federal, state, and local laws) as promulgated in the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Student Code of Conduct, RSO Handbook, and the Greek Handbook and assume responsibility and accountability for adherence to these policies.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi does not expect perfection of its organizations or students. It does expect a good faith effort to promote responsible programs and individual behavior and an honest and sincere attempt to deal with behavior which is contrary to published standards.

13.3 Inter/National organization policy

It is expected that Greek Letter organizations are knowledgeable of all policies as set forth by the chapter's Inter/National organization and that they assume responsibility and accountability for adherence to these policies.

In the event of conflict between Inter/National and University policy, the stricter of the two policies and/or interpretations is to be enforced, unless the University judges that National policy is in conflict with University policy or values. In that situation, University policy will supersede the national policy.

13.4 Non-recognized Groups

It is expected that Greek letter organizations not affiliate their chapters or members in any way with Greek letter groups that are not recognized student organizations of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi or other universities.

In particular, local off-campus groups that function outside the governing parameters of IFC, Panhellenic, MGC and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi are a detriment to on-campus Greek letter organizations. Participation in sponsored activities of these groups gives them legitimacy, and thereby hurts the Greek system as a whole.

13.5 Advisors

It is expected that each chapter have both a University-appointed organizational advisor (generally recommended by the chapter) and a Chapter advisor (usually an alumni member) who actively help the chapter attain its goals. It is the chapter's responsibility to keep the Advisors fully informed and involved in all chapter matters.

Organizational advisors can be of invaluable assistance to the chapter officers and members, providing advice on the operation and activities of the organization. They provide one of the best means of ensuring continuity in the organization and may act as liaisons between the chapter, University, and National organizations.

13.6 Governance

It is expected that all recognized chapters be active participants in the Interfraternity, Panhellenic, MGC, Judicial Board or any other council that may govern them and that the councils communicate and cooperate for the benefit of the entire Greek community.

These organizations offer the best opportunity to ensure cooperation among chapters promoting a strong Greek system in terms of creating policy, monitoring activities, and ensuring behavior that reflect positively on the Greek system and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

13.7 Goals and objectives

It is expected that the Greek community and each chapter develop a set of goals and objectives which guide the direction of the system and chapter and serve as a basis for part of the annual evaluation.

The goals should reflect and support Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's Goals and Mission statement as well as the constitutionally stated purpose of the organization.

13.8 Scholarship

It is expected that the chapters facilitate and enhance the members' academic performance.

Greek chapters must place the highest emphasis on academic performance and foster an atmosphere of scholarly pursuit. Chapters should carefully monitor the academic behavior and, with permission, the academic performance of members. Students experiencing difficulty should be offered and encouraged to seek assistance from faculty, students, and other campus resources.

13.9 Recruitment/Membership Intake

It is expected that all recruitment activities are conducted in a manner which honestly characterizes the chapters' strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and activities, and the responsibilities of membership. Likewise, chapters must use this opportunity to actively solicit the interest of a culturally and ethnically diverse membership pool which will result in an active membership of similar description.

The goal of cultural and ethnic diversity applies equally to historically white, black, and Latino/a organizations.

13.10 New member program

It is expected that New Member programs be conducted in a manner of positive mutual respect between the full member and the new member.

In order to educate new members of history, rituals, traditions, rules and obligations and integrate the new member into full fraternal membership, a new member program must be developed annually by each chapter. It is to be reviewed by the officers and advisor and approved by the Greek Advisor.

13.11 Social activities

It is expected that activities are conducted in a manner which promotes positive social development and healthy lifestyle behaviors.

Each chapter provides for the socialization of their members as a group and also for the interaction of their group with other Greeks and non-Greeks. Chapters should achieve a balance between events where alcohol is involved and those where it is not. Chapters should be aware of individual and group responsibility for preventing substance abuse and promoting healthy lifestyle behaviors.

13.12 Programming

It is expected that chapter programs promote the intellectual, spiritual, moral, physical, cultural, and social development of members.

Chapters should support a continual and progressive educational curriculum designed to inform, challenge, and prepare members for successful college careers and their lives beyond. The goal is to become a well-rounded individual. The use of general fraternity, campus, local, alumni, and national resources is strongly encouraged. Greek students should be integrated into programs and other learning opportunities involving a diverse population whenever possible.

13.13 Community relations

It is expected that chapters and members are cognizant of how their behavior and activities impact positively or negatively the on and off-campus community.

As such, it is the individual and collective responsibility of groups to present a positive image at all times and to be mindful of the rights and sensibilities of the people with whom they come in contact.

No person or organization is an island: we are all part of a community. Respecting the rights of others and making positive contributions are ways Greeks demonstrate responsible behavior in the community.

13.14 Finances

It is expected that chapters meet financial obligations in a manner that establishes an accountable relationship between officers and members.

Detailed records of all financial transactions must be kept and reported regularly to the membership. Contracts should be reviewed carefully to protect the organization and to ensure that the organization can meet the financial obligations as stated in the contract. Contracts cannot directly or by implication obligate Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in any manner.

13.15 Annual evaluation

It is expected that each chapter conduct an annual evaluation of their adherence with these University standards and the expectations of their national organization. This evaluation must be conducted by meeting with the Greek Advisor.

Evaluation is an essential practice that tells chapters where they stand in terms of established goals and University and National expectations. Evaluation also aids incoming officers in effective chapter leadership. This understanding helps to keep organizations vibrant and contributing members of the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi community.

In order to be in good standing, recognized Greek letter organizations must meet the above expectations. Failure to consistently meet these standards will result in the review of the organization, by the appropriate University body, in terms of its continued viability as a recognized student organization.