

# 18 New Member Program Standards & Guidelines

These guidelines were established to ensure that new member education enhances the academic progress of each Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Greek organization member and assists their interpersonal development while providing the history and information necessary for viable membership in the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Greek community.

1. Every new member will receive a copy of the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi **New Member Bill of Rights** that shall be reviewed with him/her at the onset of the organization's new member orientation program. The **New Member Bill of Rights Confirmation Form** must be signed by all new members of an organization and filed with Student Activities within the first week of the new member program.
2. All new member programs must follow the **Membership Guidelines** as outlined in this handbook.
3. Scavenger hunts or other similar activities by any other name, are prohibited.
4. It is recognized that students should be committed to academics first and all other activities, including Greek after anything academic. "Academics First" is the watchword for all planning of time use.
5. All new members are expected to maintain or exceed their level of academic performance.
  - a. All new members are expected to attend class on time, attend study sessions, and fulfill all academic requirements.
  - b. All new members are expected to respect and adhere to the individual requirements of each class.
  - c. Should a significant decrease in academic performance occur and Greek related activities are found to be the reason, it is recommended that an organization request a new member to stop participation immediately.
6. Study Hours
  - a. It is recommended that 20 study hours a week (6 supervised, 14 unsupervised occur). The minimum academic recommendation is 2 hours of studying per hour of class.
  - b. Mentoring and tutoring are encouraged.
7. For organizations with required study halls or study hours, flexibility must be given to those individuals who need to study alone, in the library or computer lab, with a study group or in a separate location. Only academic coursework may be completed during required study halls (no fraternity information/history, etc.)
8. Members are expected to maintain at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA to remain in a Greek organization. Chapters must provide academic support for members who fall below a 2.0 semester GPA.
9. The new member process is to be a total maximum of eight weeks, and will conclude before the start of finals week. Initiation may occur the following

semester, but must be held no more than 1 week (7 days) after the start of classes.

10. It is recommended that time is not to exceed 20 hours of activities per week (including all mandatory visits/extended meals, meetings, and any planning/preparatory time) and a maximum of three hours per day Monday through Thursday, not including study hours.
11. New member activities must end by Midnight and may not start again till 8 AM. Eight hours of consecutive sleep must be provided.
12. No "Hell Week" at any time.
13. Organizations wishing to hold events that require an overnight stay (on or off campus) as part of their new member program must file an **Overnight Request Form** and provide an **Overnight Participant List** no later than 3 business days prior to the activity. Overnight activities may only occur on Fridays or Saturdays.
14. All organizations must follow their own inter/national new member programs, where applicable. In cases where Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and inter/national policies differ, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi policy will always take precedence.
15. All organizations must follow the membership and new member guidelines in order to extend membership to potential new members the following semester.
16. New member activities cannot disrupt other functions of the university community.
  - a. Students cannot intentionally, negligently, or recklessly interfere with the academic process.
  - b. All rights and privileges as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct are assumed covered in this agreement.
17. The required or encouraged consumption of alcohol and the use of illicit drugs cannot be part of any organization's process or activity. The expectation is that all activities comply with local, state, and federal laws.
18. New member educators are encouraged to meet regularly with the Greek Advisor as well as their organization's alumni and campus advisors for feedback. Questions or concerns should be directed to Student Activities at 825-2707.

***This list is not all-inclusive.*** Organizations should familiarize themselves with the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Greek Handbook (specifically sections on Hazing and Alcohol), Texas State Law, and their own inter/national policies (where applicable) related to new member activities.

Questionable incidents may be reported by calling Student Activities at 825-2707.

### **18.1 Basic Goals for New Member Programming**

1. Educate new members on the history of the fraternity and the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Greek community.
2. Learn the ideals and purposes of the fraternity.
3. Foster organization unity (involve new members in **all** activities, meetings and projects with the exception of closed rituals). Do NOT attempt to foster new

member-only unity. This splits the new members from the rest of the organization and results in organization cliques based on 'classes.'

4. Teach life skills (skills new members can use during and after college), such as time management, leadership, budgeting and planning.
5. Assist new members as much as possible.

## **18.2 Basic Objectives for New Member Programming**

1. Learn founding principles.
2. Know about the inter/national office.
3. Know about the local organization.
4. Know about organization operations (i.e. HQ structure, local officer structure, bylaws and standing rules, procedures, etc.)
5. Know the responsibilities of membership (including financial).
6. Academic development.
7. Character development, including the values and ethics expected from a member of your organization.
8. Leadership development.
9. Citizenship and community responsibility.
10. Social skill development.

## **18.3 Your Organization Should Have . . .**

1. An academic emphasis.
2. A published anti-hazing policy that is followed by ALL members.
3. All policies/guidelines for new members in writing.
4. Inter/national guidelines to follow (where applicable.)
5. Schedule and publicize your initiation date (where applicable).
6. A calendar of activities for each day of the new member program.