

GREEK LIFE Handbook

FRATERNITIES & SORORITIES

General Information

As recognized student organizations of ACU, F/S join service groups, academic groups and special interest groups in representing ACU's mission in a variety of unique ways. Leaders and members of F/S should communicate ACU's mission as well as their own F/S mission in all of their activities. This section of the Student Organization Handbook serves as an orientation guide for new members and a leadership guide for officers, sponsors and active members of F/S. The guidelines in this section are intended to state the purpose, philosophy, rules and regulations regarding F/S to 1) help new members understand F/S and their function and 2) clarify and communicate consistent information to all F/S members and sponsors.

Purpose of Fraternities & Sororities

Since 1919, social clubs, now referred to as Greek Life and Fraternities and Sororities, have been a part of the ACU experience. Through Greek Life, many students fulfill the need for close, personal contact and for social interaction. F/S were founded by students who petitioned the University and received approval for their proposed charter. Therefore, F/S exist as entities granted by the University and must maintain the standards of the University. F/S participate in a variety of activities including: intramural sports, Sing Song, Homecoming activities, social events and service projects. The University supports the efforts of Greek Life to stimulate a closer bond of friendship among students and enhance each student's loyalty to ACU.

Coordination of Fraternities and Sororities

ACU Greek Life is under the coordination of the Student Life Office. The Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities is the primary coordinator and serves as the facilitator for Greek Life on campus.

The responsibilities of the office of Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities include:

- Establishing and coordinating regular meetings with Greek Life officers and sponsors.
- Training all Greek Life officers.
- Training sponsors and helping them understand their roles and responsibilities as volunteers apart from any other university responsibilities

- Coordinating communication to the students, sponsors and ACU faculty/staff in regards to Greek Life.
- Educating the campus community, especially prospective new members, about the process of new member orientation.
- Educating the campus community, especially F/S officers and sponsors, about the annual Greek Life calendar and process.
- Supervising and upholding ACU policy and procedures in all Greek Life activities.
- Monitoring and evaluating all aspects of the Greek Life process with an annual assessment.

Fraternities and Sororities as Recognized Student Organizations

In order for a F/S to be active on campus, they must be recognized as an official ACU student organization. F/S must comply with the policies outlined in the Student Organization Handbook for university recognition. This includes submitting annual updates prior to the end of each academic year and attending any mandatory training that is required by the Student Life Office.

In addition to the requirements listed in the Student Organization Handbook, F/S will be required to meet with the Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities to ensure adherence to written protocols. If current policies are not met, the organization may be placed on a one year probation to acquire the necessary membership requirement and their status as a recognized organization may be removed. The organization may go through a re-chartering process once it meets the necessary membership requirement.

Responsibilities of Fraternities and Sororities

It is extremely important that all actions of F/S during the school year, especially induction procedures, reflect a positive impact on the individual participants, other students and/or faculty, citizens of Abilene, Taylor County and surrounding areas. F/S officers and their sponsors must be acutely aware of the community's response to their actions. One or two unseemly incidents can negate a world of good that is performed by most F/S throughout the year.

- The freedom of choice given to individual F/S is possible only when individual F/S take full responsibility for following approved plans and University guidelines for the new member orientation activities.
- Each F/S, as a whole, is responsible for the actions of its F/S members, current students and alumni toward potential new F/S members. The F/S's responsibility exists without regard to whether its members are acting alone or as a group, and without regard to whether its members are acting with or without the knowledge of the F/S's officers or sponsors.

- The F/S agree to follow and enforce for their members the guidelines developed by the Office of Student Life as well as the University.

Eligibility Requirements for Membership in a Fraternity or Sorority

As with any other co-curricular activity at ACU, there are eligibility requirements for joining and remaining active in a F/S. Any recent conduct probation may impact your ability to participate in Greek Life activities as a new member or a member. The following list includes the guidelines for eligibility to join:

Students must:

1. Have completed one long semester of college (beginning spring of 2022) which equates to at least 12 college hours. There may be circumstances that could allow a student to be exempt from this requirement with the approval of the Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities.
2. Be currently enrolled as a full time ACU student (12 or more hours for undergraduate students and 9 or more hours for graduate students).
3. Be in good academic standing and not on academic probation with the University.

Any student found to be ineligible after registering to join will receive an ineligibility notice from the Office of Student Life explaining the reasons for the ineligibility. F/S will receive a list of eligible students who registered to join from the Office of Student Life after registration has concluded. Member eligibility is verified at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters.

Existing member requirements include the following:

1. Be currently enrolled as a residential student at the ACU Abilene campus (6 or more hours for undergraduate students and 9 or more hours for graduate students). A student who joins during their undergraduate program, is permitted to continue participation, so long as the F/S allow. Graduate students are not able to rush and join Greek Life.
2. Be in good academic standing and not on academic probation with the University.

Any student found ineligible will receive an email giving information and details about the ineligibility. Ineligible students are prohibited from participating in Intramurals, Sing Song, F/S meetings, running for office, voting, socials and formals, and any other F/S sponsored events. F/S will be notified of any member that does not meet eligibility requirements. F/S officers and sponsors are responsible for ensuring that ineligible members do not participate in F/S activities. Organizations admitting new members or

allowing current members to participate who do not meet the above requirements may face disciplinary actions, including, but not limited to, loss of its student organization's status.

Cost of Joining Fraternities and Sororities

Each F/S charges dues to its members and they may vary some in price. The additional costs of T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and other merchandise items, as well as the costs of socials, Sing Song, etc., must also be considered.

Considering dues, participating in a F/S at ACU costs approximately \$500-\$600 per year, depending on the F/S. Expenses during the new member orientation period may be greater than for a typical semester. **F/S are required to allow students to make several payments during the semester to ease the financial stress, and cannot penalize a student for choosing to make multiple payments.** When a new member pays dues, it is done with the understanding that if that new member chooses to walk away from the joining process, no money will be refunded. If the cost of dues is the only thing keeping a student from participating and they are in a financial hardship, the Office of Student Life may offer a one time scholarship to help with dues. An application may be submitted through this office upon request.

POLICIES

Officer Expectations

Officers, as well as all ACU students, are expected to uphold the principles of Abilene Christian University as stated in the ACU Student Handbook. These principles include integrity, service, stewardship, involvement and excellence. Officers are at all times expected to represent their F/S and ACU well and should take this responsibility seriously. Students in leadership positions are held to a higher standard. With this in mind, a student's disciplinary file will be considered prior to any F/S elections. Students who find themselves with a recent conduct probation may not be eligible for leadership positions. Students who have been elected to leadership positions and then find themselves facing conduct probation may be required to resign their office immediately after all appeals have been exhausted. Academic/chapel integrity violations may also impact a student's eligibility to run for office. However, the University reserves the right to immediately remove the student leader from his/her position, if the Dean of Student Life determines that serious misconduct has occurred or that the student's continued leadership presents unreasonable risk of danger to himself or herself or the organization. If at any time a F/S officer is known to have broken any portion of the Student Handbook, the Office of Student Life may remove a member from office. Any F/S member wishing to run for an office must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1) Must meet all eligibility requirements for membership in a F/S.

2) Must be active during the semester that elections take place.

All F/S officers sign a commitment with the Office of Student Life at the beginning of their term indicating their understanding of these principles. The commitment also states that if the principles are not followed, they will forfeit their position as an officer. A copy of the commitment follows.

Inter-Greek Life Council (IGLC)

The IGLC will consist of F/S representatives from each of the active organizations on campus. The council will meet regularly, spending time collectively addressing issues related to the Greek Life process. This council will be advised by the Senior Coordinator.

New Officers

1) The election of new officers for the following school year must occur no later than 3 weeks prior to the end of the semester. 2) F/S will be required to submit a list of members running for office at least 2 weeks prior to elections for the Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities to check eligibility requirements of candidates. 3) Election results must be turned in to the Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities on or prior to the 3 weeks prior to dead day. 4) Newly elected officers will be expected and required to sign a commitment (on the previous page) with the University regarding their conduct. This commitment will hold officers accountable to ACU policies and procedures. 5) New officers are required to attend leadership training and orientation with the Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities. Meetings will continue throughout the term of office.

Active Lists

Each F/S must turn in a list of current active members each September and February. The officer who is responsible for the list should make absolutely sure each individual on the list intends to be active and that everyone who wants to be active has made that decision known. F/S are strongly encouraged to collect dues or agree to a payment plan BEFORE adding a member's name to the active list. If payment is not made by the deadline set by the F/S, the treasurer must remove the member's name from the **active list**.

Inactive Members

When a F/S member chooses to go inactive, that member forfeits the opportunity to participate in University-sponsored F/S competitions. These include intramurals, Sing Song, or any other University-sponsored F/S competition. Policies regarding closed F/S functions such as meetings, socials/formals, and special activities are a matter of individual F/S discretion and are to be set out in the constitution of each F/S; however, inactive members will not be allowed to participate in any new member orientation activities. If a person in a F/S is deemed ineligible, this person cannot participate in any F/S functions or events, including Sing Song, intramurals, F/S meetings, socials/formals, rush activities or new member orientation activities.

Planning ANY F/S Activities

At least one sponsor must be present at all F/S events. Regardless of the nature of the F/S activity, the procedure remains the same. ALL activities must be approved by the Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities. After being approved by the Senior Coordinator, a designated F/S officer will be required to submit the event into ACU's Event Manager. In order to be approved by ACU Events, the activity must be submitted at least one week prior to the event, as the committee only meets weekly to approve events. If an unsanctioned event takes place, the F/S is subject to disciplinary action and possible fines. (Unsanctioned would be any event that takes place without the approval of the Senior Coordinator and then submitted into EVM for further approval).

Planning F/S Socials

At least one sponsor must be present at all socials, as this is a student organization special event; therefore, sponsors' input is crucial to planning. Sponsors must be asked about availability on chosen dates to assure that someone is available before any plans are made. When planning a social, it is suggested that a contract for services be used in arranging locations, photographers, T-shirt orders, etc., for the social. Most vendors will have a contract for events. (See student organization policy regarding contracts.) Arrangements must be made for sponsors to be present for the social before it is submitted to the Office of Student Life for final approval. Once a social is approved by the Senior Coordinator, it should be submitted into Event Manager (EVM) software. Pursuant to the ACU Student Handbook, ACU student organizations cannot have alcohol or illegal drugs present at any student organization event or special event.

Sponsors

F/S sponsors are critical to the success of their organizations. The nature of the activities in which F/S engage, there are requirements to be approved as a F/S sponsor.

- Prospective sponsors must complete an online application to serve as a sponsor.

Once a prospective sponsor applies, a background check is completed by ACU.

Prospective sponsors are considered by the Student Life Vice President, Associate Vice President for Student Life, Senior Coordinator for F/S, and current F/S Officer President and Vice President. Candidates are notified of approval or denial to serve by the Senior Coordinator.

- Approved sponsors must attend Fall training and on-going informational sessions.
- Each F/S must have one sponsor for every event.
- All sponsors must go through a background check every three years.

The following are additional responsibilities that F/S have toward sponsors:

1) The officers of the F/S, and ultimately the president, are responsible for scheduling and confirming that a sponsor will be present at every activity, including F/S meetings. Sponsors should be made aware of activities ahead of time and their attendance confirmed in advance. Failure to have a sponsor present will result in cancellation of the activity, meeting or event.

2) If an event takes place without a sponsor present, the F/S will be immediately subject to disciplinary action and possible fines through the Office of Student Life.

3) Though many sponsors may not have the time to attend intramural games, members should provide a schedule so that sponsors could attend if desired.

Sponsors' Responsibilities to Fraternities and Sororities

1) Sponsors must be present at each meeting and F/S function (except officer meetings, intramural games, and Sing Song rehearsals).

2) A very important responsibility of sponsors is to closely monitor rushing and new member orientation activities. A sponsor is required to read and consent to every activity proposal before it is submitted to the Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities. Sponsors need to be familiar with university policy. It is necessary for them to know exactly what is being planned for the new member orientation period and to make sure it is consistent with University policy. At least one sponsor must be present at each new member orientation activity. 3) Please read the sponsor section for all student organizations for additional information that is applicable to F/S sponsors.

RUSHING AND JOINING

Registering to Join a Fraternity or Sorority

Prior to rushing, the Office of Student Life will hold an informational meeting for all prospective members. This meeting gives details of eligibility, the rushing process, the cost of joining, and the orientation period. Anyone interested in joining must complete the online registration.

The Realities of Joining

Each F/S is limited to taking 60 new members.

A good faith effort will be made to match every student with a F/S.

The intention of rushing is to provide an opportunity for prospective members to spend

time getting to know the different F/S and their members.

Each F/S has unique attributes and something to offer. It is during the rushing period that prospective members are able to learn about those attributes and find the F/S that best suits their own personalities and preferences.

It is important to keep an open mind during this process and actively engage in learning about all of the different F/S. Keep in mind that not everyone will be able to receive a bid from their first choice, which makes it imperative that you consider all of your options for joining.

Rushing

The fall and spring rush process lasts approximately two weeks. Following are the types of rushes:

- All-F/S Rush - This is an all-access rush promoted by the Office of Student Life, All F/S and students wishing to rush are invited.
- Independent F/S rushes - This is a time for members and prospective members to meet and get to know each other. These may be on or off campus and may have a specific theme.
- Invitational Rushes - Sororities will start with open rushing, but as the rushing process continues, potential rushees must be invited back to attend a sorority's rush. Invitations will be delivered via email. (Fraternities may also have an invitational rush.)

Ranking

During the rushing process, there will be two ranking days for both fraternities and sororities. Rankings will take place within the two weeks prior to bid day. Prospective members will be notified by email of the actual dates. Ranking will occur during specific times on the designated days. Students will be notified by email and given detailed instructions on how to rank and the deadline. Please remember that if you miss a ranking deadline, you will not be allowed to rank at a later date or time, and therefore may not be considered by the F/S of your choice. By having the prospective members rank all of the F/S, the Office of Student Life is able to attempt to give everyone a bid who is still interested in the process. Once again, keep in mind that not everyone will receive a bid from their first choice, which is why the ranking process is so important. The new member orientation contract and medical form must be turned in at this time as well. Because men's and women's F/S have unique differences, the rushing process has been adjusted to accommodate the needs of each group.

Bid Distribution

Bids will be distributed on the day before Bid Day. The process for delivering bids will be managed by the Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities.

New Member Orientation

The mission of Abilene Christian University is to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world. Central to this mission is the desire to love and honor God by the way we call all members of the ACU community to love and honor others. The F/S joining period should honor God by honoring others - both current and provisional members - at all times. The ACU mission challenges each member of the ACU community to treat others with the utmost respect and honor. Commitment to these principles has helped the members of the ACU community create a legacy of excellence of which we can all be proud. Since 1919 members of social clubs, now F/S, have played an unmistakable role in this tradition of excellence at Abilene Christian University. Thus, we can be confident that increased efforts to make the joining process at ACU even more positive will further enhance the contribution of F/S to achieving the ACU mission.

ACU desires to incorporate new members into F/S with a feeling of pride in the group and with a sense of belonging. This needs to be done in such a way as not to interfere with the student's academic and educational responsibilities. The faculty, administration and Student Life staff hope to achieve a positive, memorable joining experience for each student participating while upholding the scriptures of Romans 14:19, "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification," and Romans 15:1-2, "We who are strong ought to bear the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good to build him up."

New Member Orientation Contract

A new member orientation contract must be signed by each F/S member and each provisional member to be filed online in the Office of Student Life. The F/S president will ensure that member contracts are signed and submitted online, at the designated time to the Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities. Contracts will be submitted online by the provisional members on the final ranking day. Failure to sign a contract makes both F/S members and provisional members ineligible to participate in the new member orientation process. This contract emphasizes the goals and objectives of joining and must therefore be signed by each member of every F/S. A copy of the new member orientation contract follows.

New Member Orientation Contract for Prospective and Current F/S Members

I, the undersigned, understand that in order to participate in the joining process, all provisional and current F/S members are required to sign this contract with ACU. By signing below, I am stating that I have read the following documents, understand what they require of me, and will fully comply with the responsibilities and requirements set out in them:

1. The Texas hazing law; Specifically, I understand that hazing is illegal in Texas. (Under the Texas statute, hazing is defined as "any intentional knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are students at an educational institution".) **I also understand that anyone who witnesses or experiences hazing activities and does not report them and the individuals committing the activities is in violation of the statute;**

2. The ACU Student Organization Handbook; and

3. The ACU Student Handbook.

Specifically, I understand that all F/S activities, including new member orientation, will conform to the community standards of ACU as underscored by its mission statement and set forth in the current Student Organization Handbook and Student Handbook. I realize that any violation of this contract may result in a disciplinary response and my removal from joining activities.

In consideration of ACU's recognition of F/S and for being permitted to participate in those F/S and in the joining process, **I do hereby release, hold harmless and indemnify Abilene Christian University, its officers, trustees, agents, and employees from any and all claims, demand, suits, costs, and charges, in connection with or arising out of the joining process or travel and transportation to and from new member orientation activities including, but not limited to, serious bodily injury to myself or others or property damage, except for loss, harm, or injury occasioned by gross negligence or intentional misconduct by Abilene Christian University, its officers, trustees, agents, or employees. I further state that I have signed voluntarily under my own free will, and I am of legal age and legally competent to execute this agreement.**

Your signature _____

Date _____

New Member Orientation Proposals

New member orientation proposals will be submitted by F/S officers to the Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities. New member orientation proposals will include detailed accounts of each activity to occur. These proposals must be signed by F/S officers and F/S sponsors (digital signatures are acceptable). After review, the Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities will return proposals with any necessary revisions. F/S officers are responsible for ensuring that all F/S members and sponsors present at any given activity are aware of and have been educated as to what has been approved. Failure to gain approval for any activities during this process, first by the Senior Coordinator and then submitted into EVM, may result in disciplinary actions and possible fines.

Student Life has adopted the following template that will be used as we consider new member orientation proposals:

- Did you start with your core value and intended purpose in developing an activity which demonstrates this value?
- The activity should be designed to help new members grow into membership.
- Members themselves should be demonstrating core values through the activity.
- The activity should be consistent with discipleship to Jesus. There is no room for humiliation, disrespect, unkindness, or intimidation.
- It needs to be a joyful and meaningful experience for new and existing members.
- The activity proposal needs to be honest and transparent in all that is done.

New Member Orientation Hours

Joining a F/S is a significant commitment. To honor the time and commitment made by each provisional member, limits have been set as to the number of hours spent on new member orientation activities during any given week. For new member orientation, 12 hours is the maximum number of hours to be spent on joining activities. In planning for new member orientation, keep in mind that weekend activities are allowed if approved. The allowed hours for activities on Monday through Friday will be during the times of 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m., 3 hour limit. On weekends, the allowed hours for activities will be as follows: Saturday - from 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., 3 hour limit and Sunday - from 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., 3 hour limit. Activities that do not count towards new member orientation hours include, F/S meetings, intramurals, Homecoming float preparation (Fall 2021), Homecoming Breakfast preparation (Fall 2021), or study hall hours. Once Homecoming is over, new members become known as first-year members (Fall 2021). First-year members are responsible for having one on one meetings with existing members, known as visits. Any student that does not complete their visits will not be

eligible to participate in F/S activities for the following semester.

Residence Life

We desire that every provisional member has time to study, to sleep and to connect with friends in the hall. For this reason, Resident Halls are not available for any new member orientation activities. During the joining process, prospective members living on campus will have a curfew. Curfew is 12:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, and 1:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m., Friday and Saturday. This curfew will remain in place during the entirety of new member orientation, which includes Call Night. F/S cannot have any activities during the hours of the curfew, regardless of whether a provisional member lives on or off campus. Students' that participate in new member orientation must check in with a member of their dorm each night before curfew during the new member orientation process.

The consequences for being late for curfew by an individual provisional member during New Member Orientation activities are:

- 1) The first time a provisional member is late for curfew, he/she will receive a formal warning.
- 2) The second time a provisional member is late for curfew, he/she will be required to meet with the Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities and his or her F/S president.
- 3) If a provisional member misses curfew a third time, he/she will have an 11 pm curfew for one week (including weekends)
- 4) If a provisional member misses curfew a fourth time, he/she will be suspended from the new member orientation process and may go through the rushing process again the following year.

The consequences for a new member orientation class being late for curfew due to orientation activities are:

- 1) The first time a new member orientation class is late for curfew, the entire class will have an 11:00 pm curfew for the remainder of the joining process - including weekends. The F/S president, New Member Officer and a sponsor will be required to meet with the Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities.
- 2) If a new member class misses curfew a second time, the joining process will cease for the entire F/S.

At no time should any F/S member or officer be in the residence halls during new member orientation. The residence halls should be a "sanctuary" for all residents. Any F/S member wishing to visit a residence hall for a reason not pertaining to F/S business

may do so only after they receive verbal or written consent from the residence director.

The following are consequences if a member is in the residence halls w/o permission:

- 1) The first time a F/S member transgresses the boundaries of a residence hall, that F/S member will be suspended from joining activities.
- 2) On a second offense, the F/S member will become ineligible to participate in F/S for the remainder of the semester and will become inactive.
- 3) On a third offense, new member orientation will cease for the entire F/S.

GUIDELINES FOR NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION ACTIVITIES

ACU desires to incorporate new members into F/S in ways that create a sense of community and belonging among all F/S members. Therefore, any action or communication by the F/S as a whole or by any individual member that humiliates, intimidates, embarrasses, degrades, threatens or abuses is prohibited and will result in disciplinary action. BECAUSE THE CHARGE TO BUILD CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AND PROTECT EACH OTHER FROM INAPPROPRIATE TREATMENT IS **GREATER** THAN THE CHARGE TO PROTECT A PERSON WHO IS MISTREATING OTHERS, ALL MEMBERS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO REPORT SUSPECTED HAZING TO A SPONSOR IMMEDIATELY. If disciplinary action taken against a F/S requires that joining activities cease, all new members will be inducted into the F/S as full members at that time. The offending person(s) would face disciplinary action.

Each F/S is required to assign an officer to ensure the safety of members and adherence to university hazing policies. These officers will be trained in anti-hazing protocols and member safety compliance.

New Member Orientation

New member orientation is conducted over a period of time that lasts 2 weeks. Provisional members will at all times be treated with respect, both publicly and privately. During the joining process, F/S should create experiences that focus on building unity within the new member class, learning F/S history and traditions, overall F/S unity and community building and getting to know existing members and alumni. Members should model F/S life and core values for provisional members.

i. Expectations/values for New Member Orientation Process. Every activity must:

1. Demonstrate Christian values and commitments.
2. Create a sense of unity both within the new member class and within the F/S as a whole.
3. Provide a sense of the history, tradition and values of the F/S.

4. Create a sense of the personal well-being of every member, including provisional members. This includes activities that purposefully provide opportunities for spiritual growth including love of God and neighbors, emotional health, and personal integrity both of members and prospective members.

5. Honor the current Student Handbook and always have a sponsor present.

ii. Prohibited Behaviors for New Member Orientation Process. The University will not tolerate activities that are counter to our Christian values. Under the Texas statute, hazing means *"any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization."*

As Christians our accountability is to a higher power than that of only the law. With this in mind, all activities should reflect a spirit of love and respect for all of God's children.

Behaviors prohibited by Abilene Christian University include, but are not limited to:

- Any type of personal servitude or requirement to purchase goods for members.
- Any activity that creates an environment that endangers provisional members through restriction of the senses, including the use of blindfolds.
- Any activity that requires excessive sleep deprivation.
- Any activity that requires provisional members to partially or fully disrobe.
- Any activity involving physical touching intended to inflict pain such as paddling, striking, whipping, shoving, electric shock, branding, or burning of provisional members.
- Any activity that requires one to eat or drink anything or place any foreign object in any orifice of the body.
- Any activity that requires provisional members to endure environments that create physical or emotional discomfort or that endanger one's physical safety.
- Any activity that involves abandoning, binding, shaving or confining of provisional members.
- Any activity that occurs without the presence of an approved sponsor.
- Any failure to comply with the directives of a F/S sponsor or any other University official, including interns from the Student Life Office.
- Any activity that involves placing substances on a new member or placing a provisional member in substances.
- Any activity that involves new members to be tested orally. (Accountability for learning F/S history and traditions may only be checked by asking provisional members to take written examinations without distraction).
- Any activity that involves physical exertion for the sake of physical exertion.

- Any repetitive physical activity that could be considered calisthenic in nature.
- Any activity that constitutes a negative form of group discipline or punishment.
- Any activity that constitutes correction of an individual provisional member unless conducted only in the presence of the officers and sponsors and is constructive and incremental.
- Any activity that involves water unless in a swimming pool with appropriate supervision.
- Any yelling of derogatory, insulting or threatening language.

In order to become a member of a F/S, each provisional member must complete a list of requirements set forth by each F/S. These requirements will include things such as attendance at activities, float prep hours, etc. A list of the requirements must be submitted by the F/S officers, with their new member orientation proposal, to the Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities and be approved *before* new member orientation begins. Each provisional member must be given a list of these requirements at the beginning of the joining period so they know what is expected of them. If a provisional member fails to meet the requirements set forth by the F/S, they may not be invited to achieve member status. In such a case, the president of the F/S should give these names to the Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities with appropriate documentation before the conclusion of new member orientation. After review, the F/S president will give the provisional members who did not complete their requirements the same documentation.

Bid Day

Bid Day will be determined by the Student Life Office. The end time for Bid Day has the potential to vary from group to group. Each group will be allowed a total of seven hours to complete their Bid Day activities.

Chapel

During chapel it is important for all F/S members and new members to maintain a level of anonymity and decorum so as not to distract others in the ACU community during this public time of worship. The joining process should not be part of the chapel atmosphere, as this is a special time for community, fellowship and worship on the ACU campus. New member classes are allowed to sit together during chapel; however, F/S members or provisional members cannot reserve a section for the entire new member class to sit together. Provisional members should be encouraged to attend chapel as normal during the school year. Should a new member or a new member class exhibit any form of

disruptive or disrespectful behavior as determined by the Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities in chapel, that new member class will not be allowed to sit together for the remainder of the joining process, and other sanctions may be applied. It has been the tradition of many F/S to have a brief meeting with provisional members immediately following chapel. These meetings must take place outside of Moody Coliseum so as not to disrupt registration of chapel attendance by both provisional members, and other members of the ACU community. No meeting should take place before each provisional member has been allowed to "slide out" of chapel. Asking one F/S member to slide several cards to allow attendance at a post-chapel group meeting is a violation of the Student Handbook.

Visits

Visits may occur in small group settings on campus (at least 2-4 people). Visits can only take place off-campus in a group of 4 or more new members per current member and not at a residence.

Philanthropy

ACU's Greek Life has always committed to serving others through various donations and service projects. This will serve as a more detailed description of what is expected in the way of philanthropic activities and number of hours required. Student Life will require that each Fraternity and Sorority choose one non-profit organization to partner with on a long term basis. Each organization will be given the autonomy to evolve the relationship and service for non-profit organizations as they see fit. This is a great opportunity for Fraternities and Sororities to get involved with our local community, be able to bond between members and the organization, and spread Christ's love with others, which is part of ACU's mission. The following points below are expectations from Student Life, but your particular organization may go above the expectations from Student Life.

1. No two F/S may be associated with the same non-profit organization. Each F/S partnership must be approved by the Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities.
2. Hours of service committed to non-profit organization (Minimum of 5 hours per semester, but may be more than that if F/S chooses)
3. Members and New members may be required to do more as part of their member expectations, according to your organization's guidelines
4. Each F/S must provide a description of how SPECIFICALLY this non-profit will be partnered with the organization. (Ex: types of service, donations that would be organized to benefit the non-profit, like a "sock drive" at a social)

5. You may choose to partner with a non-profit organization that you have worked with in the past and want to continue to work with in the future.
6. Your F/S will sign a contract and return it to the Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities.
7. There will need to be an officer that will be the designated representative for all philanthropy relations.
8. At least ONE social event must support the non-profit organization (ie. Christmas Social is also a "sock drive", Formal can be a "canned drive", Grub could be a monetary donation, etc.)
9. Each F/S will need to provide a philanthropy service outline to the Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities to be approved.
10. Members are required to volunteer and partner with the non-profit organization's needs and this will be determined by each F/S (ie. new members could have specific projects, volunteer hours are required and must be logged and turned into the Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities at the end of each semester, members must be involved in service as well as new members)
11. Establishment meetings are required between each F/S and the non-profit organization's contact person. The officer in charge of philanthropic relations will meet in person with the organization's contact person to discuss service plans. Contract may be signed by both parties at this meeting in the fall of the school year. Involving a F/S sponsor in this meeting is highly recommended.

The Wearing of Colors During the New Member Orientation Period

1. All student organizations participating in a new member orientation process to welcome provisional members will comply with the stated policy regarding the wearing of colors. Failure to comply with established guidelines may result in loss of privileges such as wearing colors.
2. In keeping with the University's tradition, all provisional members and current members will be asked to wear "purple and white" on Fridays as a sign of school spirit and unity. Organizations will not ask their provisional members to wear colors other than purple and white on Fridays.
3. The wearing of colors by provisional members during the joining period is considered a privilege. As such, provisional members may not be "required" to wear colors, but may be "asked" or "allowed" to wear colors. Provisional members will not be asked to wear colors to church, work, or during any other activity at which such attire might be deemed inappropriate.
4. All F/S will submit their proposed plans for the wearing of colors during any joining activities to the Senior Coordinator for Fraternities and Sororities for approval.

5. Men and women have the option of formal attire Mondays through Thursdays with parameters to wear various attire that is approved by the Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities.

F/S may decide how this would best be incorporated into their new member orientation process, but the rationale behind colors should meet the expectations and requirements for all joining activities. Through this process, when new members are wearing F/S colors or t-shirts, current members should also wear F/S memorabilia to show solidarity in promoting F/S spirit. F/S should take special care in recognizing wearing colors as a privilege and not a punishment.

Locations for Activities

As plans are made for activities, especially during the new member orientation period, safety is of greatest concern. Therefore, the University has established the following criteria for acceptable activity locations:

1) Area must be well lit. Car headlights **are not** appropriate forms of lighting. 2) Running water and closed-in restrooms must be readily available. 3) Sponsors must be comfortable with the location. 4) All activities may not be more than 20 minutes of driving time away from the ACU campus.

The final decision on any location will be made by the Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities. Failure by F/S officers to provide accurate details or locations for any F/S activity may result in cancellation of the activity or other disciplinary action and/or a possible fine. Maps for all off-campus locations, with accurate physical addresses, must be submitted to the Student Life Office with the activity proposals.

HAZING

ACU will not tolerate hazing as defined by Texas law. Moreover, ACU strongly discourages any action that degrades, intimidates, humiliates, or endangers any individual. The University reserves the right, for its private administrative purposes, to define conduct as "hazing" whether or not it would constitute hazing under the Texas law. All acts of hazing and any act that transgresses ACU's Student Handbook will receive the full range of discipline set forth by the current Student Handbook. Ignorance of Christian principles, cultural meanings, and Texas law will not constitute immunity from appropriate University discipline, including dismissal from the University. As hazing activities have become public across the United States, many universities and national fraternities and sororities are working hard to eliminate any activity that could be considered hazing. ACU has created policies and procedures that are intended to protect and preserve students, group traditions, and the ACU community.

Reporting Hazing Violations

Because the charge to build Christian community and protect each other from inappropriate treatment is greater than the charge to protect a person who is mistreating others, ALL members are responsible to report suspected hazing to one or all of the following: 1) a F/S student organization sponsor, 2) the Senior Coordinator of Fraternities and Sororities, 3) the Dean of Student Life, and/or 4) an anonymous reporting form on the hazing website: www.acu.edu/hazing. (You are not required to provide your name or contact information. If you wish to remain anonymous, begin filling in the form in the "Date of Incident" space provided.)

Failing to Report: Under Texas Law, the offense of failing to report is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, confinement in county jail for not more than 180 days, or both such fine and confinement. If you are a student at Abilene Christian University and fail to report a hazing violation, you may be subject to disciplinary action.

Administrative immunity: Any person reporting a specific hazing incident involving a student in an educational institution to the Dean of Students or other appropriate official of the institution is immune from liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed as a result of the report.

Immunity extends to participation in any judicial proceeding resulting from the report. A person reporting in bad faith or with malice is not protected. AÇU provides such immunity under the Non-Disciplinary Process/Administrative Agreements Policy.

Texas Hazing Law Defined

Below is an abbreviated summary of the Texas Education Code, Section 51.936 and Subchapter F, Chapter 37, Sections 37.151-158. The following Hazing Law was passed by the Texas State Legislature relating to offenses related to hazing at or in connection with an educational institution. To view the law in its entirety, please visit: www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us Definition of Terms (Sec 4.51)

- "Pledge" means any person who has been accepted by, is considering an offer of membership from, or is in the process of qualifying for membership in any organization.
- "Pledging" means any action or activity related to becoming a member of an organization.
- "Organization" means a fraternity, sorority, association, corporation, order, society, corps, cooperative, club, or service, social, or a similar group, whose

members are primarily students at an educational institution.

- "Hazing" means any intentional knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are students at an educational institution.

The term includes but is not limited to:

a) any type of physical brutality, such as: whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shock, placing of a harmful substance on the body or similar activity;

b) any type of physical activity, such as:

- sleep deprivation,
- exposure to the elements,
- confinement in a small space, calisthenics or
- other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk or harm, or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;

c) any activity involving consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug or other substance which subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or which adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;

e) any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects the student to:

- extreme mental stress, shame, or humiliation, or that adversely affects the student from entering or remaining registered in an educational institution, or
- that may reasonably be expected to cause a student to leave the organization or the institution rather than submit to acts described in this subsection;

f) any activity that induces, causes or requires the student to perform a duty or task which involves a violation of the Education Code. Sec. 4.52. Persons Subject to Prosecution/Administrative Action (Sec. 4. 52)

A person commits an offense if the person: engages in hazing; solicits, encourages, directs, aids or attempts to aid another in engaging in hazing; intentionally, knowingly or recklessly permits hazing to occur, or has firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident involving a student in an educational institution or firsthand knowledge that a specific hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fails to report said knowledge in writing to the Dean of Students or other appropriate officials of the institution.

1. The offense of failing to report is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed

\$1,000, confinement in county jail for not more than 180 days, or both such fine and confinement. 2. Any other offense under this section which does not cause serious bodily injury to another is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000, confinement in county jail for not less than 90 days nor more than 180 days, or both such fine and confinement. 3. Any other offense under this section which causes serious bodily injury to another is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$5,000, confinement in county jail for not less than 180 days nor more than one year, or both such fine and confinement. 4. Any other offense under this section which causes the death of another is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$10,000, confinement in county jail for not less than one year nor more than two years, or both such fine and confinement. 5. Except when an offense causes the death of a student, in sentencing a person convicted of an offense under this section, the court may require the person to perform community service, subject to the same conditions imposed on community service probationers by Subdivision (1), Subsection (e), and Subsections (c), (d), (g), (h) of Section 10A. Article 42.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, for an appropriate period of time in lieu of confinement in county jail or in lieu of a part of the time the person is sentenced to confinement in county jail. Refer to the Categories of Student Conduct Violations below to review the university's disciplinary sanctions for hazing violations.

Organizations Subject to Prosecution/Administrative Action (Sec. 5.53) An organization commits an offense if the organization condones or encourages hazing or if an officer or any combination of members, pledges, or alumni of the organization commits or assists in the commission of hazing. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$10,000, or if a court finds that the offense caused personal injury, property damage, or other loss. The court may sentence the organization to pay a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than double the amount of loss or expenses incurred because of such injury, damage, or loss. Refer to the Categories of Student Conduct Violations below to review the university's disciplinary sanctions for hazing violations.

Consent Not a Defense (Sec. 4.54) It is not a defense to prosecution for the offense under this subchapter that the person against whom the hazing was directed consented to or acquiesced in the hazing activity.

Immunity From Prosecution Available (Sec. 4.55) In the prosecution of an offense under this subchapter, the court may grant immunity from prosecution for the offense to each person who is subpoenaed to testify for the prosecution and does testify for the prosecution. Any person reporting a specific hazing incident involving a student in an educational institution to the Dean of Students or other appropriate official of the institution is immune from liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed as a result of the report. Immunity extends to participation in any judicial

proceeding resulting from the report. A person reporting in bad faith or with malice is not protected by this section. ACU provides such immunity under the Non-Disciplinary Process/Administrative Agreements Policy. Offenses in Addition to Other Penal Provisions (Sec. 4.56) This subchapter does not affect or repeal any penal law of this state. Nothing in this subchapter shall limit or affect the right of an educational institution to enforce its own penalties against hazing. Reporting by Medical Authorities (Sec. 4.57) Treatment of a student who may have been subjected to hazing activities may be reported to police or other law enforcement officials. The doctor or medical practitioner so reporting shall be immune from civil suit or other liability that might otherwise be imposed or incurred as a result of the report, unless the report is made in bad faith or with malice. Publication of Subchapter (Sec. 4.58)

1. Each postsecondary educational institution shall cause to be published or distributed to each student during the first three weeks of each semester a summary of the provisions of this subchapter. 2. The institution shall publish or distribute in the same manner a list of organizations that have been disciplined for hazing or convicted for hazing on or off the campus of the institution during the previous three years. 3. If the institution publishes a general catalog, student handbook, or similar publication, it shall publish a summary of the provisions of this subchapter in each edition of that catalog, handbook, or similar publication.

Categories Of Student Conduct Violations (Related To Hazing) (ADAPTED FROM THE STUDENT HANDBOOK)

Consequences for acts of hazing include, but are not limited to, suspension of F/S activities or suspension of F/S from campus, suspension from the University. Listed below are levels of student conduct violations along with possible sanctions for each level.

Category ONE: These actions against the Christian standards of conduct set forth in the Student Handbook may result in disciplinary warnings with or without additional conditions or alternative requirements, such as counseling, community service, or mentoring. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Any ridicule and discipline for not remembering or learning F/S traditions or members' names.
- Any type of verbal abuse or intimidation.
- Any type of personal servitude or requirement to purchase goods for members.

- Any activity which degrades, humiliates, or intimidates.

Category TWO: These actions may result in a minimum disciplinary response of sanctions from Category One as well as conduct probation with additional conditions or alternative requirements. This level of violation can result in suspension from any F/S activities and a potential monetary fine from the Office of Student Life. An entire organization may be placed on probation and have its current new member orientation period terminated. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Any environment which endangers provisional/new members through restricting their senses, including the use of blindfolds.
- Any type of humiliation based on the physical or personal characteristics or personal convictions of provisional/new members.
- Any activity requiring provisional/new members to place themselves in any foreign substance or shaving or otherwise marking their bodies.
- Any excessive sleep deprivation of provisional/new members.
- Any activity that requires provisional/new members to partially or fully disrobe.
- Any activity that occurs without the presence of an approved sponsor.

Category THREE: These actions may result in any sanctions from Category one or two, as well as an individual's suspension or dismissal from the University for one or more semesters, including indefinitely, and the suspension of an entire organization for one or more years. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Any activity which creates significant emotional trauma.
- Any physical abuse such as paddling, striking, whipping, shoving, electric shock, branding, or burning.
- Any physical abuse that forces provisional/new members into eating or drinking anything or placing any foreign object in any orifice of the body.
- Any requirement to endure environments that create extreme physical or emotional discomfort or endanger physical safety.

- Any "dogging", abandoning, binding, or confining.

- Any failure to comply with the directives of a sponsor or any university official.

For additional information regarding hazing, please visit www.stophazing.org.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Any questions or clarifications may be directed to the Student Life Office.

McGlothlin Campus Center

Office Space 43F ACU Box 27867 325-674-6818 (office)

GLOSSARY OF NEW TERMS:

Prospective Member - This is a student that HAS NOT committed to being in an organization yet, and may or may not complete the application process and go through rushing. (pre-bid status)

Provisional Member - This is a student that HAS accepted a bid from a specific organization and has committed to go through New Member Orientation. (has received a bid)

New Member - This is a student that HAS completed the New Member Orientation and has been inducted into the organization. (has been inducted)

Member - This is a student that HAS completed all the necessary first year requirements to become a full member of their particular organization. (has completed all requirements)

Rushee - This is a student that is going through the process of rushing, by attending at least two different organization's rushes.

Joining - This is the verb form of "going through" or "completing" the New Member Orientation process. (This term takes the place of "pledging")

New Member Orientation - This is the two week process of going through the activities that each individual organization has gotten approved by Student Life, to complete with the provisional members.