Towson University
Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life

Rush, Bids and New Member Initiation

Policies and Guidelines
Greetings Members of the IGC:

It is our goal to be more knowledgeable and create a streamline process for the potential new members of the I.G.C. This document is the measure we are taking at Towson to help secure a safe community and create a system of accountability for all stakeholders. We require that each Greek Letter Organization conducting a rush week and informational meetings to keep the office informed of all membership recruitment activities.

With this in mind, the office has created procedures to help ensure the privacy of each of our member chapters and the candidates for membership, and that all applicable University, (inter)national headquarters, local, state, and federal laws are followed.

Please read over this document of information and adhere to the deadlines outlined. To be in compliance and remain in good standing with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, all forms must be submitted before any membership recruitment activities occur.

If you have any additional questions or concerns in reference to any of the materials below do not hesitate to contact me at 410-704-2645 or Rvital@towson.edu.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and consideration.

Best regards,

Reediz F. Vital
Coordinator, Fraternity and Sorority Life
Campus Life
Towson University
RECRUITMENT GUIDELINES

Chartered fraternities and sororities under the auspices of the IGC are allowed to recruit on campus under the guidelines of formal recruitment as regulated by Towson University and the chapters’ respective local and national governing bodies.

Chapters who intent on having Recruitment/Rush MUST Submit the rush week schedule and flyers for approval by the close of business (5:00pm) on the first day of classes to the office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. **Chapters who do not submit these items by the designated due date will be denied Recruitment/Rush week approval for that semester.** Recruitment of University freshmen is a privilege regulated by the Chapter Assessment Program (CAP). A chapter’s national organization must approve, and the chapter must be at a Gold, Silver or Bronze level to recruit first semester freshmen students.

**The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will determine the dates for recruitment and membership intake. The rush period for the chapters apart of the independent Greek council will be the 2nd and 3rd full week of the academic semester.**

Chapters may only recruit and offer membership to full-time undergraduate students with 12 or more credits and a cumulative G.P.A. of 2.5 or above. They must also register online at: [https://tugreeklife.wufoo.com/forms/m1f3icb816rs2qo/](https://tugreeklife.wufoo.com/forms/m1f3icb816rs2qo/). All potential new members are required to fill out and submit this form to be eligible to participate in recruitment even if they are not selected. During each day of recruitment/rush/ Interest meeting, a laptop is required at a sign-in table in your room for potential new members to register. Please make sure that every person you speak to is registered. Registering online is non-binding.

Prospective new members must:

1. Register for recruitment/intake during or after the interest/rush meeting and **before** any additional contact with the fraternity/sorority chapter.
2. Be approved by the Director/Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life.
3. Attend the mandatory Anti-Hazing presentation. The date will be determined by the office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. (TBD)
4. As stated above, have a minimum of a 2.5 GPA, be an undergraduate student and be attempting 12 Credits or more during the semester they intend to join.

By registering, a student releases their grades to the chapter, national organization, and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

The Director/Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life must be notified in writing of any recruitment related activities that occur outside of the formal recruitment period. **A Deviation Letter must be submitted when the Rush week schedule and materials are submitted.** Such recruitment activities include but are not limited to: interest meetings
SELECTION AND BIDS

At the completion of your rush period then your chapter should conduct your selection process to determine who will be given bids. Once your bid list is complete you will send it to the Director/Coordinator of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. The list should include: full legal name, TUID and TU Email Chapters may submit a full comprehensive list at the end of their rush week.

Chapters should submit their bid list for approval by following day after the last day of the Rush Period. The designated rush period dates will be outlined on the guidelines check list. Chapters should expect a final approved list within 3 business days of their submission.

At the completion of bids being given out. Potential New members are required to attend the IGC Anti-Hazing workshop. Candidates are ineligible to participate in any new member education courses if they do not attend the anti-Hazing workshop prior to.

NEW MEMBER EDUCATION

The new member education period for fraternities and sororities may not be longer than six (6) weeks in the Fall and seven (7) weeks in the Spring. The Fraternity and Sorority Life Representative will determine the dates for recruitment and membership intake. All education sessions must be held on the campus of Towson University unless approved prior by the (inter)national office.

Education schedule
New member education schedules must be submitted by the designated time with the rush week schedule in order to be approved. Education schedule should include the Towson mandated anti-hazing, TIPS training and Greek 101.

Deviation(s)
Those chapters, whose national headquarters prohibit them from participating in the Towson University designated period, must adhere to the following no less than 10 Business days before any recruitment activity:

1. The chapter must submit a formal letter with letter head from the district, regional or national office indicating the reasons and areas in which deviation from the Towson University guidelines are necessary to adhere to the guidelines set out by your organization.

2. The letter should be signed and the advisor of the sponsoring chapter should be prepared to meet with coordinator to further discuss the deviation plan.

Any chapter that exceeds the Fall six (6) week or the Spring seven (7) week new member education (pledge) period will be in violation of University policy.
Charges may be brought against the chapter and/or individual chapter member(s) through the Office of Student Conduct and Civility Education.

Expectations of Organizations

1. The academic mission of the institution will be upheld and promoted to aspirants.
2. New member education activities will not interfere with academic endeavors or class schedules, will not occur between the hours of 12 a.m. and 8 a.m., and will not include the presence or consumption of alcohol.
3. The selection of aspirants will be free of any form of mental and/or physical abuse and hazing.
4. Members will be selected on the criteria set forth by the (inter)national organization.
5. Chapters will not engage in pre or post hazing activities. Hazing is not tolerated in any form—as part of the new member program or as acts of individual members of the chapter.
6. Chapter will be responsible for providing the times and location of all educational instruction.
7. Chapter will conduct a new member training after the completed initiation of new members.
8. Initiations and rituals should take place on campus and all ritual materials must be approved by Towson University.

Aspirants’ Rights

The new member education process should be conducted in a manner that respects the dignity of aspirants and protects their mental and physical well-being. Examples of acceptable behavior include activities that are not classified as hazing, but promote scholarship, promote service, develop leadership and/or social skills, assist career goals, improve relations with others, build awareness of fraternity or sorority history, instill a sense of brotherhood or sisterhood, foster chapter solidarity or otherwise promote the institutional mission of the University. Rush and new member education can take place in either the Fall or Spring, but not during university closings.