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## Policy SA004: General Fraternity & Sorority Eligibility

Recommended for Approval by: *Susanne Fenske*

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Dr. Susanne K. Fenske, Senior Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Student Affairs

Approved by: *Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson*

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Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson, President

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### A. Intent

To establish the process of verifying the eligibility of Pennsylvania Western University students to affiliate with recognized general fraternity and sorority chapters.

### B. Definitions

- General fraternities and sororities – Greek letter organizations whose membership selection practices are exempt from Title IX (fraternities for men; sororities for women), but are open to students from all majors and class years.
- Interfraternity Council (IFC)- Campus based governing council for recognized general fraternity chapters.
- College Panhellenic Council (CPC)- Campus based governing council for general sorority chapters of National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) member organizations.
- NPHC Council - Campus based governing council for historically African-American fraternities and sororities recognized by the National body of the National Pan-Hellenic Council.
- NALFO Council – Campus based governing council for National Association of Latino Fraternity Organizations (NALFO) member organizations.
- Multicultural Greek Council (MGC) – Campus based governing council for National Multicultural Greek Council member organizations.
- NPA Council – Campus based governing council for National APIDA Panhellenic Association (NPA) member organizations.

### C. Policy

In addition to adhering to any governing council affiliation requirements, PennWest requires that all individuals seeking to affiliate with recognized general fraternity and sorority chapters:

- Be enrolled with the University
- Have completed 12 credit hours be in good academic standing with the University
- Meet the academic standards set forth by the respective national organization (The GPA used to determine eligibility for transfer students affiliating in their first semester at PennWest will be based on their academic information from their previous institution).

Prior to affiliation with any recognized general fraternity and sorority chapter, interested student must complete the following:

- Complete the bid registration form
- Review and sign the FERPA release and anti-hazing acknowledgment form
- Sign and official bid to affiliate with an organization

Additional membership requirements are governed by the individual fraternity and sorority national membership/intake guidance. PennWest respects the right of the recognized fraternity and sorority chapters to select its membership as outlined in their membership intake procedures, provided those procedures do not violate state and federal discrimination laws.

#### **D. Procedure(s)**

Each general fraternity and sorority will adhere to all University recruitment procedures as well as membership/intake guidance and behavioral standards established by the governing council and/or the respective fraternity/sorority national organization. Recruitment and membership education activities should not interfere with academic schedules, should not include any forms of hazing, and should not involve the consumption of alcohol.

A recruitment calendar with approximate dates of education classes and process, and the date in which candidates will be initiated into the organization must be submitted in writing to the Office of Student Engagement for approval prior to an organization offering an invitation to membership to an affiliate member. All affiliate members must be approved by the Office of Student Engagement, prior to an organization extending an invitation to membership.

Prior to being initiated with an organization. The affiliate must complete the following steps:

- Attend a new member education session conducted by Office of Student Engagement
- Attend a governing council meeting.

#### **E. Related policies**

Anti-Hazing Policy (Policy #SA-002)

#### **F. Contact Information**

The Office of Student Engagement keeps on file the minimum GPA requirement for each organization.

#### **G. Policy Review Schedule**

All policies will be reviewed every two years or on an as needed basis if a change in BOG, PASSHE or Pennsylvania law would create the need for an immediate change.