

Recognized Student Organizations – expectations

From the *American University Code of Student Conduct*

<http://www.american.edu/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&pageid=3859833>

VIII. Student Groups and Organizations

Groups of students and student organizations are expected to comply with all university policies including this Code and all additional policies pertaining to groups and organizations. Allegations of policy violations by groups or organizations will be investigated and resolved through Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Services. A group or organization may be held responsible for the actions and behaviors of its members and guests. The decision to hold a group or organization responsible as a whole is ultimately determined by examining the circumstances of a situation and by taking into account factors that include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. actions were committed by one or more officers or authorized representatives acting in the scope of their group or organizational capacities;
2. actions involved, were committed by, or were condoned by (actively or passively) a number of group or organization members, alumni, or guests;
3. actions occurred at or in connection with an activity or event funded, sponsored, publicized, advertised, or communicated about by the group or organization;
4. actions occurred at or in connection with an activity or event that a reasonable person would associate with the group or organization;
5. actions should have been foreseen by the group or organization or its officers, but reasonable precautions against such actions were not taken;
6. actions were the result of a policy or practice of the group or organization;
7. actions would be attributable to the group or organization under the group's own policies (including local or national risk management guidelines);
8. actions were taken by individuals who, but for their affiliation with the group or organization, would not have been involved in the incident;
9. one or more officers or members of a group or organization fail to report knowledge or information about a violation to, or otherwise fail to cooperate with, appropriate university or emergency officials; and
10. the group or organization, or any member acting on its behalf, fails to satisfactorily complete the terms of any disciplinary sanction or outcome.

A. Recognized student organizations and student groups with provisional recognition, as well as their members and officers, may be held collectively and/or individually responsible for violations of the Code and/or other university policies.

B. Sanctions for group or organization misconduct may include revocation or denial of registration or recognition, as well as other appropriate sanctions. Sanctions for misconduct by a group with provisional recognition may include denial of recognition, as well as other appropriate sanctions.

C. Recognized student organizations, including fraternities and sororities, may appoint panels or boards to mediate disputes and enforce association bylaws. Decisions or recommendations by such panels or boards do not constitute official action by the university.