



REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS HANDBOOK

A GUIDE TO MANAGING REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
CENTER FOR STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
STUDENT UNION 316
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Coming Soon!

Student Engagement &
Budget Specialist

OUR PURPOSE

Create Meaningful
Connections.

Build Inclusive
Community.

Develop
Transformational
Leaders.

Center for Student Engagement

Northern Kentucky University Student Leaders,

The Center for Student Engagement welcomes you. Your involvement in student organizations is critical to your collegiate experience and the greater Norse Community!

Our office is committed to you and your organization's success as you play a monumental role in creating a sense of belonging here at Northern Kentucky University. This handbook provides the foundation to collaborate and work towards these goals together. It will provide you and your organization with the tools and resources to navigate your way through NKU.

Please feel free to connect with us through social media or visit us in person. Our social media handle is below and our office is in the James and Rachel Votruba Student Union, Suite 316. Our office is open Monday through Friday from 8:15am - 4:30pm, except for university holidays, events, and closings. You can also reach us at 859-572-6514 or studentengagement@nku.edu.

Instagram: [nkustudentengagement](https://www.instagram.com/nkustudentengagement)

Norse Up!

SECTION I

Student Organizations and Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities

Student Organizations are expected to abide by the Community Standards and Student Rights <https://tinyurl.com/NKU-Code> and will be held accountable for failure to comply. For a complete listing of the Code, please refer to the Office of Community Standard and Student Rights.

Definition of a Northern Kentucky University (NKU) Student

For the purposes of this document and membership in a registered student organization, an undergraduate student shall be defined as any person currently enrolled for a minimum of six credit hours in a degree-seeking program at Northern Kentucky University. A graduate student shall be defined as any person currently enrolled for a minimum of three credit hours. High school students who are attending NKU for a program (school-based scholarships, dual-credit courses, etc.) are not considered Northern Kentucky University Students for the purposes of registered student organizations. Only students meeting the aforementioned definition are eligible to create and/or join a registered student organization.

Categories of Organizations

The Center for Student Engagement classifies its organizations into 9 distinct areas of engagement as listed below. Some organizations may represent multiple areas.

1. Academic

Academic organizations are traditionally formed in connection to a specific discipline. They may also include honor societies and student ambassador programs.

2. Faith-Based

Faith-based organizations are composed of a group of individuals united on the basis of religious or spiritual beliefs. These organizations work to meet the spiritual, social, and cultural needs of their members.

3. Fraternity and Sorority Life

Traditional Greek-letter organizations from the Interfraternity Council (IFC), National Panhellenic Council (NPC), National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), and Multicultural Greek Council (MGC). These organizations report to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

4. Governance

Governance organizations provide leadership, advocacy, and service to a particular population of the student body.

5. Leadership

Leadership organizations specifically focus on the professional and leadership development of its members and/or the Northern Kentucky University Community.

6. Media

Media organizations provide Northern Kentucky University students a variety of ways to gain hands-on experience. Many are housed in the College of Informatics and provide opportunities to develop a diverse portfolio of work.

7. Service

Service organizations' specific focus is giving back to the community. These organizations serve the university, the local community, and even communities far from Northern Kentucky University.

8. Special Interest

Special interest clubs are for students with a specific similar interest to share that interest among themselves and with the Northern Kentucky University campus at large.

9. Sports Club

Sport Clubs are designed to provide students with leadership, managerial, and interpersonal opportunities while participating in a particular sport or activity. These organizations report to the Department of Campus Recreation.

Other classifications outside the 9 Areas of Engagement are as follows:

1. Chase College of Law

Organizations supported by Chase College of Law. Membership is open to Law School students only.

2. Graduate

A co-educational organization whose main purpose is to bring together students and/or faculty/staff to share common goals, objectives, or issues associated with specific Graduate programs. Typically, membership is restricted to Graduate students only.

3. Residence Halls

Organizations developed for students living in the NKU Residence Halls, often supported by University Housing.

Process for Establishing a New Student Organization

1. Only currently enrolled students of Northern Kentucky University may initiate the establishment of a new student organization with the Center for Student Engagement.

a. Students who are in their graduating semester (Fall or Spring) may not be the founding president of a new organization. This is to ensure that the organization has lasting sustainability and a member base that will persist after the founding president.

2. Off-campus organizations may solicit interest from students for their off-campus organization only at the designated free speech area. Further information can be found on the Office of Community Standard and Student Rights website <https://tinyurl.com/NKU-Code>. However, these off-campus organizations may not initiate the establishment of a new student organization with the Center for Student Engagement can only be done by a student(s) of Northern Kentucky University.

3. Students are allowed to propose new organizations beginning the first day of classes in the fall semester. The new organization process must be completed in full by April 1st.

Organization Renewal Procedures

Student Organizations are required to renew their student organization status each academic year. Below are the steps outlining the organization renewal process.

1. Each spring semester, registered organization renewal opens. The organization must register and update all membership/officer and advisor information utilizing the myEngagement system. Typically, this process takes place during the last month of school and must be completed by the last day of classes prior to the start of final exams.

2. Each fall semester, registered organizations must attend a student organization training, known as President's Academy. Student Organization advisors are strongly encouraged to attend a session as well. To be eligible to apply for and/or receive Legacy Travel Grants, Operational Grants, or Programming and Activity Grants, students must attend this training.

3. All registered student organizations must pay a \$35.00 registration fee annually. The organization registration process is not complete until this fee is paid. The fee is due after July 1 of the new academic and fiscal year. The final deadline will be August 31st and checks should be made payable to NKU Student Engagement.

4. New student organizations should review the document <https://tinyurl.com/Start-a-RSO>. A "new" organization is defined as any group not registered with Student Engagement by the end of the previous academic year.

Additionally, all registered student organizations are expected to adhere to the following:

1. The student organization must not adopt a name that is neither the same as nor deceptively similar to the name of an existing registered student organization, the University, or any division or department thereof. Student organizations needing off-campus checking accounts should not include Northern Kentucky University as part of their name. If the account was ever overdrawn, the University would be implicated through the use of its name.

a. Each student organization is its entity and therefore should not include Northern Kentucky University as an affiliate.

2. The student organization must be non-profit. It may not use its position as a registered student organization to solicit or advertise for commercial purposes. A student organization may not be utilized as a vehicle for personal financial gain for any members or advisors.

3. All registered student organizations must be consistent with the ethical principles of Northern Kentucky University and their activities must be consistent with all University policies and the Student Code of Conduct.

4. Although not a comprehensive definition of the function and activities of members of a student organization, the following functions and activities must be reserved for NKU student members who are on good academic standing with the University:

a. Holding of any offices in the student organization.

b. Presiding, officiating, voting, making or seconding motions at any meeting of the student organization. Guests may attend and, as members of the audience, speak at meetings of the student organization when the program and procedures permit.

c. Acting as a public spokesman for the student organization.

5. Membership in the student organization shall be limited to NKU students as defined on page 3.

6. The student organization must maintain a minimum of 5 members.

7. Both full-time and part-time students are eligible to be members of the student organization.

8. Every registered student organization must have a faculty/staff advisor chosen by the membership. Given the role of the governing councils, alumni boards, and national headquarters, Fraternity and Sorority Life organizations (IFC, NPC, NPHC, and MGC) are not required, but are encouraged, to have a faculty/staff advisor associated with the University. Questions regarding this exception should be directed to the Center for Student Engagement.

9. Only members of the student body, faculty and/or staff of the University may man tables or distribute materials on campus on behalf of the student organization. Any person, persons, organization, etc. must have written sponsorship or approval of a student organization before it is permitted to distribute any materials.

10. An affirmative statement shall be signed by students, faculty/staff seeking registration of the student organization to certify that the student organization is in compliance with and will continue to comply with the Community Standards and Student Rights, and with the policies, rules, and regulations approved by the Board of Regents.

11. Northern Kentucky University prohibits any action or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers mental or physical health or involves the forced consumption of liquor or drugs for the purpose of initiation into participation in or affiliation with any organization as defined by the hazing policy. For more information please see <https://tinyurl.com/RSO-Policies>. All students are responsible for reporting any violations to the Center for Student Engagement or the Dean of Students office.

12. For reporting purposes, all members of registered student organizations must be included in the roster for each organization of which they are a part. Periodically, the Center for Student Engagement will draw anonymous data from myEngagement that is used to provide aggregate data on the impact of involvement. This data may include scholastic reports, residency, major, retention, and other data routinely collected by the university. Individual student data will not be published or shared, however, if a student would like to have their information withdrawn from the collection they must notify the Center for Student Engagement in writing.

13. Officers of student organizations must obtain a 2.0 GPA requirement the previous semester, and maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA overall.

14. Academic requirements, beyond those listed above, must be stated in the Constitution and/or Bylaws of the student organization.

Privileges, Responsibility, and Accountability of Student Organizations

It is the position of the Center for Student Engagement of Northern Kentucky University that all student organizations support the interest of the University by:

1. Providing a forum for social interaction that permits the individual to learn to effectively relate to others.

2. Encouraging and stimulating intellectual growth by promoting participation in the intellectual and cultural life of the University.

3. Providing an environment in which learning takes place through the free exchange of ideas and beliefs between members.

4. Promoting academic achievement and scholarship.

5. Providing valuable leadership experience.

6. Providing a support system for individuals as they proceed through significant developmental changes.

Because the Center for Student Engagement supports the aforementioned position, the following privileges are conferred on all Registered Student Organizations in good standing:

1. Assistance of the Center for Student Engagement staff in coordination and maintenance of the student organization.

2. Advertisements and notices in official publications.

3. Use of University facilities and services.

4. Eligibility for University funding upon approval of the Student Fee Allocation Board.

5. Social calendar registration privileges through myEngagement.

6. Posting and advertising privileges.

7. Use of resources available through Student Engagement, the Student Organization Board, and the Student Union.

8. Use of Student Organization Mailboxes as available.

9. Participation in all-University events, i.e. Fresh Fusion, Victorfest, Homecoming, etc.

10. Inclusion in recruitment events, i.e. Orientations, and Student Organization Fairs.

The Center for Student Engagement further believes that part of the developmental process includes holding our registered student organizations and their membership accountable if they fail to meet the responsibilities outlined below:

1. Comply with all laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

2. Comply with all University policies and guidelines.

3. Engage in sound financial management.

4. Expend all of the organization's monies to further the purpose(s) of the organization and not for the private benefit of officers or members.

5. Regularly inform the organization's advisor(s) about the programs, personnel, and activities of the organization.

6. The organization shall engage only in positive, educationally sound activities that will not bring disfavor to the University.

7. Accept responsibility for all financial obligations incurred and decisions made as an organization.

8. Register the organization annually with the Center for Student Engagement.

Student Organization Constitution

Each organization is required to produce a constitution and by-laws and submit one copy to the Center for Student Engagement office upon registration or renewal. When changes are made to the constitution and/or by-laws a new copy must be submitted to the Center for Student Engagement. The following are standard considerations when compiling a constitution:

1. Statement of purpose and mission.

2. Statement of qualifications for membership.

3. A listing of offices that the organization will have and duties inherent in each of these.

4. A statement that the organization will provide for "due process" in disciplinary procedures with its membership. Outline the process for removing a member.

5. A statement as to how the organization will be financed.

6. A statement that two authorized signatures are required for every financial transaction (protects the organization and the individual).

7. A statement that includes a provision for the disposition of funds remaining in the event of the dissolution of the group.

8. A statement that the organization is not organized to further the private financial gain of an individual and/or a select number of individuals.

9. According to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act <https://tinyurl.com/Non-Discrimination>, please include a statement that the organization will not restrict membership to a student based on their age, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, ethnic origin, disability, genetic information, veteran status, and any other basis protected by law, except when the expressed and legitimate purposes of the organization require limitation as to sex or religious affiliation or belief.

10. A statement that the organization will uphold NKU's ban on hazing, as defined by the Hazing Policy, and will take appropriate actions against groups or individuals found to have violated the Policy.

a. Hazing is defined as any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off the campus, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Such activities and situations include any act of personal servitude; paddling in any form; creation of excessive fatigue, physical and psychological shocks; quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips, or any other such activities; late work sessions that interfere with scholastic activities; and any other activities which are not consistent with the regulations and policies of NKU. It includes any form of subtle hazing, harassment hazing, or violent hazing as outlined in NKU's Registered Student Organization Handbook. Hazing under the statute means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one (1) person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student to pledge, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are, or include, students in an educational institution. The term hazing under the statute includes but is not limited to, offenses that subject the student to an unreasonable risk or harm or that adversely affect the mental or physical health or safety of the student.

11. A statement that addresses the means to approve amendments and the required vote for amending the constitution (recommend 2/3 vote).

12. The voting process for officers and how vacant positions will be handled mid-term.

A good constitution establishes the structure and purpose of the group; creates methods for selecting officers; and designates powers and responsibilities to those members and officers. A constitution template can be found here <https://tinyurl.com/Template-Constitution>. Established organizations may be subjected to constitution reviews periodically to ensure the information is up to date.

Defining Organization Events

An organization event is defined as any activity or gathering that can be reasonably associated with an organization by one or more of the following:

1. A significant number of attendees are members of an organization.
2. The event, activity, or gathering is held at a location reserved for, owned by, rented by, or otherwise associated with an organization.
3. Promotional material associates the event, activity, or gathering with a specific organization.
4. The activities can be reasonably associated with a particular organization

Withdrawal of Student Organization Registration Privileges

The privileges conferred through registration may be withdrawn for causes which may include:

1. Registration will also be withdrawn or discontinued:
 - a. At the written request of the student organization or its national affiliate.
 - b. When constitutional provisions dissolve the group.
 - c. When a student organization does not hold meetings or activities for a period of one (1) academic year.
 - d. When a student organization fails to carry out its programs consistent with the stated aims and purposes of the student organization's constitution.
 - e. If for any reason the student organization becomes delinquent as to its responsibilities as a student group.
 - f. If a student organization does not wish to re-register during the appropriate re-registration timeframe.
2. Willful or negligent violation of University, state, or federal standards, codes, or policies as sanctioned by the Center for Student Engagement.

Warning, Probation, and Suspension

Warning

A warning given by the Center for Student Engagement is a notice to the group that they will be placed on probationary status if specified obligations are not met within a designated period of time.

Probation

The Center for Student Engagement may put a registered student organization on probation which means, the loss of any or all privileges of registered student organizations. Probation must be for a specific duration at which time status can be reviewed. During the probationary period, any violation of University policy may lead to immediate suspension.

Suspension

Suspension shall involve permanent, complete withdrawal of all privileges and rights of the student organization. In addition, no suspended student organization may use or rent NKU facilities as a non-University group. To regain registration privileges, the student organization must register as a newly forming group during a regular registration period in the following academic year. The Office of Community Standards and Student Rights, the organization's national organization, or the Center for Student Engagement can initiate the above actions.

The Center for Student Engagement or the Office of Community Standards and Student Rights will communicate all decisions regarding the status of a student organization in writing with a carbon copy to the advisor.

Judicial Procedures for Student Organizations

To ensure that all student organizations and their membership are held to the same standards, a process has been designed to review allegations of misconduct involving the willful or negligent violation of University, state, or federal standards, codes, or policies. The Office of Community Standards and Care will review all allegations of misconduct that an observer would associate with a specific student organization that may bring disfavor upon the University. In addition, individual members of the organization may be subject to Disciplinary Action as outlined in the Community Standards and Student Rights.

Students and student organizations have a right to appeal sanctions pursuant to the procedures outlined in the Code, which can be found on the Community Standards and Student Rights website <https://tinyurl.com/NKU-Code>.

For additional information about procedural protections please refer to HB 290 known as the Kentucky Campus Due Process Protection Act <https://tinyurl.com/HB-290>.

SECTION II

University Policies

Student Organizations are expected to abide by the Policies of the University and will be held accountable for failure to comply. For a complete listing of the Administrative Regulations, please refer to the Office of Policy Administration <https://tinyurl.com/NKU-Policies>.

Alcoholic Beverages Policy and Regulations

All registered student organizations are expected to comply with the Northern Kentucky University Alcohol Policy <https://tinyurl.com/Alcohol-Policy>.

Below are some selected parts of the Alcohol Policy but this is not an all-inclusive list. To be certain that your organization is in compliance review the policy in its entirety.

Regulations Concerning Alcoholic Beverages

1. The possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages on the campus of Northern Kentucky University is prohibited except as permitted by law (KRS 244.020, KRS 244.080, KRS 244.085) and institutional policy stated herein.
2. The possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages in Northern Kentucky University residence halls is strictly prohibited.
3. Alcoholic beverages shall not be sold or served to anyone under the age of 21.
4. No alcoholic beverages shall be sold or served to an intoxicated and/or disorderly person.
5. All faculty, staff, and students must obey all applicable state and local laws and University regulations pertaining to the sale and use of alcoholic beverages.
6. The sale, serving, and consumption of alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited except in areas and at times and dates licensed by the Kentucky Alcohol Beverage Control Board, or similar agencies in other states. Persons under 21 years of age shall not legally possess or consume alcoholic beverages in Kentucky.
7. The furnishing of alcoholic beverages to underage persons is strictly prohibited both by policy of the University and by statute of the Commonwealth. The use of fraudulent identification to procure alcoholic beverages is also prohibited.
8. Adequate alternative beverages snacks and/or food must be readily available at all social functions where alcohol is served.
9. Sponsoring groups and organizations will be responsible for providing security to ensure that guests conduct themselves properly and to assist with crowd control.
10. Sponsors of an activity should cease serving alcoholic beverages at least one-half hour prior to the end of the scheduled activity.
11. No persons under the age of 21 years shall be permitted to sell or serve alcoholic beverages.
12. No persons authorized to sell or serve alcoholic beverages may consume such beverages while they are so engaged.
13. Promotion and advertising of events where alcohol will be consumed should not encourage any form of alcohol abuse, nor should events be advertised which place emphasis on quantity and frequency of use of alcohol (e.g., chugging events).
14. Beverage alcohol (kegs and cases of beer, bottles of distilled spirits or wine) should not be provided as awards or prizes to individuals or campus organizations.

15. Beer distributors, liquor companies, bars, and night clubs are not permitted to: (1) advertise on campus; (2) co-sponsor an event with a student organization; (3) advertise on any schedule card, athletic brochure or press guide, invitation, or other printed material; and (4) provide advertising for University events presented on radio or television.

16. Northern Kentucky University does not assume responsibility for unofficial events held off campus involving individuals or groups affiliated with the University.

17. Violations of alcohol-related University policies and regulations by any member of the NKU community shall be reported to one of the following University offices:

- a. Students- Office of Community Standards and Student Rights
- b. Faculty- Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
- c. Staff- Human Resources
- d. Guests and all others- University Police

Policy Violations

Possible penalties for violations of these regulations include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

1. Legal action by individuals or governmental authorities including possible sanctions of citation or arrest.

2. University disciplinary action under the Student Code, Faculty Policies and Procedures Handbook, Salmon P. Chase College of Law Faculty Handbook, Handbook for Department Chairpersons, or Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual.

In addition to 1. and 2. above, students and/or student organizations may be subject to these penalties:

1. Loss, curtailment, or elimination of student social functions, and notifications of national organizations where applicable.

2. Loss of status as a registered student organization.

Student organizations shall designate one person, perhaps an officer of that organization, to assume responsibility for assuring that there is knowledge of and compliance with these alcohol policies. It is recommended that this person participate in a special educational program offered by the Dean of Students.

Anti-Hazing Policy

The University will continue to take all necessary measures to address hazing. We are asking for your commitment to stay focused on this goal. Each member of our Norse community, including our students, faculty, staff, volunteers, parents, and families, must work together to achieve this goal. Visit the Center for Student Engagement to read the University's complete policy <https://tinyurl.com/RSO-Policies>.

Prohibition of Hazing

In accordance with Kentucky Revised (KRS) 164.375 and Senate Bill 9 referred to as Lofton's Law, Northern Kentucky University prohibits any action or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers mental or physical health or involves the forced consumption of liquor or drugs for the purpose of initiation into or affiliation with any organization. Penalties for violation of the hazing policy shall include but are not limited to:

1. Student violators will be subject to possible suspension or expulsion from the University or other appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the Code.

2. Faculty and staff violators will be subject to possible loss of employment from the University or other action in accordance with the Faculty Policies and Procedures Handbook, Salmon P. Chase College of Law Faculty Handbook, Handbook for Department Chairpersons, and Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual. Faculty, staff, or student organizations that authorize or contribute to actions that violate this policy shall lose University authorization to operate on campus property.

3. Officers of such organizations may be held individually responsible for the actions of their organizations.

4. Visitors, licensees, and invitees to Northern Kentucky University who violate this policy will be removed from University property and may be subject to prosecution.

Hazing under the statute means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one (1) 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, or include, students in an educational institution. The term hazing under the statute includes but is not limited to offenses that subject the student to an unreasonable risk or harm or that adversely affect the mental or physical health or safety of the student.

Individuals within the organizations, as well as the organization itself, may be found in violation. Investigations and/or sanctioning of individual hazing offenses will be conducted in collaboration with the Office of Community Standards and Student Rights. Individuals who have firsthand knowledge of hazing, including those being hazed, are required to report that knowledge to appropriate University officials. Any student who has been hazed or thinks they are going to be hazed should report such actions to the Center for Student Engagement, Office of Community Standards and Student Rights, or the Dean of Students.

Subtle Hazing

Actions that are against accepted organization standards of conduct, behavior, and good tastes. An activity or attitude directed toward a prospective member or member or an act that ridicules, humiliates, or embarrasses. Examples include:

1. Ignoring or ostracizing or publicly shunning a member or prospective member(s).
2. Calling prospective members demeaning names or requiring prospective members to call members Mr., Miss, etc.
3. Silence periods for prospective members.
4. Any form of demerits.

Harassment Hazing

Anything that causes mental or physical discomfort to the prospective member or members. Any activity directed toward a prospective member or activity that confuses, frustrates or causes undue stress. Examples include:

1. Verbal abuse.
 2. Sleep deprivation.
 3. Any form of questioning under pressure or in an uncomfortable position.
 4. Requiring prospective members to wear ridiculous costumes or perform ridiculous activities.
 5. Requiring only prospective members to enter by the back door or go up the back staircase or limiting access to facilities.
 6. Stunt or skit nights/events with demeaning and/or crude skits and/or poems.
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7. Requiring prospective members to perform personal service to activities such as carrying books, running errands, performing maid duties, etc.

Violent Hazing

Anything that causes physical and/or emotional harm. Examples include:

1. Forced consumption or use of food, beverages (especially alcohol), or any other substance.
2. Excessive exercise.
3. Sexual violation.
4. Assault including paddling, and beating.
5. Burning or brandings.

The laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky shall be observed. Visit the Commonwealth of Kentucky's page to read the KY Hazing Policy <https://tinyurl.com/KY-Hazing-Policy>.

Late Night Event Policy

Please visit the Student Union website to read the NKU Late Night Event Policy <https://tinyurl.com/Student-Union>.

Student Organizations wishing to host such events must schedule a meeting with Student Union/University Center management to thoroughly review the policy and registration requirements.

Obtaining Approval for any Visible Alteration to the Existing Campus

For more information about obtaining approvals for alterations to campus, please visit the Office of Facilities Management or reference the Alterations to the Campus, Permanent or Semi-Permanent Policy <https://tinyurl.com/Campus-Alterations>.

Student Union/University Center Reservations Procedures and Policies

Facility reservations are an extremely important service of the Student Union/University Center. To accommodate groups requesting to use the Student Union/University Center facilities, it is important for everyone to fully cooperate with the reservation policy. Every effort will be made by Student Union staff to honor all requests. Please refer to the complete Student Union/University Center Reservation Policy <https://tinyurl.com/Space-Reservation-Policy> for Student Union or University Center room reservations please refer to the information online or call 859-572-5760. Student Organizations must have the on-campus organization advisor or president submit room reservation requests online for all buildings through the online scheduler:

<https://tinyurl.com/NKU-Room-Request>.

If the Student Organization on-campus advisor is not available to submit a room reservation the Student Organization may reach out to the Center for Student Engagement and a staff member will assist with completing the reservation and contact the Student Organization with a reservation confirmation.

Event Registration

Student organizations MUST register their events on myEngagement. The registration process helps student organizations in event planning and can be used as a helpful marketing tool. Events will be submitted to the Center for Student Engagement for approval.

Fundraising and Solicitation

Registered student organizations have a variety of options to raise money for their organization. Please review the following policy to see the complete list of guidelines. <https://tinyurl.com/RSO-Raising-Money>

Contracts

Limit authority within the organization to make financial commitments or authorize high-risk activity. Students and advisors may not sign contracts. All contracts should be reviewed by the Center for Student Engagement and sent through the University's contract process. For more information on contracts please visit <https://tinyurl.com/NKU-Procurement>.

University Posting/Chalking Policy

Registered student organizations with the Center for Student Engagement and University departments of Northern Kentucky University are eligible to post materials on campus. Posting must follow the Poster Policy which can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/Posting-Policy>.

Registered student organizations may also advertise by chalking walkways. The Chalking policy should be reviewed prior at: <https://tinyurl.com/Chalking-Policy>.

Use of Open Flames Indoors

This policy applies to any individual or organization not otherwise recognized as a Northern Kentucky University Operations and Maintenance, commercial establishment, educational/scientific laboratory, or clinic that is involved with the use of open flame to accomplish work assignments and procedures.

The burning of candles, sparklers, incense, paper leaflets, combustible figurines, pyrotechnic devices, or any other combustible material is prohibited on university property. Any fire caused by the unauthorized use of open flames will be considered arson.

There are exceptions to the policy, however, they are not to be considered automatic or preapproved exemptions from compliance with this policy. They can be found on the NKU Policy website or by contacting the Center for Student Engagement. The department responsible for an event that includes an activity to which this policy applies shall request approval from Safety and Environmental Compliance for an exception as defined above. The Department shall seek and must receive approval prior to each event for which the exception is required. An activity scheduled for several consecutive days or times shall be considered as one event, however an inspection may be required prior to each day or time of the event.

Review the policy here: <https://tinyurl.com/Indoor-Flame-Policy>.

SECTION III

University Guidelines

Meetings, Demonstrations, and Other Assemblies

Northern Kentucky University recognizes and confirms the right of all members of the University community to free expression, assembly, and advocacy. To facilitate the effective use and enjoyment of the facilities of the campus for the exercise of such rights and to minimize conflict between the form of their exercise and the rights of others in the effective use of University facilities, the following regulations are herewith established:

1. Planned or spontaneous demonstrations, meetings, or assemblies may be conducted in those appropriate areas of the campus that are regularly available to the public, provided such demonstrations, meetings, or other assemblies:

- a. Are conducted in a lawful and orderly manner.
- b. Do not prohibit or interfere with vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
- c. Do not interfere with classes, other scheduled meetings, events, and ceremonies or with other educational processes of the University.
- d. Are conducted in conformity with state statutes.
- e. Are conducted only with specific authorization when held in (1) University buildings, or (2) University fields and recreation areas, (3) residential areas of the campus, or (4) other areas available by reservation only.

2. Reservation of appropriate University grounds, areas, facilities, or other University property to conduct a demonstration, meeting, or other assembly will be granted, subject to the restrictions contained in section #1 above, to the following described University organizations, groups, and individuals:

- a. Registered Student Organizations on file and available in the Center for Student Engagement.
- b. Members of the University faculty and staff, for extracurricular events related to their University duties.
- c. Official alumni groups and similar University-related organizations, departments, and other units of the University, for events directly related to their purposes and in keeping with the University's role as an educational institution.

Non-Discrimination for Student Organizations

Northern Kentucky University believes that student organizations play a vital role in every student's education. Therefore, every student shall have the right to participate in the student organization of his or her choice regardless of age, race, color, religion, sex (including sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, ethnic origin, disability, genetic information, veteran status and any other basis protected by law.

Northern Kentucky University encourages students to join and actively participate in all registered student organizations. Additionally, NKU encourages students to recruit new members for their organizations and to create new organizations when needs are not met by existing groups.

A criterion for registration as an organization on NKU's campus is the requirement that the organization shall have a policy that every student shall have the right to actively participate in that student organization regardless of age, race, color, religion, sex (including sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, ethnic origin, disability, genetic information, veteran status and any other basis protected by law. and shall have equal opportunities for membership in all registered student organizations.

The exception shall be the recognized social fraternities and sororities whose right to remain single-sex organizations is guaranteed under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, a civil rights law. Every other provision of this statement applies to those organizations as it does to all student organizations.

Therefore, no student organization shall refuse membership to a student on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex (including sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, ethnic origin, disability, genetic information, veteran status and any other basis protected by law. Nor shall any student organization discharge a member without just cause or otherwise illegally discriminate against that person with respect to privileges and promotions within that student organization.

Furthermore, no student organization shall limit or classify its members on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex (including sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, ethnic origin, disability, genetic information, veteran status and any other basis protected by law.

No student organization shall have any subordinate members or subordinate organizations affiliated with it that are discriminatory on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex (including sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, ethnic origin, disability, genetic information, veteran status and any other basis protected by law. Every member of every organization shall be a full member entitled to all of the rights and privileges of said membership. Those organizations with an initiation period for new members must have this initiation period approved by the University. The existence of said initiation period and organizational policy and procedures must not violate any University policy.

Further, no student organization shall print, publish, cause to be printed or published any material that is discriminatory on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex (including sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, ethnic origin, disability, genetic information, veteran status and any other basis protected by law. Nor shall any student organization conduct any activities that tend to harass, embarrass or generally disturb any person on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex (including sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, ethnic origin, disability, genetic information, veteran status and any other basis protected by law.

Any violation of this statement by any student organization shall result in disciplinary action. Students may file a complaint with the Office of Community Standards and Student Rights. Penalties for violations of this policy may result in suspension or probation of the organization and loss of privileges associated with registered student organizations.

Event Accessibility

While planning, it is recommended that students think about how to make the event accessible to everyone on campus, regardless of ability. Students are encouraged to contact the Office for Student Accessibility at (859) 572-5282 or osa@nku.edu if they have any questions about how to accommodate students with disabilities.

Inviting Elected or Appointed Officials to Campus

As a professional courtesy, the Office of the President would like to be informed when an elected or appointed local, state, regional, or national official is invited to campus by departments or student organizations. The President would like the option to informally greet and interact with the officials without interfering with the scheduled event. Due to the busy nature of the President's schedule, advance notification is requested to anticipate scheduling conflicts. The student organization advisor or person coordinating the event is requested to notify the Center for Student Engagement at least two weeks prior to finalizing the scheduling of visits of such officials.

Inviting the University President or Vice Presidents to Events

If your student organizations would like to invite the President, Cabinet Members, Vice Presidents, or Assistant Vice Presidents for Student Affairs to either attend or speak at your planned organization events, you must include this information in the event approval form in myEngagement. The Center for Student Engagement will confirm attendance with the student organization.

Showing of Films on Campus

The Face-To-Face Teaching Exemption

Section 110 of the 1984 Copyright Act does provide a specific exemption to the licensing of what is a public performance - "Face-to-face teaching." To qualify for the exemption, the showing must occur in a face-to-face teaching situation at a non-profit educational institution and you must be able to answer YES to all of the following six criteria:

1. Performances and displays of audiovisual works must be made from legitimate sources, such as pre-recorded videocassettes. Copies made from legitimate sources or broadcasts are not allowed.
2. Performances and displays must be part of a systematic course of instruction and not for entertainment, recreation, or cultural value. The instructor should be able to show how the use of the motion picture contributes to the overall course study and syllabus. The course **MUST** be a credit course and must be recognized by the institution and for which students must register.
3. The instructors or pupils must give performances and displays from the same location in which it is being screened; no broadcasting from outside sources (such as closed-circuit television) is allowed.
4. Performances and displays must be given in classrooms and other places devoted to instruction; library screening rooms, residence hall lounges, rathskellers, and cafeterias do not qualify.
5. Performances and displays must be a part of the teaching activities at a non-profit educational institution. Businesses that conduct educational seminars and certain technical schools do not qualify.
6. Attendance is limited to the instructors, pupils, and guest lecturers. Only students registered for the class may attend the screening. No fee specific to the screening may be charged.

If you have answered NO to any of the six criteria, you do NOT qualify for an exemption. You must obtain a public performance license.

Registered Student Organizations may show films on campus as long as they are purchased through a movie licensing company. The cost usually starts at \$250 and goes up, depending on the studio, title, and event date. Prices fluctuate weekly. For more information contact one of the movie licensing companies listed below:

1. Motion Picture Licensing Company (MPLC) <http://www.mplc.org>
2. Swank Motion Pictures <http://www.swank.com>
3. Criterion Pictures USA <http://www.criterionpicusa.com>

Registered Student Organizations may not stream any movies to their membership on any streaming platform (i.e. Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, Disney+, etc.), or use any party streaming platforms (Netflix Party, Group Watch, etc.). To show a film to your organization or the general student body, you must go through one of the movie licensing companies listed above. Organizations found in violation of this will be subjected to disciplinary actions through the Center for Student Engagement and/or legal actions for copyright violation. Please contact the Center for Student Engagement if your organization wishes to show a movie, and we will help you schedule and purchase it from one of the companies listed above.

Social Standards

Please be advised that the Center for Student Engagement encourages and expects compliance by registered student organizations with the following guidelines. The ability of a registered organization to sponsor an event and the continued registration of the organization by the University will be contingent on compliance.

1. Registered student organizations are expected to comply with University Regulations and with state and local laws regarding the conduct of members and guests at all times.
 2. During social events, student officers will be held accountable for compliance by members and guests.
 3. All parties where alcohol is present should be closed to all but members and invited guests. As a result, if alcohol is present, no advertisement of this event via flyers, posters, newspaper ads, etc. is permitted either on or off campus. Guest lists are to be used to document those invited to the event and serve as a sign-in sheet for those attending the event. We recommend that organizations keep a copy of the guest list and sign-in sheet on file for one year following the event. All other groups who participate in the event where a guest list is maintained should be able to gain access to the lists after the event if they deem it necessary.
 4. Should alcohol be present at an event, non-alcoholic beverages, and food items also are to be served and conspicuously displayed.
 5. If alcohol is served at an event, under no circumstance should members or guests under the age of 21 be served an alcoholic beverage. Those found in violation of this policy may be subject to disciplinary and legal actions.
 6. Greek Letter Organizations and student organizations with national affiliations are expected to follow the Risk Management Policy as defined by their national organization.
 7. No alcoholic beverages may be purchased through the organization treasury nor may the purchase of same for members or guests be undertaken or coordinated by any member in the name of or on behalf of the organization. The purchase and/or use of a bulk quantity of such alcoholic beverages (e.g. kegs) is prohibited.
 8. Pre-parties and spontaneous events will be considered organization events if you answer yes to any of these questions:
 - a. Is the pre-party/ spontaneous event taking place in the same location as an organization sponsored activity?
 - b. Is the event sponsored by a member of the organization?
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- c. Are half of the people in attendance members of the organization?
 - d. Is half of the organization in attendance?
 - e. Was the pre-party/spontaneous party discussed at a meeting?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then your organization may be held accountable for behavior that occurs at this event.

Food Sales

Northern Kentucky University has contracted with Chartwells the exclusive agent to purchase, prepare, and sell food, food products, and non-alcoholic beverages on its campus, except as mutually agreed upon by NKU and the food service company.

Stipulations for registered student organizations include the following:

1. Each organization must be registered with the Center for Student Engagement.
2. **BAKE SALES:** A bake sale is defined as the sale of baked goods, pastries, doughnuts, cookies, etc. that do not require refrigeration or heat to maintain product safety. All other types of food sales are prohibited unless otherwise authorized in writing by the Director of Food Services.
3. Other than bake sales **NO** food sales may be held on campus without the written consent of the Office of Business Operations. Please see the Request for Exception to the Food Policy <https://tinyurl.com/Food-Policy-Exception>.
4. The food service director is willing to advise any organization dealing with food donations on Health and Sanitation Department regulations under which such food sales must be conducted. They will also cooperate with any group on the procurement of supplies.
5. All posters, flyers, etc., advertising a BAKE sale must be approved and stamped for posting by the Student Union Information Desk.

Catering Guidelines

Chartwells is the sole food service operation at Northern Kentucky University. By contracted agreement with the University, they are the only agents through which any organization may negotiate and determine any food services for any event on campus.

1. Chartwells will work in cooperation with any registered organization to provide:
 - a. Food services for any on-campus or off-campus event.
 - b. Written estimates for services.
 - c. Procurement of supplies relates to events (paper plates, etc.).
 - d. Special occasions whenever food service is provided by other sources (students, etc.).
2. Should the occasion call for other food services, permission for the service must be met by Chartwells and the Center for Student Engagement.

Student organizations are responsible for payment for any services contracted with Chartwells. Should the student organization cancel an event, remember it is the responsibility of the student organization to cancel the food service- otherwise the student organization will be liable for payment. Always follow through with the details.

Use of Off-Campus Food Providers

The campus dining contractor, Chartwells, has exclusive rights to provide food serves and catering on campus for Northern Kentucky University. If student organizations would prefer not to use Chartwells for small food orders in university buildings (under \$250) and bring food and supplies from off-campus, they must receive approval 10 business days in advance of the scheduled event.

Policy Details:

1. This policy is limited to catered and donated food for meetings and events only. Re-selling of food is not permitted.

2. Exceptions to the use of Chartwells for food needs on campus may be considered by submitting a campus food waiver request 10 business days in advance of the scheduled event. Foods may not be commingled with Chartwells supplied foods.

3. The total retail value of the food may not exceed \$250

4. Groups may not cook their own food and bring it in or bring in cooked food from parents, churches, etc.

5. Grilling of food is not permitted.

6. No pans of food that require warming with sterno and chaffing dishes are permitted.

7. Food items that are permitted include – bagels, cookies, candy, sub sandwiches, pizza, cheese trays, cakes, chips, and soft drinks.

The form Off-Campus Food Providers Waiver <https://tinyurl.com/Off-Campus-Food-Waiver> needs to be completed and approved 10 days prior to the event. Within five (5) days of the event an itemized receipt must be sent to aikmansl@nku.edu. Groups that exceed the \$250 amount or bring in unauthorized food will lose their privileges.

SECTION IV

Sport Club Policies

All Sports Clubs must register with the Center for Student Engagement as Registered Student Organizations and are bound by the same requirements as all other registered student organizations. Additionally, Sports Club designation is granted through the Office of Campus Recreation and additional registration requirements will apply. Please see the complete Sport Club Manual <https://tinyurl.com/Sport-Club-Handbook>. Sports clubs are required to attend a President's Academy and any required Sports Club Orientation meeting every year to be in compliance with registration requirements.

NKU Campus Recreation Mission and Vision Statement

Mission

Enhance student and university community success by advocating and providing inclusive, developmental opportunities that promote student engagement, lifelong learning, and healthy behaviors.

Introduction

What are Sport Clubs?

The Sport Clubs Program offers a unique blend of team and individual sports. Each Sport Club is a student organization comprised primarily of students, faculty, and staff. Each club is formed, developed, governed, and administered by the student membership of that particular club, working with the Sport Clubs Program staff. The key to the success of this program and each club is student leadership, interest, involvement, and participation.

Sports Clubs shall be defined as a group that meets regularly to pursue an interest in team or individual sports activity. Sports Clubs can be competitive, recreational, and/or instructional in nature.

Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration as a recognized Sports Club at NKU, a potential club shall meet the following requirements:

1. Fit definition of Sport Club; AND
2. Offer an activity that does not duplicate an existing Sport Club

Re-Activate or Start a New Club

Starting a new club can be a lot of fun. In order to start a new club, you must have the following:

1. Identify a sport that is not currently offered as a Sport Club.
 2. 5 NKU students that are interested and are eligible to be part of a club
 3. 5 Club officers that are interested in taking a leadership role and are eligible to be part of a club.
 4. A club constitution and Student Engagement registration fee of \$35 – Meet w/ the Office of Student Engagement SU303. – check this is the correct price.
 5. Contact a member of the Sport Club Staff to schedule a meeting to discuss the steps in starting a new club.
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SECTION V

Banking, Finances, and Money Management

Off-Campus Bank Accounts

Registered Student Organizations may choose to obtain a bank account through a banking entity not associated with the University. The President and Executive Board should be the primary responsible parties for the organization. To establish a bank account, your organization will need an Employer Identification Number (EIN). An EIN is a nine-digit number the IRS assigns in the following format XX-XXXXXXX. It is used to identify the tax accounts of employers and certain others who have no employees. Student Organizations affiliated with a national organization (national honor society, fraternity, etc.) can use the national EIN if the national office allows it.

The Internet EIN application is the preferred method to apply for and obtain an EIN. Once the application is completed, the information is validated during the online session, and an EIN is issued immediately. The person completing the form must have a valid Taxpayer Identification Number (social security number, EIN, or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number) to use the online application. Taxpayers can obtain an EIN immediately by calling the Business and Specialty Tax Line at 800-829-4933 or visiting the Internal Revenue Service website <https://tinyurl.com/IRS-Application-for-EIN>.

Agency Accounts

If your organization would like to have a campus-based account, your organization advisor must contact Accounts Payable to set up what is referred to as an Agency Account. This is a non-interest-bearing account and does not come with checks or the conveniences associated with a private bank account. Your organization advisor will be required to maintain the records for the account and initiate all transactions and requests for check actions. If your advisor has questions about this, please contact Accounts Payable at 859-572-5261 for further information.

Student Organization Grants

Registered Student Organizations may request money from the Funding Board through the Travel, Operational, and Programming and Activities grants. The guidelines for each fund shall be set by the Center for Student Engagement for each academic year. Please consult myEngagement for the guidelines and procedures to request funding. Contact the Center for Student Engagement with any questions.

SECTION VII

Additional Resources

The following are resources available to active registered student organizations. This list is not comprehensive and information is subject to change.

Campus Recreation

The Campus Recreation Center is a great place for a wide variety of events. All reservation requests must be submitted 14 days prior to your desired event date. Please consult our reservation policies for a full list of guidelines. Please visit the Campus Recreation Center website to read their policies and procedures <https://tinyurl.com/CRC-Policies>.

Copy/Printing Services

Registered student organizations may utilize FedEx Office Solutions for copy and print needs. <https://tinyurl.com/Copy-and-Print-Services>

Facilities

Registered student organizations may use campus facilities. Reservations must be done online by the on-campus advisor or president <https://tinyurl.com/NKU-Room-Request>.

Website & Email Accounts

The Center for Student Engagement encourages all registered student organizations to utilize the myEngagement system to build an organization website. Student organizations may create additional websites and link them to the myEngagement Portal <https://tinyurl.com/NKU-myEngagement>.

Student Organization Mail and Mailboxes

The Center for Student Engagement provides mailboxes to Registered Student Organizations at no charge to the organization, upon registration of the organization, and on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The mailboxes are located on the third floor of the Student Union outside Suite 316. It is the responsibility of the student organization to check the mailbox weekly. Mailbox privileges will be revoked if mail is left to accumulate.

The student organization may use these mailboxes to send notices to other student organizations by bringing the information that is to be distributed to the Center for Student Engagement, SU 316 during normal working hours.

Student Organization Addresses

A student organization address is NOT to include Northern Kentucky University as an affiliate. Each organization is its own entity. Always use the student organization name that is used when registering on myEngagement.

An example of an address to use is:
Order of Omega
c/o Center for Student Engagement
Nunn Dr., Student Union Suite 316
Highland Heights, KY 41099

The address should not be listed as:
Order of Omega of Northern Kentucky
University Box 1234
c/o Student Engagement, Student
Union Suite 316
Highland Heights, KY 41099

SECTION VIII

Faculty/Staff Advisor's Expectations

Faculty/Staff Advisors provide a vital link between students, their organizations, and the University. Their relationship often bridges the between classroom and out-of-class activities. All Registered Student Organizations are required to have a faculty/staff advisor to serve as a link to the University and assist the student organization in completing their business within the regulations of the University. Given the role of the governing councils, alumni boards, and national headquarters, Fraternity and Sorority Life organizations (IFC, NPC, NPHC, and MGC) are not required, but are encouraged, to have a faculty/staff advisor associated with the University. Questions regarding this exception should be directed to the Center for Student Engagement.

The specific duties of the advisor shall be determined and agreed upon by the individual advisor and the organization's leadership. As a general rule, advisors should be familiar with the student organization's program and should counsel the student organization in the exercise of responsibility.

Advisor's Responsibilities

Organization Operations

1. Meet at least once a month with the President. Discuss operations and any academic or other concerns.
2. Assist student groups with the online room reservation process.
3. Attend meetings as they fit into your schedule. If you cannot attend meetings, be sure to meet with the officers.
4. Be familiar with the organization's constitution, by-laws, and objectives.
5. Request minutes of every meeting.
6. Assist in seeing that the objectives justify the expenditure of students' efforts, abilities, energy, and finances.
7. Provide an appreciation of the history of the group and continuity to the organization.
8. Point them in the right direction for campus resources.
9. Attend lunches or dinners with the students to get to know them. Intervene in conflicts between group members and/or officers.
10. Provide continuity and stability as student leadership changes.
11. Point out new perspectives and directions to the group and introduce new program ideas.
12. Encourage each student to accept the responsibility for the group and alert students to the valuable skills and experiences that will be learned.
13. Get to know the staff in the Center for Student Engagement who advise and work with all Student Organizations.
14. Become familiar with the policies and procedures regarding Student Organizations on campus, which can be found in the Student Organization Manual.
15. Assist in outlining leadership skills or training the members, and plan to implement training or seek training for the members. (Northern Kentucky Leadership Institute sponsors numerous leadership programs throughout the year)
16. Attend workshops for advisors planned by the Center for Student Engagement.

Academic Guidance & Support

1. Serve as the "academic presence" within the organization.
2. Be certain that the members understand their "student" responsibilities and that the "group" responsibilities do not interfere with their academic work.
3. Meet confidentially with any individual members who may seek or need guidance on academic issues.
4. Review the academic achievement of the organization and determine whether it meets University expectations each semester.
5. Be prepared to offer strategies or suggestions if the group is struggling academically.

Campus Visibility

1. All groups should work to maximize their visibility on campus and/or in the community.
2. Encourage the group to develop at least one signature event per year.
3. Encourage attendance at educational programming and sponsorship of programs, as appropriate.
4. Encourage the group to participate in campus programs and traditions to increase visibility. (i.e. Homecoming, Black and Gold Awards, Fall Fest, etc)
5. Assist the group in professionally marketing themselves. PR is everything anyone sees you do.
6. Encourage diversity in recruitment and programming.