University Guidelines pertaining to Fraternity & Sorority Life
New Member Education

The following guidelines are to be followed in concert with those applicable rules and regulations from the Otterbein University Student Handbook, all federal and state law, and the organization’s guidelines pertaining to recruitment and new member education. Questions and concerns can be addressed to the Assistant Director of the Center for Student Involvement, 614-823-3206.

1. Otterbein students without a Collegiate GPA will be required to have a 2.75 high school GPA in order to participate in recruitment or new member education activities. Students with a Collegiate GPA will be deemed eligible based on the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Council bylaws.

2. New Member programs are to be no longer than 6 weeks in length and may not occur the last week of the semester or during exams.

3. All new member education programs, calendars, and new member education books must be submitted to the Center for Student Involvement for approval before any new member education may begin. Events may be added to the calendar with at least 48 hours’ notice.

4. Calendaring
   a. New member events can only take place THREE days a week (Sunday-Thursday) for a max of 3 hours each day. This includes chapter meetings, study tables, mixers, etc…
   b. Weekend new member activities may take place on Friday and Saturday within reason. All weekend activities and times will be reviewed by the Director of Greek Life for approval.
   c. Students are not to engage in a calendared social event or chapter function between 1:00 A.M. and 7:00 A.M.
   d. Spontaneous activities within your own chapter and involving only chapter members do not necessarily need to be calendared.
   e. Any social event with another organization or an event that requires chapter funds to be spent must be calendared in the Student Affairs Office.
   f. New member events not on the calendar are a violation of policy.

5. No new member duties or activities are to be planned that will interfere with the academic performance of new members.

6. Sleepovers are allowed on weekends only, as long as you honor the request per the Vice President for Student Affairs that pledges are not to participate in activities from 1:00 A.M. to 7:00 A.M.

7. All new member activities are alcohol-free. All members, both new and active, are to refrain from the use of alcohol, regardless of age. This includes immediately prior to the start of the event.

8. No fraternity or sorority may allow another organization to assign tasks or take control of your chapters new members. (This includes “Switch Nights”)

9. New member activities will not cause undue fatigue or stress. New members will have sufficient time to eat, rest, study, and attend to personal hygiene.
10. All new member activities and requirements should be allocated adequate time for completion.

11. Fraternity/sorority organizations may initiate new members in the same semester in which those new members pledge, in accordance with the organizations guidelines.

12. Fraternity/sorority organizations may also choose to initiate new members either before or after new members have attained their first collegiate grade point average, so long as the rites of initiation are in accordance with the organization’s guidelines. In doing so, the chapter may not exceed the 6-week maximum for new member education and must treat the new member as a regular participant in all chapter activities, with the exception of those events deemed “ritualistic” in nature. This includes activities such as attendance at regular chapter meetings, serving on committees, etc…

13. New members will be given, in writing, what is expected of them as new members of their chosen organization at the beginning of the new member education process, including the costs of what is required for membership and a schedule of events.

14. The Ohio Revised Code Statue on Hazing, Otterbein University policy on Hazing, the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Council Bylaws, and individual chapter guidelines regarding hazing will be followed and upheld by all members of the organization at all times. Violations will be immediately referred to the Otterbein Police Department.

**HAZING**

Actions and activities which are explicitly prohibited include but are not limited to the following:

1. Expecting participation in any activity that active members will not do
2. Forcing, allowing, or requiring new members to drink alcohol or ingest other substances they would not normally choose to eat or drink.
3. Extensive calisthenics directed at new members.
5. Blindfolding.
6. Physically assaulting, paddling, pushing, shoving or tackling an individual.
7. Waking individuals during the night for new member activities
8. Unattended pledge walks
9. Throwing anything (whipped cream, garbage, water, paint, etc.) at an individual.
10. Theft, stealing or borrowing of any property, without permission, under any circumstances (including assigning or endorsing “pranks” such as stealing from and harassing another organization’s property).
11. Defacing trees, grounds, buildings, public and private property.
12. Conducting new member/member related activities between the hours of 1:00 A.M. and 7:00 A.M. (permitting less than six hours of continuous sleep for any member.)
13. Engaging in an activity which involves forces an individual to stay in one location
14. Transporting anyone without knowledgeable consent (road trips, kidnapping).
15. Conducting activities which do not allow adequate time for study or sleep.
16. Wearing apparel in public which is conspicuous or not normally in good taste.
17. Deceiving new members about new member activities resulting in new member distress
18. Deceiving individual related to his/her status within the group
19. Intimidating new members with the threat of being dismissed or physically injured.
20. Yelling and screaming at pledges.
21. Not permitting pledges to talk at any time or limiting who he/she is allowed to talk to.
22. Nudity.
23. Hindering students normal hygiene practices
24. Servitude: Including, but not limited to, running personal errands, cleaning expectations for new members only, etc.
25. Any behavior that causes physical and mental distress.
26. Requiring new members to enter the chapter house through designated doorways or spaces or requiring new members to sing or chant before entering.