



PHI SIGMA KAPPA EXPANSION FAQS

COMMON TERMINOLOGY

- **Active** - An initiated undergraduate man of the fraternity.
- **Alumnus** - A fraternity member who has graduated or left college (plural: alumni).
- **Associate Member** - An associate member is a new member of the fraternity that has not been initiated. (Commonly referred to as “pledge” outside of Phi Sig)
- **Associate Period** - The time during which associate (new) members learn about their organization, officer roles, its members, and chapter activities.
- **Bid** - A formal invitation to join the chapter.
- **Brother** - A term used by fraternity members in reference to one another.
- **Chapter** - The local group of an international organization.
- **Chapter Advisor** - An alumnus who establishes and maintains a close advisory relationship with a chapter and serves as a mentor, counselor, and teacher to men in the chapter.
- **Charter** - The official document, drafted by Phi Sigma Kappa IHQ, that allows for the creation of a recognized local chapter affiliated with a college or university.
- **Executive Board** - A group of elected officers with responsibility of leading the organization.
- **General Convention** - The governing body of Phi Sigma Kappa nationally that elects the Grand Council. Occurs every two years on odd numbered years.
- **Grand Council** - The governing board of directors of Phi Sigma Kappa nationally.
- **Initiation** - A formal ceremony during which a man begins full membership in an organization.
- **Interfraternity Council (IFC)** - The representative body of all men's fraternities on a campus.
- **International Headquarters (IHQ)** - The administrative building where fraternity staff work on day-to-day operations for the organization.
- **Legacy** - A potential new member whose grandparents, parents, or siblings are members of a particular organization.
- **Petition** - The formal document, to be submitted to IHQ for approval, when a Provisional Chapter is ready to become a chartered chapter.
- **Philanthropy** - Activities or endeavors of raising money for charitable organizations.
- **Provisional Chapter** - A Provisional Chapter is a newly organized group that is actively working to become a chartered chapter.
- **Ritual** - A value-based ceremony that is traditional of a chapter. Most rituals are kept secret from anyone not a member of the organization.
- **Recruitment** - An organized activity to meet potential members.



WHAT IS EXPANSION?

Fraternity expansion is the growth process of the organization and is broadly comprised of two situations:

1. The development of a new chapter on a college/university campus unfamiliar with Phi Sigma Kappa. For Phi Sigma Kappa, the newly established group on a college/university campus is called a "Provisional Chapter".
2. The re-establishment of a dormant or closed chapter on a college/university campus.

Phi Sigma Kappa will expand on campuses where there is adequate support for developing a strong chapter. Each campus will be evaluated based on a set of predetermined criteria that ensures an atmosphere exists for Phi Sigma Kappa to achieve its objectives.

WHAT DOES THE EXPANSION PROCESS LOOK LIKE?

1. Petitions

All petitions for expansion are directed to the Director of Organizational Growth at IHQ. An "exploratory" visit may occur, either in person or virtually, with IHQ staff and any other stakeholders.

2. Proposal

If it is determined that a viable partnership between IHQ and the host institution can occur, an Expansion Proposal is provided. If accepted, the formal date and semester to begin recruiting on campus will be determined.

3. Recruitment

Once an approval is received by IHQ, an aggressive recruitment effort is implemented. Growth Specialists will arrive on campus and begin gathering a list of interested men, who will then go through an interview process to determine if membership requirements are met.

4. Goals

Growth Specialists will work with these men to appoint the executive board and officer positions, develop strategic goals, and continue to recruit men to a near average chapter size on campus.

5. Chartering

Once the Provisional Chapter meets all installation prerequisites, they will submit a chartering petition to the Grand Council.

6. Initiation

Initiation and installation are accomplished when the Provisional Chapter has fulfilled each chartering prerequisite, a petition has been filed, and a vote of final approval has occurred by the Grand Council.



HOW LONG DOES THE PROCESS TAKE TO CREATE A NEW CHAPTER?

While the time it takes for a new group to charter can vary from campus to campus, it generally takes six to twelve months, and may take as long as twenty-four months, from start to completion. The length of the process can be determined by how long it takes to recruit men up to the average fraternity chapter size on a campus, the level of university and alumni support, how well new chapter officers feel comfortable in their roles, and how quickly the new chapter can establish themselves financially.

HOW MANY PEOPLE DO WE NEED TO START A CHAPTER?

This may vary based on the circumstances of each campus. To establish a Provisional Chapter, there must be no less than 25 interested men. However, the Provisional Chapter will then need to recruit up to the average fraternity chapter size on campus to be approved by Grand Council for chartering and becoming a recognized chapter.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN STARTING A NEW FRATERNITY VERSUS JOINING AN EXISTING CHAPTER?

Existing chapters have pre-established structures and traditions, ultimately leading members to join because they feel like they fit into that chapter's existing culture. While members may feel "at home" quicker in pre-established chapters, it can take members a semester or two to take on leadership opportunities and further their impact in the chapter.

For individuals interested in the fraternal experience but are seeking to have an immediate impact by taking on leadership opportunities earlier and determining the structures, traditions, and chapter culture, establishing a new chapter is for you! While there may not be an immediate "at home" feel in this experience, you get to shape the culture of the chapter and bring in members that align with the values and experiences you desire, all while seeing the immediate impact of your work.

WHAT IS PHI SIGMA KAPPA'S POLICY ON HAZING?

Phi Sigma Kappa has a strict non-hazing policy, meaning hazing practices are not tolerated by our organization. Historically, fraternities and sororities were created from direct opposition of oppressive events and have no mention of hazing as part of founding documents. If a new or existing chapter is not following national policies, please feel empowered to bring any instance to our attention immediately.

MY GUARDIAN AND/OR SIGNIFICANT OTHER DOESN'T LIKE THE IDEA OF FRATERNITIES; WHAT SHOULD I TELL THEM IF I AM INTERESTED IN JOINING?

For many, both social media and the movie industry inform people's understanding of fraternal culture. While there are some chapters who go against national policy and make poor decisions that reflect on all organizations, most chapters do not. Fraternities, at their core, focus on values, philanthropic efforts, academics, brotherhood, and leadership opportunities, and portray these endeavors in a healthy way. We encourage your guardian(s)/significant other to research the purpose of fraternities, meet members in the chapter, talk to local alumni, or visit our website to further educate themselves on Phi Sigma Kappa specifically. We additionally empower you to trust yourself in making the adult decision of committing to a life-long brotherhood that resonates best with you.