

Risk Reduction Policy of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc.

(As amended by the High Council, March 2019)

Sigma Nu is an association of congenial minds and kindred souls founded for the specific purpose of influencing the development of the mind, heart, and character of its members. Its Creed — To Believe in the Life of Love, to Walk in the Way of Honor, to Serve in the Light of Truth — represents the basic principles that form the philosophical underpinnings which guide its actions in the development of future leaders.

Like the larger society, and the universities and colleges at which its chapters reside, Sigma Nu is not a police agency. It employs no law enforcement agents, nor was it ever founded or chartered to do so. It has no capacity to maintain “on site” observation of its chapters or its members, nor was it founded or does it exist for such purpose. It regards its members as subjects of the host college or university first, and members of Sigma Nu second. Sigma Nu is an organization that advises and encourages its members to conform to and abide by the laws of the land and the policies, rules, and regulations of the host institution.

In addition, Sigma Nu has adopted certain laws and rules of governance by which its members are also expected to abide (see The Law of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc.), and policies to assist its collegiate members in conducting daily affairs of a collegiate chapter. Such laws, rules, and policies are subject to the laws of the land and the rules, regulations, and policies of the host institution. Failure of any member to abide by said laws, rules, and policies may be sufficient cause for Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. to conduct an investigation. A confirmed violation of said laws, rules, or policies may be sufficient cause for suspension or expulsion from membership of the individuals involved, removal from elected or appointed office within the Fraternity of those officers involved, or the suspension or revocation of a chapter's charter, the only extent to which Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. possesses or maintains authority over its chapters and members.

The following policy is applicable to each chapter and colony of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. Section I, A-H and K-Y apply to any event organized by persons, entities, and organizations covered by the general liability insurance policy of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. (including, but not limited to, alumni advisory boards, alumni chapters, alumni clubs, house corporations, chapter educational foundations, and parent clubs).

I. Events of the Chapter and Activities on Chapter Premises Meet the Following Criteria:

- A. The chapter, members, and guests comply with all federal, state, and local laws as well as the rules and regulations of the host institution, the policies of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc., and The Law of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. No person under the legal drinking age may possess, consume, provide, or be provided alcoholic beverages.
- B. No person may possess, use, provide, distribute, sell, and/or manufacture illegal drugs or other controlled substances at any chapter event or while on chapter premises.
- C. No alcoholic beverages are purchased through the chapter treasury nor is the purchase of same for members or guests undertaken or coordinated by any member in the name of or on behalf of the chapter.
- D. No chapter members, collectively or individually, purchase for, serve to, or sell alcoholic beverages to any minor (i.e., those under legal “drinking age”).
- E. No common sources of alcoholic beverages, including kegs, and other bulk quantities, unless provided and sold on a per-drink basis by a licensed and insured third party vendor.
- F. Alcoholic beverages are:
 1. Provided and sold on a per-drink basis by a licensed and insured third party vendor; or
 2. Brought by individual members and guests through a bring your own beverage (“BYOB”) system.
- G. The presence of alcoholic beverages above 15% alcohol by volume (“ABV”) is prohibited on chapter premises, except when served by a licensed and insured third party vendor.
- H. The presence of alcoholic beverages above 15% alcohol by volume (“ABV”) is prohibited at any chapter event, except when served by a licensed and insured third party vendor.
- I. The chapter may rent a venue to host a chapter event; however, the chapter does not co-host or co-sponsor an event with a bar, event promoter, or alcoholic beverage distributor.
- J. For every event which a chapter sponsors or hosts where alcoholic beverages are legally consumed, the chapter also hosts at least one non-alcoholic, or “dry,” event.
- K. The chapter does not co-sponsor or co-finance an event where alcoholic beverages are purchased by any of the host chapters, groups, or organizations. Any event co-sponsored or co-financed with any chapters, groups, or organizations where alcoholic beverages are legally present, meets the following criteria:
 1. Event is co-hosted with not more than one other male chapter, group, or organization;
 2. All hosts have a liability insurance policy with a minimum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) basic coverage;
 3. The event is in compliance with all hosts inter/national organizational policies;
 4. All non-member (non-member defined as those guests who are not members of any host group) guests are pre-approved by the chapter;
 5. Guest and host attendance lists are completed and posted prior to the event and maintained on file after the event;
 6. Each host has equal representation of sober monitors during the event; and
 7. Any event which would not comply with the above six criteria is first pre-approved by the host institution and, subsequently, discussed with Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. staff prior to the event.

- L. No chapter members provide alcoholic beverages to members or guests by selling tickets or cups, by charging admission fees, by taking up a collection (“passing the hat”), or by using any other direct or indirect means of collecting monies from persons attending chapter events.
- M. Attendance by non-members at any chapter event where alcoholic beverages are present is by invitation only. The safety and welfare of each guest is an assumed responsibility of the individual member who invited said guest. A list of the name of each member and invited guest is maintained and monitored at the entry to the event. Attendance lists are maintained on file after the event for a minimum of two years.
- N. At all events where alcoholic beverages are present, the maximum guest-to-member ratio does not exceed 2:1 (two guests per one chapter member). The maximum number of allowable guests does not exceed local fire or building code capacity of the chapter premises or venue. Any change in the guest-to-member ratio is first pre-approved by the host institution and, subsequently, discussed with Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. staff prior to the event.
- O. Valid identification is checked for the correct age of anyone claiming to be legally permitted to consume alcoholic beverages at a chapter event.
- P. At any and all chapter events where the legal consumption of alcoholic beverages is permitted, non-alcoholic beverages and food are available. At such events, individuals trained by the institution, who commit themselves not to consume alcoholic beverages or illegal or controlled substances, are appointed or hired to be on duty at all exits in order to check the sobriety level of invited people arriving and leaving chapter events, and to deter uninvited people and/or intoxicated guests from entering.
- Q. If the condition of any member or guest raises any concerns for his or her safety, call 911. If any member or guest appears to be even slightly intoxicated at any chapter event, the chapter members escort said member or guest from the event. The chapter does all that is reasonable to prevent intoxicated persons from driving automobiles and from walking themselves home; rather, such persons are escorted or accompanied by a responsible individual who has not consumed alcoholic beverages or any illegal or controlled substance.
- R. When alcoholic beverages are consumed legally (i.e., by those of legal age), such beverages are consumed only from non-transparent containers for purposes of reducing peer pressure on those who choose not to consume said beverages or those who are not of legal age.
- S. Any activity involving drinking games or the rapid consumption of alcoholic beverages at any chapter event or on chapter premises is prohibited.
- T. The chapter does not serve, or permit the use, possession, or consumption of alcoholic beverages at chapter recruitment events.
- U. No alcoholic beverages are served to, provided for, or purchased for any candidate or initiated member in connection with any aspects of the candidate education program.
- V. Intoxication by any member at any chapter event or at any other time is deemed “conduct unbecoming a Knight and a gentleman.” The chapter invokes full provisions of The Law of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. when such circumstances occur including fines and/or suspension or expulsion for a continual pattern of drunken behavior. Habitual violators are advised to seek qualified counseling.
- W. The Office of the Executive Director may prescribe for any Chapter that has a risk reduction violation that the Chapter not be allowed to have any alcoholic beverages on Chapter premises for a period to be determined by the Office of the Executive Director.
- X. A chapter that falls beneath its school's All-Men's undergraduate, All-IFC, or a 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale), whichever is lowest, shall be placed on academic warning for the next academic term in order to allow for the chapter to raise its GPA to be at or above the applicable GPA. Should the chapter fail to raise its GPA to the applicable average while on academic warning, the chapter shall not be allowed to have any alcoholic beverages on chapter premises for as long as the condition exists.
- Y. Water Events. The chapter does not have any self-constructed pools or other self-constructed bodies of water for use in any activity at a chapter event (example, belly flop contests), and no slip-and-slides or similar activities shall be a part of any chapter event.

II. Hazing

The chapter does not conduct hazing. Hazing is defined by Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. as:

“... any action taken, or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off fraternity premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Such activities may include but are not limited to the following: paddling in any form; creation of excessive fatigue; physical and psychological shocks; quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips, lineups, or any other such activities carried on outside or inside the confines of the chapter house; wearing, publicly, apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts and buffoonery; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; late work sessions which interfere with scholastic activities; and any other activities which are not consistent with fraternal law, ritual, or policy or the regulations and policies of the educational institution.”

The willingness of any individual to participate in any hazing activity does not excuse any hazing violation.

- III. Any chapter which fails to be represented at either Grand Chapter or the College of Chapters shall not have alcoholic beverages on Chapter premises for the following academic year without the consent of the Office of the Executive Director.