I. Introduction

Fraternity and sorority colonies/chapters will be held responsible for positive contributions to the primary educational mission of the College, and therefore are under an obligation to encourage the most complete personal development of their members intellectually, civically, and socially. In order to achieve these objectives, the following guidelines will be followed:

1. The objectives and activities of the fraternity and sorority colony/chapter are to be in accord with the general aims and purposes of SUNY Cortland.

2. Principles that are recognized by the College as legitimate purposes for fraternities and sororities include the promotion of scholarship and academic achievement, promotion of campus and community services, and the promotion of brotherhood and sisterhood.

3. Conduct and behavior of fraternity and sorority members should reflect the above stated purposes for fraternal activities both on and off campus, and be consistent with the SUNY Cortland Code of Student Conduct and Related Policies.

4. Activities of fraternities and sororities recognized by SUNY Cortland (involving campus facilities and/or equipment with regard to fundraisers and other activities) will comply with all University Board of Trustees, SUNY Cortland College Council and the campus administrative policies and procedures.

5. For the purposes of local governance of fraternities and sororities, these policies are applicable to all such organizations regardless of their affiliation, or lack thereof, with any National organization.

6. After appropriate review and consultation, the College reserves the right to impose disciplinary sanctions on any fraternity or sorority for violation of these or other State, State University or College rules and regulations. The final review/appeal of the decision rests with the Vice President for Student Affairs. If applicable, the National organization will be contacted and informed of the situation.

7. Any changes in colony/chapter rules, regulations, and procedures in conflict with or found to be a departure from the current SUNY Cortland Fraternity/Sorority Policies and Procedures will necessitate a meeting with the Vice President for Student Affairs (or his/her designee), and/or a representative from the Campus Activities and Corey Union Office, a representative of the colony/chapter governing board, and the president of the group to resolve the conflict.

8. Each chapter/colony, through its national or local program, will be required to exercise responsible management and financial integrity. Risk management should be a priority.
II. Procedures

Duration of Affiliation and Recognition: Recognition for new fraternities and sororities will be provisional for one full year. After successfully completing one full year of provisional recognition, recognition duration will be indefinite and subject to annual review. The Vice President for Student Affairs reserves the right to revoke College recognition if the fraternity or sorority fails to comply with any of the guidelines set herein.

1. By the second Monday of September of each year each fraternal organization must file with the Campus Activities and Corey Union Office, the items listed below. Electronic submissions are acceptable as appropriate.

   A. A completed SUNY Cortland Fraternity/Sorority Recognition Application
   B. Certification of Compliance with Anti-Hazing Laws and Regulations (form included in application).
   C. Certification of Compliance with SUNY Board of Trustees Resolutions 76-292 (form included in application).
   D. A copy of the current constitution and bylaws, policies and regulations of the national/local organization. If there has been no change in the governing documents since last submitted, simply inform the College’s Greek Advisor.
   E. Complete listing (name, address, phone number, email address) of current Alumni/ae Board of Directors/House Corporation Board (form included in application).
   F. A letter of sponsorship from the National organization certifying the chapter affiliation. This letter must be on fraternal letterhead and is required every year. Said letter is typically short and is used to verify that the organization is still recognized by their National as well as their current status therein.
   G. A complete listing of current organization members and officers. Please note that a listing of ALL officers (not just those serving on the Executive Board) as well as their contact information is also required to be turned in.

2. Within 14 days of receipt of all materials, the Associate Director of Campus Activities and Greek Affairs will examine the documents submitted. If necessary, a consultation with the representatives of the organization will be held to discuss changes, deletions or additions to submitted documents to insure compliance as previously stated.

   A. In cases where certification of recognition is not granted, the fraternity or sorority will be notified in writing of the decision. Reasons for the non-certification will be specified and an appropriate time table presented in which to correct these obstacles.
   B. In cases where recognition cannot be granted by the Campus Activities and Corey Union Office, the Vice President for Student Affairs, or his/her designee, will serve as the appellate administrator. Groups wishing to appeal the decision must do so, in writing to the Vice President for Student Affairs, or his/her designee, will review all pertinent documents and respond, in writing, within 30 days.

3. Two additional reports will be required to be completed and submitted by each chapter/colony.

   A. Midyear Report . . . To be turned in no later than the first Monday after the first full week of classes in the Spring semester. This short form identifies the following:
      a. Members who have left the College in December of the current academic year
      b. Members who have returned to the College after having been unassociated with the College for at least one semester (those returning from academic suspension,
those transferring back in or returning after a leave of absence, etc.)
c. Members who intend to graduate in either May or August of the current year
d. Members who are to be termed inactive for the Spring semester as well as why
e. Names and contact information for all Spring chapter/colony officers

B. Annual Report . . . To be turned in the Friday before the last day of classes in the
Spring semester. This report is to address the following items as appropriate to each organization:
   a. Academic and scholarship activities
   b. Community service
   c. Philanthropy
   d. Financial management
   e. Leadership development and new member education
   f. Social activities
   g. Alumni and public relations
   h. Individual and/or organizational accomplishments and/or recognitions
   i. Relationship with the College

III. Establishing Fraternities and Sororities at SUNY Cortland

Effective May 1, 1988, only nationally affiliated fraternities/sororities may colonize at
SUNY Cortland.

1. Undergraduate students interested in bringing a new fraternal organization to campus must
meet with the Associate Director of Campus Activities and Greek Affairs to discuss the
appropriate steps to take to investigate this possibility. There are no guarantees that
expansion of the Greek system will be viable at any given point in time. Expansion is
typically student driven.

2. National fraternity and/or sorority representatives wishing to investigate or facilitate
colonization at SUNY Cortland must first meet with the Campus Activities and Corey Union
Office to discuss College policies. Greek Council presidents may be involved in these
conversations as appropriate. This meeting will be utilized to discuss colonization
procedures proposed by the national representative.

3. Campus recognition and authorization for chartering of national organizations requires SUNY
Cortland approval through the Campus Activities and Corey Union Office and the Vice
President for Student Affairs. Should the expansion include a member of the National
Panhellenic Conference approval must also come from the SUNY Cortland Panhellenic
Council.

4. Fraternities and sororities granted permission to establish undergraduate or graduate
chapters of their organization at SUNY Cortland shall do so in full compliance with the
College’s Affirmative Action Program, specifically to membership eligibility of students and
towards the rights of interested students to participate in the sponsored activities of such
chapters/colonies.

5. All chapters/colonies affiliated with National organizations on the SUNY Cortland campus
shall file with the Campus Activities and Corey Union Office, a certification that the
constitution, by-laws, policies, regulations and practices of the organization do not restrict
membership on the basis of race, creed, national origin, sex, age, or disability, except as may
be specifically exempted by Federal or State laws/regulations. Further, this certification will
specify that the active membership of the local chapter has authority independent to any National organization to determine membership in the local chapter/colony.

6. All fraternities and sororities must become active members of the appropriate Greek council (Panhellenic, InterGreek, and/or Greek Multicultural) and abide by the constitution and bylaws of that council.

IV. Governing Bodies

National and local Greek organizations are required to establish and maintain governing boards with authority to act with regard to governance of the chapter/colony. Failure to maintain a governing board will result in the loss of College recognition.

SUNY Cortland recognizes that a tripartite relationship in the responsibility for the orderly procedures and policies governing fraternities and sororities also calls on the College to recognize certain rights and privileges of the governing boards, therefore:

1. The College recognizes the national/local governing boards of the fraternities and sororities as the official legally consulted authority and will work with these boards for the achievement of a successful colony and/or chapter.

2. It is the desire of the College to foster and encourage a close working relationship between the national/local governing board and its chapter/colony and to preserve the authority for decisions within this relationship. The College stands ready to be of assistance should the need arise. Cooperation achieved within these principles between SUNY Cortland and the fraternity/sorority will guarantee the autonomy of the fraternity/sorority chapter/colony and its official governing agency without infringement in their internal affairs by any campus organization or governing agency of the College. Failure to be guided by these guidelines, however, will result in referral to the Greek Standards Board, Campus Activities and Corey Union Office, Vice President for Student Affairs, and/or College President, and may result in the loss of autonomy privileges until the matter is properly adjudicated.

V. Non-Discrimination

All SUNY Cortland chapters/colonies shall file with the Campus Activities and Corey Union Office, a certification that the constitution, bylaws, policies, regulations and practices of the organization do not restrict membership on the basis of race, creed, national origin, sex, age, or disability, except as may be specifically exempted by Federal or State laws/regulations. Further, this certification will specify that the active membership of the local chapter/colony has authority independent to any National organization to determine membership in the local chapter.

VI. Use of College Facilities

Certification/Recognition shall not be construed as conferring any right to use campus facilities that is not in accordance with existing College policies and practices. Facility use and reservations must comply with existing College policies. All facility/room requests are to be filed with the Associate Director of Campus Activities and Greek Affairs.
VII. Advisors

Each fraternity and sorority is required to secure an advisor affiliated with the College and said advisor's name and contact information must be filed with the Campus Activities and Corey Union Office. The advisor will function as a program consultant, resource, provider of continuity and interpreter of College policy. The advisor shall be aware of financial status, attend functions and meetings, and assure that adequate records are maintained by the organization. As liaison between the organization and the College, the advisor must maintain consistent and honest communication with the Greek Advisor in the Campus Activities and Corey Union Office. This advisor must be an employee of the College and cannot be a student herein.

VIII. Housing

The fraternity or sorority chapter/colony understands and acknowledges that it is responsible for maintaining sanitary, fire and safety standards in the official or unofficial chapter house in accordance with approved City of Cortland Codes.

IX. Greek Councils

1. A council comprised of representatives from each social fraternity and sorority shall be known as the InterGreek Council (IGC).

2. A council comprised of representatives from each social sorority affiliated with the National Panhellenic Conference plus the one allowed local sorority (Nu Sigma Chi) shall be known as the Panhellenic Council (Panhel). Said Council is charged with acting in the best interests of the College's Panhellenic Association.

3. A council comprised of representatives from each cultural fraternity and sorority shall be known as the Greek Multicultural Council (GMC).

X. Recruitment

1. The recruitment officers for all recognized chapters are required to meet with the Associate Director of Campus Activities and Greek Affairs prior to holding recruitment events. This meeting could occur at the end of the semester preceding when events are to be held OR at the start of the semester for which events are intended.
   a. A review of planned events and relevant College policies will take place
   b. A roster for each new class/line must be submitted prior to an offer of membership being extended so that the College can verify that all names contained therein meet eligibility requirements
   c. All eligible individuals accepting an offer of membership must complete the appropriate College paperwork

2. The Treasurer of each organization is required to submit the following items at the start of each semester during which the organization will be accepting new members:
   a. Total amount of money that it will cost each active brother/sister for that semester
   b. Total amount of money that it will cost each associate/new member for that semester AND a detailed itemization of what that money will cover
3. The “New Member Educator(s)” for all recognized chapters are required to meet with the Associate Director of Campus Activities and Greek Affairs prior to the start of the new member education/intake process.
   a. A review of the intended new member education/intake program and relevant College policies will take place at this meeting; Officers should provide a copy of the intended program to the College’s “Greek Advisor” at this time, if not sooner
   b. Any changes to the roster for each new class/line must be submitted within 24 hours of said change taking place

XI. New Membering Guidelines

1. A new/associate member must be a currently registered full time SUNY Cortland student.

2. First semester first year students are not eligible for membership.

3. A new/associate member must have attained 12 credit hours at SUNY Cortland and maintain a minimum G.P.A. of 2.0 OR be a transfer student with a minimum of 24 post high school credit hours and a minimum G.P.A. of 2.5 for those credit hours.

4. The academic eligibility of all potential new members must be verified by the Campus Activities Office before a bid for membership can be signed. The Associate Director of Campus Activities and Greek Affairs has agreed to honor higher GPA membership requirements that a fraternal group might possess. First semester transfer students must provide the Campus Activities Office with a copy of their transcript for this purpose.

5. All bids are to be signed in the presence of the Greek Advisor. New/associate members may withdraw from pledging at any time.

6. New member education period shall end at least 1 month prior to the start of final exams at the end of each semester. This specific date will be given by the Greek Advisor at the start of each semester if not sooner.

7. New/associate member activities may not interfere with classes, academic activities or requirements, and/or new/associate member work schedules.

8. Each new/associate member activity must be purposeful in keeping with the College’s mission of education and human development.
   A. To educate the new/associate member in regards to the ideology, history and ceremonies of the fraternity or sorority.
   B. To instruct new/associate members on their purpose and responsibility to the fraternity or sorority, to the College and to the community.
   C. To broaden the understanding between fraternity brothers/sorority sisters and the new/associate members and to promote a sense of unity between members and new/associate members.
   D. To carry out activities of campus and civic value.
   E. To continue the tradition of fraternity and sorority membership as a matter of special pride and achievement.

SOME guidelines for specific new/associate member activities for ALL groups to follow:

A. Library Hours: Not required by the College and cannot be required by an organization unless ALL members participate to an equal level. The College reminds all groups to leave their members ample time to study.
B. Uniforms/Gear: Acceptable only after fully discussed with and approved by the College's Greek Advisor AND only as mandated by the Inter/National organization. Gear cannot interfere with the academic institution or the student's ability to function therein.

C. Marching: Unacceptable unless included as part of a show (probate or step). Marching is defined as but is not limited to new/associate members linked arm in arm, stepping or stomping loudly in unison, dipping and/or chanting/singing.

D. Walking in Line: Unacceptable. Walking in line is defined as new/associate members walking one in front of each other in a line. This also includes cutting corners and any other structured form of walking in formation.

E. Walking in Unison: Acceptable. New/associate members may walk together in unison. This is defined as walking together in/on the same stride and is not to be confused with marching. Walking in unison, as an accidental occurrence is acceptable, however chapters should refrain from mandating that new/associate members walk in unison.

F. Mandating Social Probation: Unacceptable. Social probation is defined as but is not limited to (1) not being able to socialize and or speak with friends, family, professors, employers, etc.; (2) not being able to attend social events such as parties, programs, etc.

G. Probate Shows: Acceptable according to the Inter/National guidelines and the following conditions: Only if there is no physical, mental and/or verbal abuse and with proper and timely notification to the College’s Greek Advisor, along with the completion of any necessary reservation forms.

H. Forced Servitude: Unacceptable to ask/require a new/associate member to clean an initiated member’s room or vehicle, to run personal errands, or to perform other services or duties not normally shared by initiated members.

I. Sleep Deprivation, Dietary Restrictions, etc.: Unacceptable. Items such as these and others fall under the broader heading of hazing and are discussed later in this document.

XII. Auxiliary Groups

Auxiliary groups (i.e. little sisters, sweethearts, little brothers, etc.) are not recognized by the College and, as such, are not permitted the rights and privileges of College recognized student organizations.

XIII Officer Requirements

Chapter officers and all Greek council officers must be enrolled as students at SUNY Cortland while seeking and holding office.

SUNY Cortland is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and Educator.

HAZING LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Hazing and/or harassment of new/associate members is strictly prohibited as stipulated by New York State Law and the State University of New York Board of Trustees rules for the maintenance of public order. (See SUNY Cortland Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities and Related Policies). All chapters/colonies on the SUNY Cortland campus shall file with the Campus Activities and Corey Union Office a Certification of Compliance with Anti-Hazing Laws and Regulations.

SUNY CORTLAND HAZING POLICY
(1) General Philosophy Regarding Hazing

The College believes that the participation in any organization includes acting responsibly towards members and future members of that organization. Responsible behaviors are those that show respect for the dignity and self-esteem of all persons. Practices that are physically, emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually damaging to others are not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

(2) Student Organizations and Teams

Organizations covered under the New York State Law on hazing, State University of New York Policies and SUNY College at Cortland Policies include an intercollegiate athletic team, club sport team, fraternity, sorority, association, order, society, club, or service, social or similar group whose members are primarily students at the State University of New York College at Cortland.

(3) Definition of Hazing

Hazing means any intentional, knowing or reckless act occurring on-campus or off-campus, by one person acting alone or with others, directed against a member of the College community that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of that person. Hazing is related specifically to pledging, being initiated into, developing an affiliation with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization or team whose members are or include students at the State University of New York College at Cortland. The term "hazing" includes but is not limited to:

a. Any type of physical contact or brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body or similar activity.

b. Any type of physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small place, calisthenics or other activities that subject the student to unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.

c. Any activity involving consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug or other substance which subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or which adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.

d. Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects the student to extreme mental stress, shame or humiliation (such as verbal harassment), or adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from entering or remaining registered with SUNY College at Cortland, or that may reasonably be expected to cause a student to leave the organization or SUNY College at Cortland rather than submit to acts described within this hazing section.

e. Any activity that induces, causes or requires the student to perform a duty or task which involves a violation of the penal code and/or the Code.

(4) Offenses

A person commits an offense if the person:

a. engages in hazing;

b. solicits, encourages, directs, aids or attempts to aid another in engaging in hazing;

c. intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly permits hazing to occur.
**PENAL LAW**

New York State Law Chapter 86 Section 120.16 states that “a person is guilty of hazing in the first degree when, in the course of another person’s initiation into or affiliation with any organization, he or she intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of serious physical injury or death to such other person or a third person and thereby causes such serious injury or death to such person or to a third person.” Hazing in the first degree is a Class D Felony.

New York State Law Chapter 86 Section 120.17 states that “a person is guilty of hazing in the second degree when, in the course of another person’s initiation or affiliation with any organization, he or she intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person and thereby causes such injury.” Hazing in the second degree is a Class E Felony.

New York State Law Chapter 86 Section 120.18 states that “a person is guilty of hazing in the third degree when, in the course of another person’s initiation or affiliation with any organization, he or she intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person.” Hazing in the third degree is a Class A Misdemeanor.

**RULES FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER**

The State University Board of Trustees rules for the maintenance of public order (State University Of New York Codes, Rules and Regulations Title 8 Education Laws, Volume B Section 535.3, September 30, 1980) states that “no person, either singly or in concert with others, shall take any action, create or participate in the creation of any situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers mental or physical health or which involves the forced consumption of liquor or drugs for the purpose of initiation into or affiliation with any organization.”

**PENALTIES**

It is also stated that any organization which authorizes the prohibited conduct described in Subdivision (1) of Section 535.3 shall be subject to the recision of permission to operate upon the campus or upon the property of the State-operated institution used for educational purposes. The penalty provided in this subdivision shall be in addition to any penalty to which an individual may be subject pursuant to this part. All fraternities and sororities are also subject to college disciplinary action on any hazing policy.

**BYLAWS**

Section 6450 (1) of the Education Law requires that the provisions of this Part which prohibit reckless or intentional endangerment to health or forces consumption of liquor or drugs for the purpose of initiation into or affiliation with shall be deemed to be part of the bylaws of all organizations which operate upon the campus of any State-operated institution or upon the property of any State-operated institution used for educational purposes. The statue further requires that each such organization shall review these bylaws annually with individuals affiliated with the organizations.