

Greek Life Membership Guidelines

https://www.abac.edu/campus_life/get-involved/greek-life.html

A. Anti-Discrimination Policy

Chapters, including governing councils will not discriminate against any otherwise qualified individual. Membership in all social Greek organizations is open to all regularly enrolled students of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College who meet the academic requirements for membership. No person on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender expression, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, political affiliation, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination with respect to membership in a social Greek organization or any program or activity sponsored by the organizations. Fraternities and sororities are single-sex, private, social organizations protected by an exemption from Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 in order to remain single-sex organizations.

B. Membership

Active chapter (or colony) members must be students at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. In order to participate in any Greek-affiliated activity (e.g. intramurals, Greek week, recruitment), members must be enrolled in a minimum of six hours at the time of participation.

C. Grade Requirement

Each fraternity or sorority member (new members/pledges and actives) will be expected to maintain a minimum semester GPA standard. In order to be eligible for recruitment into a fraternity or sorority, first- semester freshmen must have a high-school grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.25, as calculated by ABAC Enrollment Services. Other new members/pledges must have a minimum Institutional GPA of 2.25; transfer students may use their Institutional GPA. Members should maintain a minimum Institutional GPA of 2.25 and must maintain the minimum GPA as designated by the organizations National Bylaws.

D. Co-Requisite Classes

Students enrolled in two co-requisite classes are not eligible for membership in fraternities or sororities.

E. Chapter Rosters

The president of each social Greek organization is responsible for submitting electronically a typed roster of each active and inactive member with ABAC ID# to the Dean of Students (deanofstudents@abac.edu) no later than the Friday of the second week of classes for fall and spring semesters. This information will be used to check grades and provide data for reports and other institutional purposes. A typed roster of bids awarded with ABAC ID# must be submitted electronically to the Dean of Students (deanofstudents@abac.edu) no later than 72 hours following issuance. A typed roster of new members with ABAC ID# must be submitted electronically to the Dean of Students (deanofstudents@abac.edu) no later than five business days following the intake/pledging of new members. Each roster must have a date at the top to ensure that all rosters are current. There should be no formal or informal intake activities/functions between the Sunday prior to final exams and the first interest meeting of the following semester. In the spirit of Greek Life

there will be an interest meeting and Rush activities participated in by all Greek organizations to be held on campus at the beginning of both the fall and spring semesters.

F. Greek Hallways

All Greek organizations with a hallway should have a minimum of 60% of the hallway filled by said organization. A list that includes students who have paid the application fee must be provided to housing no later than April 1. Failure to meet this requirement will lead to administrative disciplinary action by the Assistant Dean of Students, up to and including, dissolution of the particular Greek organization on ABAC's campus. New organizations will be allowed one full semester to comply with this requirement.

G. Faculty/Staff Advisor

ABAC requires that all recognized organizations have an on-campus advisor. All official ABAC clubs and organizations must have an on-campus faculty/staff advisor approved by the Dean of Students.

H. Dues

Greek Council Dues are **\$160** per organization per semester and are due at **second official Greek Council** meeting during fall and spring semester.

I. Dry Intake/Recruitment

Open recruitment will be permitted both on and off campus provided the recruitment event is registered and approved in detail on COURSEDOG AND the event is "dry" (no alcohol).

J. Bid pre-Requisites

Prospective and Associate Greeks must have:

- a. Officially registered with and be cleared by ABAC Dean of Students prior to receiving a Bid. Academic release authorization and Anti Hazing form must be completed and on file.
- b. Completed the online University System of Georgia (USG) mandatory Vector Solutions Sexual Assault Prevention, Alcohol edu and **Hazing Awareness** online courses prior to receiving a Bid.
- c. Within 72 hours of receiving a Bid all potential members must complete hazing awareness education provided by the organization and provide signed proof of completion of this education to the Dean of Students (deanofstudents@abac.edu) within this 72-hour timeframe.

K. Registering Events

Greek organizations must register all events/functions with the institution by placing on COURSEDOG and adhering to the provisions of the request.

L. Mandatory Reporting

All Greek organizations must report within 24 hours to the Dean of Students Office (deanofstudents@abac.edu) regarding the following pertaining to new members/pledges, prospective, or active members:

- a. Any incident that required and/or resulted in a response from any law enforcement agency including the ABAC Police.
- b. Transportation to emergency room resulting from bodily injury, alcohol and/or controlled substance consumption.
- c. Student membership being revoked due to Greek chapter and/or student code of conduct violation.
- d. Report of sexual and/or violent personal assault.
- e. Report of Hazing.

M. Failure to Submit Required Paperwork

- Chapters will be required to submit a variety of paperwork throughout the academic year. This includes, but is not limited to:
- Officer and advisor information sheets
- Roster updates
- Semesterly Membership dues
- COURSEDOG reservation of all Greek Life activities both on and off campus
- Social sign-in sheet with guest signatures
- List of names of those students awarded a Bid to organization.

Chapters that fail to submit this paperwork by the deadline will be subject to fines and/or referral to Greek Life Judicial Board.

N. Social Guidelines

The following policies and procedures are to be followed by all social fraternities and sororities for all social events. In addition, each organization is responsible for following its own national organizational policies concerning risk management and social events.

a. Chapter events

Chapter events are defined as events where chapter/provisional group members are present, and the general perception is that the event is chapter/provisional group related. If you are unsure if it is a chapter/provisional group event, consider the following questions:

- Was it planned or pre-mediated?
- Was it discussed at a meeting?
- Did the majority of the members know about it?
- Were a significant number of those attended invited by members?
- Were chapter funds used in any way?
- Did the officers know about or take part in planning any part of the event?
- Did it occur in concert with a chapter function (initiation, bid day, etc.)?

For purposes of this guideline, a “chapter event” is any event, activity, or gathering where any of the following occur:

1. A reasonable person observing its characteristics and examining the totality of the event would conclude that it was related to a specific chapter (or chapters).
 2. Chapter members took part in the coordination of the event for the benefit of the chapter and/or other members took part in the coordination of the event for the benefit of the chapter and/or other members, new members, or potential new members of the chapter.
 3. The event is sponsored, publicized, financed, and/or endorsed by the chapter.
- a. (Sober) social event registration
- Submit Social Registration Form A to deanofstudents@abac.edu and place event details in **COURSEDOG two (2) weeks PRIOR to the event.**
1. Failure to submit Form A two weeks prior to the event will result in a \$50 fine which must be paid prior to event. Fines may increase with additional late submissions.
 2. Obtain waiver forms for all in attendance PRIOR to event. These waiver forms must be on file in Dean of Student's Office within 72 hours following event.
 3. Form B and a Social Event Guest List are NOT required for a sober social.
- b. Alcoholic social event registration
- Submit Social Registration Form A for the event to deanofstudents@abac.edu and place event details in **COURSEDOG two (2) weeks PRIOR to the event.**
1. Failure to submit Form A two weeks prior to the event will result in a \$50 fine which must be paid PRIOR to event. Fines may increase with additional late submissions.
 2. Obtain waiver forms for all guests in attendance PRIOR to event. These waiver forms must be on file in Dean of Student's Office within 72 hours following event.
 3. Submit Social Registration Form B with pre-determined guest/member list, sober monitors, and sober drivers' information to deanofstudents@abac.edu 48 business hours PRIOR to event.
 - a. Pre-determined guest lists must be submitted at the same time as Form B.
 - b. Failure to submit Form B with the guest list 48 hours PRIOR to the event will result in a \$50 fine. Fines may increase with additional late submissions.
 - c. The fine must be paid within two weeks after the event, or before the next scheduled event, whichever comes first.
 - d. Failure to pay the fine by the designated timeframe will result in that chapter not being able to register any future social events involving alcohol until the fine is received.
 4. Submit official sign-in sheets within 72 hours following event to Dean of Student's Office. Be sure members sign in themselves- your chapter may be fined if you simply write in names on the sheets.
 5. Alcohol may never be sold except through a third-party vendor.

c. Cancellation or Changes of Events

Chapters are responsible for notifying deanofstudents@abac.edu if the event is being cancelled or has any change of venue, time, security, number of guests, co-host, etc. **at least 48 hours before the event** is scheduled to take place. If the Dean of Students office is not notified in writing of the cancellation or change, the chapter may receive a fine of \$50 which will have to be paid before the next scheduled event. Fines may increase with additional late notifications.

d. Inappropriate Event Themes

Whether Halloween parties, or mixers, the themes that are chosen say a great deal about the sponsoring organizations. Choose poorly, and your chapter's bad judgment could show up on YouTube or Facebook. Chapters may face loss of recognition as a result of these parties. By avoiding racially and culturally sensitive words and themes, fraternity and sorority members can prove respect for, and acceptance of, the communities in which they live.

Before your social event, ask yourself:

- Does this event rely on stereotypes of certain groups or encourage offensive dress?
- If both men and women are invited, or even if they are not, does the event/title stereotype one of those genders?
- Not sure if a theme is sexist? Try interchanging the word/theme with a racial word/theme
- Is your theme centered on "making fun" of a particular people/culture/campus group? Even if it is not, will people "go there?"
- Would you be willing to send photos of your event to your parents, your international office, the campus newspaper, or your college/university community?

All fun, no foul: creative, yet inoffensive themes:

- Heroes and Villains
- Disco Party
- Decade themes
- Mardi Gras
- Famous Couples
- Winter Wonderland
- Rodeo
- Movie themes
- Viva Las Vegas

The following are simply suggestive measures and guidelines to help you and your chapters think about the way you represent yourselves to the larger campus community. Themes to avoid:

- Blackface
- Themes with a binge drinking connotation
- Men dressing like women
- Wearing letters that are not your own
- Using the word "Ho" in the title
- Culturally insensitive themes your event

e. Sober Event Monitors and Safe Drivers

All alcoholic social events must have both sober event monitors and safe drivers. The chapter must provide at least two (2) chapter members who will be in charge of the event; they must be chapter officers. These individuals must be sober and available at all times during the event.

There must be one (1) additional monitor per every 50 guests. The individuals listed on Form B will be the only designated sober event monitors/safe drivers for the duration of the event. Once the form is turned in, no changes in sober event monitors or safe drivers are allowed. Designated drivers must **have** a Class C driver's license.

1. Sober Event Monitors

- There must always be two (2) monitors plus 1 additional monitor per every 50 guests.
- Monitors must be initiated members and two must be chapter officers.

2. Safe Drivers

- Safe drivers must be provided by the chapter and be present for the entire event.
- New members/pledges **MUST NOT** serve as sole safe driver.
- Designated safe drivers must have a valid driver's license.

f. Certified Peace Officer(s)

Chapters are responsible for providing security for all their social events involving alcohol.

1. One Certified Peace Officer is required for entirety of event. Two Certified Peace Officers are required for events where attendance is anticipated to be 75 or more persons. One additional Certified Peace Officer must be present for every additional 75 attendees.

2. Expectations:

- Certified Peace Officer(s) must arrive at the event 30 minutes prior to stated start time and meet with all the organization's sober Monitors and Drivers to discuss event security.
- The organization's Monitors must assist security in monitoring the event and determination of guest admission, as well as any problems that arise. In addition, the Certified Peace Officer(s) must assist the Monitors in addressing any issues that may arise.
- The Certified Peace Officer(s) in charge must make sure all members and guests SIGN IN on the provided sign-in sheets. A simple check mark by their name is not acceptable. If a name is missing from the list, have the individual simply print their names at the bottom of the list and sign. Be sure the chapter monitors receive all sign in sheets.
- Certified Peace Officer(s) must work with the organization's monitors to assure there is no underage consumption of alcohol.

- Underage consumption of alcohol is prohibited by law and must be stopped if occurring. Individuals may be arrested, and violations of the Student Code of Conduct will be enforced.
- When gross violations of regulations occur, the Certified Peace Officer(s) in charge must inform the officers of the organization of the fact and if corrective action is not immediately taken, the event must be closed. If the organization refuses to cooperate, the Certified Peace Officer(s) must call the applicable law enforcement agency.

O. Hazing

Stop Campus Hazing Act (SCHA)

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Hazing Policy

Federal Definition of Hazing

“Hazing” is defined under the Stop Campus Hazing Act (SCHA) as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with other persons) against another person or persons regardless of the willingness of such other person or persons to participate, that—

- I. is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in a student organization; and
- II. causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team), of physical or psychological injury including—
 - a. whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on someone’s body, or similar activity;
 - b. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity;
 - c. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances;
 - d. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to perform sexual acts;
 - e. any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct;
 - f. any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law; and
 - g. any activity that induces, causes, or requires another person to perform a duty or task that involves a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law.

Student Organization Definition

SCHA defines the term “student organization” as “an organization at an institution of higher education (such as a club, society, association, varsity or junior varsity athletic team, club sports team, fraternity, sorority, band, or student government) in which two or more of the members are students enrolled at the institution of higher education, whether or not the organization is established or recognized by the institution.”

Recognize the Signs of Hazing

Hazing is not always obvious, and individuals may not realize they are being subjected to it. Hazing signs include (not an exhaustive list, just a variety of examples):

- Being required to carry certain unusual things.
- Performing demeaning tasks for other members.
- Forced physical exertion beyond reasonable expectations.

- Withdrawal from normal activities or initiations.
- Secrecy surrounding group activities or initiations.
- Lack of appetite
- Non-attendance in class
- Declining grades
- Unusual photos or posts on social media
- Disheveled appearance
- Middle of the night unexplained disappearances
- Changes in communication habits, i.e. no longer talking to people outside of group
- Increased incident of alcohol or drug intoxication
- Justifications such as “it’s a tradition” or “we all went through it”

Hazing can often take the form:

- Physical Abuse – Whipping, beating, striking, sleep deprivation, exposure to extreme conditions.
- Forced Consumption – Requiring individuals to ingest alcohol, drugs, or excessive food or liquids.
- Psychological Hazing – Public humiliation, forced silence, threats, or intimidation.
- Sexual Coercion – Pressing individuals to perform sexual acts.
- Criminal Acts – Encouraging theft, property destruction, underage drinking, or other illegal behavior.

Per <https://stophazing.org>, 10 Signs of HEALTHY groups are comfortable pace, honesty, respect, kindness, healthy conflict, trust, independence, equity, taking responsibility, and fun. 10 signs of UNHEALTHY groups include intensity, manipulation, sabotage, guilt, possessiveness, deflecting responsibility, isolation, belittling, volatility, and betrayal.

Consequences of Hazing

Hazing can result in severe institutional, legal, and personal consequences.

- *Institutional* - Organizations may lose recognition, and students involved may face suspension or expulsion. Colleges can also be fined for failing to report hazing incidents under the Clery Act.
- *Legal* - Depending on the severity, hazing can lead to misdemeanor or felony charges, civil lawsuits, and criminal liability for those involved.
- *Impact on Organizations* - Loss of reputation, privileges, and potential financial liability. Organization leaders may also be held personally responsible.
- *Impact on Individuals Being Hazed* – Physical and psychological harm, sleep deprivation, academic struggles, and loss of trust in the organizations. In extreme cases, hazing can lead to hospitalization or death.
- *Impact on Those Who Haze* – Academic decline, damaged personal reputation, legal consequences, and long-term emotional guilt.

Max Gruver Act Public Disclosure

In compliance with [Georgia state law SB 85 “Max Gruver Act”](#) which became effective on July 1, 2021, below is a list of student organizations that have been found to be responsible for violating the hazing policy within the Code of Student Conduct. The Office of Student Affairs will provide regular updates to the campus community about organizations found responsible for hazing misconduct. Records will be posted on this website for at least 5 years and will include the name of any school organization involved, date(s) of occurrence, as well as a description of specific hazing-related findings, sanctions, adjudications, and convictions for any person or school organization.

Take Action (Reporting Hazing)

Report online by submitting an Incident Report by clicking [here](#). If you require emergency assistance,

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please contact ABAC Police at 229-391-5060 or dial 911.

Individuals who report hazing in good faith are protected from retaliation under college policy and Georgia law. Retaliation against reporters is strictly prohibited and may result in disciplinary action.

P. Collection and Distribution of Fines

All dues and fines will be collected by the Dean of Students and a receipt will be issued to the chapter to show record of payment. Only checks will be accepted as method of payment. Checks must be made payable to ABAC Greek Life. The fines collected will be deposited into the Greek Life account and will be used for the fraternity and sorority community