SHSU Greek Life Guidelines for Fall 2020

All updated information and policies for return to campus can be found on our Resources Page.

General Expectations

Following SHSU’s COVID-19 recommendations, which includes:

- Wearing of face masks
- Maintaining social distancing
- Responsibility of cleaning used common spaces
- Reimagining large scale events to follow social distancing guidelines
- Following signage through buildings and campus spaces
- Making health and safety of members the priority
- Follow all University, State, and CDC guidelines

SHSU Greek Life Office Operations

The Greek Life professional staff altered office schedule for Fall 2020 will be as follows:

- Mondays – Both Dean Sherman & Dr. Taplette Present on Campus
- Tuesdays – Dr. Taplette Present, Dean Sherman Telecommuting
- Wednesdays – Dean Sherman Present, Dr. Taplette Telecommuting
- Thursdays – Dr. Taplette Present, Dean Sherman Telecommuting
- Fridays – Dean Sherman Present, Dr. Taplette Telecommuting

The staff will not follow this schedule during the major recruitment events for each council. During council recruitment events, both professional staff members will assist the boards and chapters to navigate the recruitment process successfully.

Can I come to the office?

- Staff members will be available to meet with students by appointment only.
- Please email Greek staff directly or at greeklife@shsu.edu to schedule an appointment with the Greek staff. We must know the nature of the meeting to determine if we can address you need(s) via phone, email, in-person meeting, or Zoom.
- A cart will be outside of the Greek Life Office where you can submit roster updates, intake paperwork, STAR Program paperwork, or any other documentation. Each council
will have its shelf on the cart where they are to drop off any documentation to the office. This same paperwork can be scanned and submitted via email to greeklife@shsu.edu and is the preferred method of turning in the documentation.

- Guests to the SHSU Greek Life Office must follow University guidelines and expectations for wearing a mask when visiting the office.
- Guests will need to practice physical distancing when in the office suite.
- Greek related discipline meetings will all take place in-person. Only the chapter president and one advisor will be permitted in the meeting. Any witnesses must be cleared ahead of time and will be called in individually at the proper time.

SHSU Greek Life Sponsored Events and Programs

Will the SHSU Greek Life Office still be hosting programs and meetings?

- All SHSU Greek Life Office sponsored events and programs will be held virtually until otherwise communicated.

Guidelines for chapter sponsored activities

Chapters may continue to operate and engage their membership. We encourage your executive teams to work with your advisors and the SHSU Greek Life staff to reimagine certain events and programs (brotherhoods/sisterhoods, philanthropy, service, etc.)

Meetings

- Current CDC and State guidance recommend gatherings no larger than ten people. Should this change, you will be notified accordingly.
- Following this guidance, we recommend any chapter meetings be held virtually for the duration of the fall 2020 semester.
- Any in-person meetings that are held should be conducted with 6’ of physical distancing and should provide virtual participation for members who are not comfortable attending a face to face meeting.
- All in-person attendees must wear face coverings.
- Room capacity reductions will restrict the number of members who can be in a space for face to face meetings.
- Groups should consider hosting meetings/practices virtually or in smaller groups in areas that allow for physical distancing.
- Groups should make sure members and guests know that they are not to attend face-to-face activities, events, or meetings if they are sick.
General questions to ask yourself regarding meetings during this time:
• Is this event/program critical to the mission and values of our organization?
• Is it essential that this meeting/event/program needs to be held in-person to be successful?
• Does this space hold the capacity for X amount of people to be comfortably seated at a 6-ft minimum distance, ensure social distancing, and thereby limit exposure?
• What potential risks of exposure are associated with this event/program? How we can mitigate that risk?
• Have I spoken with my advisors and the SHSU Greek Life staff to review our program/event plan?

Recruitment, Membership Intake, and Membership Education Processes
• SHSU Greek organizations will continue to be permitted to conduct recruitment and membership intake processes and the prescribed membership education process.

• Per CDC and State guidance, we recommend that any recruitment events remain under ten students, including actives and potential new members/candidates.

• All recruitment and membership intake activities will be submitted to the SHSU Greek Life Office through the Membership Recruitment & Intake Form by August 31.

• We strongly recommend that larger chapters utilize a virtual process to conduct interviews, events, and informational sessions.

STAR Packet
• The Star Packet for 2020-2021 will be temporarily altered due to current State & CDC guidelines and recommendations.
• This altered STAR packet will only be in place during the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be reinstated back to the standard/prior expectations/guidelines as recommendations and restrictions by the State and CDC regarding COVID-19 change.

Social Events
• Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, all social events and parties are suspended for the Fall 2020 semester. Social events include parties hosted at bars, nightclubs, event halls, house parties, Hump Day events, Hump Night events, in-person New Member reveals or probates, and Bid Day Jump. Our office will only lift the socials and parties' suspension if changes are made regarding large gatherings by the State. As the State changes its orders, guidance will change.
• Other off-campus events hosted by SHSU Fraternities/Sororities are expected to follow the current State and CDC orders and recommendations regarding event location/attendance/activity.
• Events that do meet the parameters of the State should be conducted with the health and safety of members, attendees, and the vendors/staff of the establishment in mind.
• We ask our students to make good choices and encourage behavior that helps prevent community spread of COVID-19. Face coverings are required, and physical distancing should be encouraged. Hand sanitizer and handwashing stations should be available.
• Hosting an event at a private residence that brings large numbers of people together who do not live in the same home is strongly discouraged as this type of activity is a source of rapid community spread.

Organizations with Inter/National Affiliation and Membership, Fraternities/Sororities and all other Inter/Nationally recognized groups

• SHSU Greek organizations that have a membership with a coordinating Executive or Headquarters Office are expected to observe those organizations' requirements as it relates to meetings, activities, and events.

• If there is a difference in requirements, organizations are expected to observe the most stringent requirements or guidance received regarding meetings, activities, and events.

• Other SHSU Greek Life mission-critical events will be supported. These events must be planned in collaboration with the SHSU Greek Life staff to ensure all appropriate steps for risk mitigation, health, and safety are followed.

• What are the mission-critical events? Well, our Four Pillars, of course.
  1. Scholarship
  2. Service
  3. Leadership Development
  4. Sisterhood/Brotherhood/Fellowship

Student Organization Advisor Guidance

• Student organization advisors are expected to encourage the group and members to follow the University and the State's guidance regarding the prevention of the spread of COVID-19.
• Encourage student members to be conscientious of the parameters of physical distancing and avoiding high-risk activities and environments.
• Make your level of comfort with face to face meetings with the group clear. If you prefer to meet with them through virtual means, that should be an option. Please continue to meet regularly with organization leadership.
• Help students understand the importance of wearing a face covering and physically distancing themselves when that is impossible.
• Help students understand that some people legitimately cannot wear face coverings and should have accommodations for virtual opportunities to participate.
• Help students make thoughtful decisions about how to ask members or guests to wear a face covering.
• Help them think of ways to include members or guests that cannot wear a face covering or wish to participate virtually.

The Greek Life Staff thanks you all in advance for your understanding. These stipulations and revisions are being implemented because our students' safety and well-being are our highest priorities. By working together, we can overcome this adversity and continue to thrive despite the pandemic.