

Position Statement on Risk Management Practices and Education Regarding Alcohol and Drug Use

[Adopted December 1980] [Reaffirmed December 4, 1999]

The Association of Fraternity Advisors encourages each college, university and inter/national organization to provide undergraduate fraternity and sorority organizations with educational programs and activities that encourage the responsible use of alcohol and discourage the use of illegal substances. Such programs should address the consequences of irresponsible use including alcohol and drug addiction, binge drinking, drunk driving, hazing, property damage, sexual abuse, underage drinking, health risks and other issues associated with alcohol and drug use.

The Association of Fraternity Advisors, realizing that alcohol and drug abuse continue to be major societal problems, believes that it is the responsibility of those persons charged with the advising of fraternity and sorority members to provide programs dealing with alcohol and drug education. Fraternities and sororities may serve as powerful learning communities, providing an environment which presents the reality of peer pressure to follow the norm of alcohol use in both formal and casual settings. As peer pressure to drink and/or use illegal drugs is certainly a reality, peer pressure provides strong moderating forces as well. Fraternities and sororities may also provide supportive atmospheres in which it is possible to teach and promote the appropriate use of alcohol and the non-use of other illegal substances. All who are involved in fraternities and sororities are faced with the challenge of teaching and role modeling the responsible use of alcohol to members, not only as a behavior to be learned for its own sake, but as an obligation to secure the mental and physical health of members now and in the future.

Fraternities and sororities must develop a culture which encourages an emphasis on the fraternal values and principles upon which these organizations were founded. An image based on fraternal values, along with peer accountability, creates an expectation among current and future members that drinking and/or drug use is not the basis for fraternity and sorority life.

Therefore, the position of the Association of Fraternity Advisors relative to the use of alcohol and drugs in fraternities and sororities is as follows:

1. Fraternity and sorority advisors should be aware of the realities of alcohol and drug use and abuse in their respective campus and fraternity/sorority communities.
2. All fraternity and sorority advisors should have a fundamental understanding of alcohol and drug abuse prevention strategies, especially those specifically designed by several inter/national fraternities and sororities for use in their chapters.
3. Among the advisor's responsibilities is the necessity of making fraternity and sorority leaders and members aware of the legal liabilities, ramifications, and facts of alcohol and drug use in relation to chapter and campus activities.
4. Fraternity and sorority advisors should work on an ongoing basis with undergraduate members to revise and develop new and effective risk management policies that address the consequences of alcohol use, binge drinking and drug use among college fraternities and sororities.
5. Fraternity and sorority advisors should work toward implementing substance free facilities with those chapters whose inter/national organizations have adopted such a policy of who have made the decision to do so on their own. In addition, it is suggested that fraternity and sorority advisors educate all chapters on the potential benefits of operating substance free facilities.



6. The use of peer educators has been shown to be a very effective influencing behavior. Advisors should actively pursue the use of peer educators as an approach in the on-going pursuit to prevent alcohol abuse within fraternities and sororities.
7. Chapter and fraternity/sorority governing councils should be encouraged and assisted by fraternity and sorority advisors to sponsor a significant number of substance free social events each semester to give students an alternative to alcohol- and/or drug-related social functions.
8. Every effort should be made by advisors and chapter leaders to enforce all local, state, federal and university/college laws and regulations in regard to alcohol and drug usage. All chapter events should provide an atmosphere conducive to living and learning, and the possession and consumption of alcohol and other drugs should not infringe upon the privacy and peace of other individuals.
9. Fraternity and sorority advisors should continuously pursue assistance from viable campus programs, resources, faculty experts and community initiatives in working with, advising, and educating the fraternity/sorority community on substance abuse issues.