



Policy Title: Student Organization Conduct

Policy Number:

Date Issued: September 2021

**Responsible Executive: Associate Vice President
and Dean of Students**

Date Last Revised: December 20, 2021

Responsible Office: Student Life

Student Organization Conduct Policy

Policy Statement

In the event an alleged violation of Baylor University (the “University”) policy should arise concerning the conduct of a student organization, this policy provides the process by which the allegation may be adjudicated.

Reason for the Policy

Baylor University provides a wide array of educationally, socially, physically, culturally, and spiritually enriching engagement opportunities through involvement in student organizations. The University expects student organizations will operate at the highest level of integrity and responsibility.

Individuals/Entities Affected by this Policy

All Baylor University chartered and non-chartered student organizations

Exclusions

NONE

Related Documents and Forms

University Policies and Documents

[Baylor University Student Organization Policies and Procedures Guide](#)
[Procedures for Adjudicating Student Organization Conduct Violations](#)

Definitions

These definitions apply to terms as they are used in this policy.

Student Organization	For the purposes of this policy, the term Student Organization will refer to both chartered and non-chartered student organizations.
Chartered Student Organization (CSO)	An organization of students who have applied for and been granted chartered status based on the process administered by the Department of Student Activities, which can be found in the Baylor University Student Organization Policies and Procedures Guide .
Non-chartered Student Organization (NCSO)	<p>An organization of students which operates under the auspices of a University unit, department, or entity and has not sought or been granted a charter through the process administered by the Department of Student Activities.</p> <p>An NCSO includes any group that is an association, order, society, corps, club, band or musical organization, an academic, athletic, cheerleading, or dance team, including but not limited to any group or team that participates in National Collegiate Athletic Association competition, or a service, social, or similar group, whose members include students¹; and/or</p> <p>Any other group operating within the campus community whose members include students, and which the University determines should fall within the scope of this process.</p>
Policy	Used within this document to encompass both University policy and policies adopted by relevant administrative or academic units.
Minor Infraction	A violation of University policy which has a less severe impact on the University community (i.e., posting unapproved posters)
Major Infraction	A violation of University policy which has a more severe impact on the University community (i.e., distribution of alcohol, public intoxication, hazing, drug use, etc.)

Contacts

Subject	Contact	Telephone	Office email/web site
Policy Questions	Student Life	254-710-1314	https://www.baylor.edu/student_life/

Adjudicating Alleged Student Organization Conduct Violations

Alleged minor infractions, as determined by the Associate Vice President of Student Life/Dean of Students (AVP/DOS), are to be handled under the auspice of the University entity which oversees the Student Organization. If an allegation is made that indicates a Student Organization may have engaged in a major infraction, then the AVP/DOS, or his/her designee(s), may handle the allegation under this policy. The decision regarding

¹ This language is paraphrased from the definition of a student organization outlined in the Texas Education Code, Section 37.151.

which University process to use in a given case will be made at the discretion of the AVP/DOS, or his/her designee(s), in consultation with other University offices as deemed appropriate. In this policy, whenever authority is designated to the AVP/DOS, it is to be understood that such authority is to be extended to anyone that the AVP/DOS assigns as his/her designee(s). In the event of a criminal act or alleged criminal act, the Baylor University Police Department or appropriate jurisdictional law enforcement agency will be immediately notified for investigation.

Determining What Constitutes a Student Organization Conduct Violation

In determining whether an alleged behavior constitutes a potential Student Organization conduct violation, the following criteria will be used:

Conduct may constitute a potential Student Organization conduct violation when:

1. reasonable person would understand the alleged behavior to be activity specific to the Student Organization and/or to have been participated in predominantly or exclusively by members of the Student Organization; and
2. The behavior was allegedly committed by one or more members of the Student Organization and more than one member of the Student Organization was aware of it; and
3. The behavior was allegedly committed by one or more members of the Student Organization during the course of an activity financed by the Student Organization, facilitated by members of the Student Organization, and/or approved by the Student Organization; or
4. The student leaders/representatives of the Student Organization allegedly had prior knowledge that the alleged behavior would occur and/or were not forthcoming with the University about the alleged behavior; or
5. Other elements of the allegations are determined by the AVP/DOS to support proceeding with a Student Organization conduct case.

The University reserves the right to proceed with a Student Organization conduct violation case if the alleged behavior would be considered a major infraction of University policy, consist of one or more of the abovementioned criteria, and not subject to adjudication by another specific University process, such as the separate process provided for alleged violations of the University's [Sexual and Interpersonal Misconduct Policy](#).

Standard of Proof Used in this Policy

In all proceedings established under this policy, the preponderance of the evidence standard of proof is used to determine whether the Student Organization has violated University policy. A finding of responsibility based on a preponderance of evidence means that, based on all relevant evidence and reasonable inferences from that evidence, the

greater weight of evidence indicates that it was more likely than not the policy violation occurred.

Requirement to Report

Any Student Organization, including all individual members of any Student Organization, that becomes aware of any possible violation(s) of University policy, by a Student Organization collectively or by individual members affiliated with a Student Organization, is required to report that possible violation(s) to the AVP/DOS in a timely manner, in accordance with this policy. This requirement is consistent with and complementary to the individual requirement found in the [Student Conduct Code](#) Article I, Section B, of all students to report any violation of University policy they become aware of.

If a Student Organization already has an established internal/external procedure for investigating violations (such as, Student Organization's affiliated with a national organization), any such investigation or procedure does not release the Student Organization, or individual members, of the responsibility to report any possible violation(s) of University policy to the AVP/DOS. Further, if such an investigation takes place, then the Student Organization should disclose that to the AVP/DOS in a timely manner and be prepared to make the findings of any such investigation available to the AVP/DOS in a timely manner.

Ability to Proceed Under this Policy

In all cases involving potential violation of University rules, regulations, and policies or involving potential violation of local, state, or federal laws or the laws of other countries, if applicable, the University reserves the right to proceed with its own disciplinary investigation or action independently of governmental charges or prosecution. The University has no obligation to await the outcome of governmental prosecution before taking its own disciplinary action.

Procedures Concerning the Investigation and Resolution of Possible Violation of University Policy by a Student Organization

The procedures governing how possible violations of University policy by a Student Organization are investigated and subsequently resolved are overseen by the AVP/DOS and the details of which can be found in the [Procedures for Adjudicating Student Organization Conduct Violations](#). The procedures outline what a Student Organization can expect and what the process looks like from beginning to end regarding investigation and resolution of possible violations of University policy by a Student Organization. At a minimum though, in any instance in which the AVP/DOS decides that a case should be brought forth against a Student Organization, the Student Organization will be provided an opportunity to hear the allegations against them and afforded an opportunity to respond to such allegations.