

Bentley University Fraternity & Sorority Life

New Member Education Policy

Updated 11/16/2018

The following new member education policy applies to all recognized social chapters at Bentley University who successfully recruit any number of new members in a given semester. The intent of this policy is to promote an educational, values-driven, safe, and successful new member process for all chapters and new members. Chapter presidents and new member educators are responsible for aligning all chapter activities with this policy and for ensuring their currently initiated members understand and adhere to this policy. Student Programs & Engagement (SP&E) staff are available before, during, and after the new member process to assist chapters or new members and address any questions or concerns that chapters or new members may have.

New Member Education shall be held following a chapter's recruitment process and shall last for a period not to exceed six weeks from the time of distribution of bids. It is highly recommended that chapters utilize at most a four or five week process. Chapters seeking an exemption from the six week maximum must first request approval from SP&E.

In addition to satisfying the minimum requirements for new member education & risk management outlined in section III & IV of the [FSL Community Standards Program](#), each chapter must satisfy the following requirements throughout the new member education process each semester:

- **New Members**: Chapters are not permitted to offer bids to, or allow participation in new member education activities by, any student not meeting the University's qualifications for membership or any student not previously listed on the chapter's bid list. Chapters must notify SP&E within 48 hours of a new member's withdrawal or removal from the process.
- **New Member Schedules**: Chapters must adhere to their approved new member education schedules. Any changes to the approved schedule or addition of new events must first receive approval from Student Programs & Engagement prior to taking place. New member education events are not to take place outside of the approved dates.
- **Event Policies**: Chapter new member education events are expected to comply with University event policies. For example, events that take place in the Residence Halls must adhere to [Residential Center policies](#). Additional information about event policies can be found in the [Student Organization Guidebook](#) or by contacting the chapter's SP&E Advisor.
- **Chapter Conduct**: Chapters, including initiated and new members, are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the values of their organization and Bentley University policies, including but not limited to the Student Organization Guidebook, [Student Handbook](#), Hazing Policy (found in the Handbook), and [Title IX Policy](#).
 - **Alcohol**: **New member education events must be "dry" (alcohol is not permitted) and substance-free.** New members are not to attend any events hosted by an initiated member where alcohol is present during the new member process. Additionally, initiated members are not permitted to host such events where new members may be in attendance, and initiated members may not provide alcohol to new members under any circumstances.
 - **Hazing**: The Student Handbook contains Bentley's hazing policy, which outlines how the University defines hazing, behaviors that may be considered hazing, and other important information.
 - **Reporting Misconduct**: Links for reporting misconduct that may occur during the new member education process are provided below:
 - **Hazing Report Form**: https://bentley-advocate.symplicity.com/public_report/index.php/pid485142?rep_type=1000
 - Bentley CARES: www.bentley.edu/bentley-cares (this link is useful in obtaining support from a Bentley staff member in addressing concerning behavior).
 - Anonymous University Police Tip Line: <http://www.bentley.edu/campus-life/anonymous-tip-line> (this link is useful if you are seeking to file an anonymous report with the University and/or through the criminal court system).
 - Student Handbook (Hazing policy pgs. 11-12): <http://www.bentley.edu/campus-life/student-life/division-student-affairs/the-student-handbook>
- **Scholarship**: It is expected that chapters develop their new member schedules with an attention to the well-being and academic responsibilities of new members. The focus of scholarship components during the new member process should be offering resources that support new member academic success rather than requiring participation in academic related activities.
- **Nondiscrimination**: Chapters may not discriminate against any new member on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, marital status, age, national origin, citizenship status, disability, genetic information, military or veteran status.
- **Communication with Advisors**: Chapters are expected to maintain proactive communication with, and be responsive to communication from, the chapter's SP&E Advisor, faculty/staff advisor, and/or Student Affairs Advisor.
- **Violations of this policy will be referred to SP&E, the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs, and/or the respective governing council.**