Registered Student Organizations
DSA.DS.400.001

A “registered” student organization (RSO) at the University of Mississippi is defined as any student organizational group that meets the following criteria:

- Primary officers and membership consists of students enrolled at the University of Mississippi
- Established in order to contribute to the students' personal interests and development
- Meets all annual registration requirements as outlined in the M-Book, RSO Handbook, and Advisor Handbook
- Annually registered with the Office of the Dean of Students
- Understands and adheres to University policies and procedures

The University reserves the right to recognize and register all student organizations. The purpose of recognition is for the University to acknowledge an organization’s presence on campus and assist in the formation and overall operation of student organizations. The Office of the Dean of Students maintains all current information about each organization through OrgSync.

Creating a New Student Organization

Students desiring to form an official student organization may submit a RSO Registration form through OrgSync at any time throughout the academic year. The Student Organization Advisory Committee and the Office of the Dean of Students will review new applications on a monthly basis. It is encouraged to have at least five students from the University of Mississippi interested in starting the organization; however, the Student Organization Advisory Committee and the Office of the Dean of Students will consider exceptions.

Annual Registration for Student Organizations

Registration for student organizations will occur on an annual basis. Students desiring to form an official student organization, or renew a Registered Student Organization (RSO), may do so by submitting an annual Student Organization Registration form through OrgSync. The annual registration form requests the following information:

a) Officer’s name and contact information for the organization
b) Roster of members (minimum of five students required)
   - The Student Organization Advisory Committee and Office of the Dean of Students will consider exceptions regarding the number of members active within an organization, specifically for pending new RSOs.
c) Advisor(s) name and contact information
   - The primary Advisor must be a full-time faculty/staff member of the University
d) Constitution for the organization
e) Statement of purpose

An example of a constitution can be found on the Office of the Dean of Students website (dos.olemiss.edu). Please note that this is only a template. Constitutions are not limited to the areas included in the example provided. Additionally, some organizations may have specific areas or topics that are required by their national or international organization.
Official recognition of student organizations will be granted by the Student Organization Advisory Committee and the Office of the Dean of Students. The named faculty/staff advisor in addition to the student organization president will receive notification(s) of any updates regarding the organization.

**Student Organization Handbook**

The University of Mississippi Policy Directory is the official governing document of the University. Any additional requirements for RSOs are outlined in the MBook and Student Organization Handbook. Organizations that fail to follow the policies and guidelines set forth in these documents may be declared inactive and will forfeit those rights and privileges granted to student organizations in good standing.

**Rights and Privileges**

Rights and privileges are one of the benefits of being recognized as a RSO. One of the most important rights is the opportunity for RSOs to use most University facilities without charge. Additionally, RSOs that meet the annual registration requirements may request funding through the Associated Student Body, congregate without special permission (as long as no other University policies are violated), run for an RSO senate seat within the Associated Student Body, receive assistance in marketing events through the Office of the Dean of Students, and may sponsor activities on campus. Additionally, RSOs will be considered for annual awards and recognition, and may also participate in Rebel Roundup at Orientation and the Get Involved Fair during Welcome Week.

Lastly, all RSOs will be listed in either physical or electronic publications maintained by the Office of the Dean of Students. RSOs are subject to all University policies and may face disciplinary action through the University Conduct System for any violation.

**Registered Student Organization Orientation**

Registered Student Organization (RSO) Orientation provides an overview of the resources available to student organizations, pertinent dates and events, and answers to any questions student leaders may have. Orientation for student organizations will be held at the beginning of each academic year. As part of the annual registration process, each RSO must have at least one representative from their organization present. If a representative of the organization cannot attend due to extenuating circumstances, and has been communicated to the Office of the Dean of Students, alternate arrangements may be made. If this requirement is not met, organizations may be declared inactive and will forfeit those rights and privileges granted to student organizations in good standing.

**Risk Management Training**

Risk management training is available for both RSO advisors and students. As part of the annual registration process, officers of the organization are required to annually complete risk management training. If this requirement is not met, organizations may be declared inactive and will forfeit those rights and privileges granted to student organizations in good standing.

**Use of University Marks, Logos, Insignia, and Trade Dress**
Use of University marks, logos, insignia, and trade dress by RSOs are prohibited unless the RSO has received prior permission from The University of Mississippi Department of Licensing (662-915-7445).

**On-Campus Housing/Space**

On-campus housing and space occupied by RSOs will not be officially recognized, may lose official recognition, or may face penalties or sanctions if the space is not equipped with an approved automatic fire sprinkler system to be in compliance with the National Fire Code (NFPA) Standard 13 as published by the National Fire Protection Association.