

APSU Policy 3:012- Student Organizations

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Student organizations may be either organizations sponsored by the University, such as student government associations, associated student body organizations, and professional and honor societies, or organizations officially registered by the University. Organizations which may be registered to operate on campus include the following: (a) honors and leadership organizations and recognition societies; (b) departmental organizations and professional fraternities and sororities; (c) social fraternities and sororities; and (d) special interest groups (political, service, religious, athletic, etc.). Registration of a student organization by the University shall neither constitute nor be construed as approval or endorsement by Austin Peay State University of the purposes or objectives of the organization.

Single-Sex Organizations

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs and activities at the University unless such programs and activities are specifically exempt from the law. The University is required to be in compliance with the provisions of Title IX. Therefore, compliance with Title IX is a condition to be a registered student organization at the University. The U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights has set clear criteria for determining when single sex organizations are exempt. These criteria are:

- The organization must have tax-exempt status under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code;
- Members must be limited to student, staff or faculty member at APSU;
- The organization must be a “social fraternity” as defined by the Department of Education.

The Department of Education defines a “social fraternity” as a group that can answer “no” to all of the following questions:

- Is the organization’s membership limited to persons pursuing or having interest in a particular field of study, profession or academic discipline?
- Is the membership limited to individuals who have a high level of achievement in scholarship or any other endeavor?
- Are the members permitted to hold membership in other fraternities or sororities at the university?